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FirstNews

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OUR TRUSTED
NEWS GETS MORE
THAN 2 MILLION
READERS!*

LOCKDOWN

ALL 60 MILLION
PEOPLE IN ITALY
TOLD TO STAY
AT HOME



Relatives of prison inmates face off against riot police in Rome after being told that visits were banned. There were riots in many prisons, leading to several deaths

ITALY has taken extreme measures to control the new coronavirus, shutting down the whole country until April.

by Ian Eddy

COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, has killed more than 460 people in Italy, which is more than any other country apart from China. The Italian government decided it needed to do more, so all schools and universities are shut, events have been cancelled and museums closed, and people are being asked to stay at home unless they have a very good reason not to.

The UK Government has advised

people not to travel to Italy unless it is essential, and anyone returning from Italy is being told to stay indoors and avoid contact with other people. Experts in the US have said that from catching the disease to showing symptoms seems to take about five days.

However, the World Health Organization (WHO) is still confident that the outbreaks can be controlled.

"The bottom line is we are not at the mercy of the virus," said WHO boss Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Unfortunately, a lot of people have been spreading fake news about the virus. Reporters on FYI, our partner show on Sky News, took a look at some of the reports, including claims that kids are immune from the virus and that drinking tonic water protects you from it.

FYI found that the tonic water claim is nonsense and that kids aren't immune from COVID-19. It doesn't seem to affect kids as much, but you should still follow health advice so that you don't pass it on to more vulnerable people.

The most accurate, up-to-date advice about health and travel linked to the coronavirus can be found at:

- tinyurl.com/whocv2019
- www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

As we've said before, the best way to protect yourself and other people is by:

- washing your hands (with hot water and soap) for the length of time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice
- using hand sanitiser if you have it
- coughing and sneezing into a tissue, then binning it. If you don't have one, cough into your elbow, not your hand
- not touching your eyes, nose and mouth

You can watch FYI at 10.30am on Sat and Sun on Sky News or at first.news/fyi

1. BEEB BRANCHES OUT

Many of you will have watched CBeebies when you were little. You might not have realised it at the time, but the channel has never had a cartoon focused on a black family. That will change this week with *JoJo & Gran Gran*. The show, created by Laura Henry-Allain, will look at the bond between a little girl and her grandma.



2. BARREN BEACHES

Half of the world's sandy beaches could be gone by 2100 due to coastal erosion, according to scientists. The EU's Joint Research Centre looked at changes in beaches over the last 30 years to try to predict how they could change if sea levels continue to rise due to the effects of climate change.

3. SPORT RELIEF

Today (Friday) is Sport Relief. Money raised through Sport Relief is used to support people living tough lives in the UK and around the world. Tune in to BBC One from 7pm for an evening of fundraising and fun. **Find out more** at www.sportrelief.com.

4. WOOLLY WARMTH

Newborn lambs at Auchingarrich wildlife centre have been given knitted jumpers for extra warmth. Owner Maxine Scott said: "It's been really cold recently and we always have a selection of jumpers to put on them every year."



5. DETECTING DEMENTIA

A study at the University of California has suggested that a new test to detect Alzheimer's disease could be available within five years. It's a simple blood test that can diagnose the disease earlier, giving sufferers a better chance to fight the illness. Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, where people become more forgetful.

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. RUDE AWAKENINGS

A man from South Wales has been fined £600 after his crowing cockerels kept waking neighbours as early as 4.40am. Malcolm Hughes had already been warned after months of complaints about the noisy birds.

7. RESCUE DOGS

An Italian man who trains canine lifeguards is seeing his training expand around the globe. Schools have been set up in Germany and the US. Trainer Ferruccio Pilenga hopes the UK could be next. He says dogs can swim better and for longer than people. The dogs have life jackets with handles and rescue people at sea. Last year, 33 lives were saved thanks to the pups.



8. GOODBYE GAS MAN?

British Gas has asked the Oxford English Dictionary to replace the term 'gas man' with 'gas engineer'. They say the use of 'man' is disrespectful to their female employees. The OED says that both terms are already in the dictionary and will stay there for now.

9. TRAFFIC TROUBLES

The average road commuter in the UK spends 115 hours stuck in traffic. Research estimates £6.9 billion is lost each year because of traffic jams.

10. POLL RESULTS

Last week, we asked you if banning mobile phones would improve behaviour in your school?: 61% of you said YES, while 39% said NO.

COMMENT

First News Live! user qwerty272 thinks "Students would pay more attention in class, and it would also improve communication. It would reduce the risk of cyberbullying."

11. PLANE DISASTER

The trial of three Russians and a Ukrainian charged with shooting down Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 has begun. The plane was on a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it was shot down over Ukraine in 2014, killing 298 people. Russia says it had nothing to do with the attack, but investigators say they have proof the missile that hit the plane came from a military base in Russia.

12. NEW DISNEY RIDE

It's funny to think that there's never been a Disney ride based around their most famous mouse, but that's all changed now. Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway ride opened last week at Walt Disney World in Florida. The ride transports visitors into classic cartoon worlds.

13. MISSION TO MARS

A schoolboy has named NASA's next Mars rover, after being picked from 28,000 entries. The rover is named Perseverance and will explore the Red Planet looking for evidence of life.

14. SOARING SUGAR

A survey of 2,000 parents has revealed that the average child is eating far too much sugar. Research by Arla Explorers showed that six to 11-year-olds average 156 cans of fizzy drink, 208 bags of sweets, 260 biscuits, 208 chocolate bars and 260 packs of crisps each year. Each day, kids are eating twice as much sugar as the recommended maximum amount, despite an increase in sales of healthy snacks.



15. PHONE FEARS

More than one billion Android devices may be vulnerable to hacking. Consumer group Which? says that two-fifths of global Android users have phones and tablets that are no longer supported by security updates.

16. DEATH SENTENCES

Thirty-five politicians have been sentenced to death in Yemen. They have been accused of treason (betraying their country) by Houthi rebels. The government and the rebels have been at war with each other for years. The UN Human Rights Office is calling for the death sentences to be withdrawn. Spokesperson Liz Throssell said: "We are extremely concerned by the conduct of the trial and that it is politically motivated."

17. PRITZKER PRIZE

Architects Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara have won a top architectural prize for their "consistent service to humanity". The Irish pair were celebrated for leading the way for women in a male-dominated area.

18. FLYBE FAILS

British airline Flybe has gone out of business. The plane company, which covered the UK and Europe, already had money problems. The coronavirus outbreak meant fewer flights were being booked than normal, forcing the airline to close. All its flights have been cancelled and 2,000 people have lost their jobs.



19. SIMON'S SERIES

Top telly judge Simon Cowell and his six-year-old son Eric are to write children's books together. Their *Wishfit* series will follow a group of magical animals and will celebrate individuality and positivity.

20. SQUAT OR SIT?

Squatting or kneeling is better for our health than sitting, a study suggests. Researchers looked at the Hadza tribe in Tanzania. Even though they rested as much as we do, they didn't have any indication of diseases associated with sitting. This is because they squat or kneel to rest, which uses more muscles than sitting. So in an average day, their use of their muscles was more balanced.



BRILLIANT NEWS FOR BADGERS



THE Government has announced that it is going to phase out badger culls over the next few years.

More than 100,000 badgers have been killed across England since 2013, in an attempt to stop a disease called bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in cattle. Badgers can pass bTB on to cattle by eating the same feed or drinking from the same water troughs as them, as well as through open cuts and wounds.

Thanks to a breakthrough by the Animal & Plant Health Agency, trials of a new cattle vaccine will take place alongside vaccinating more badgers, as part of a new plan to tackle the disease.

More than 30,000 cattle are killed each year due to bTB and it's hoped the cattle vaccination could help in the battle against the disease.

DID YOU KNOW?

SMILE! It's the International Day of Happiness on 20 March! The day was started by the UN after a suggestion by Bhutan, which values happiness over money.



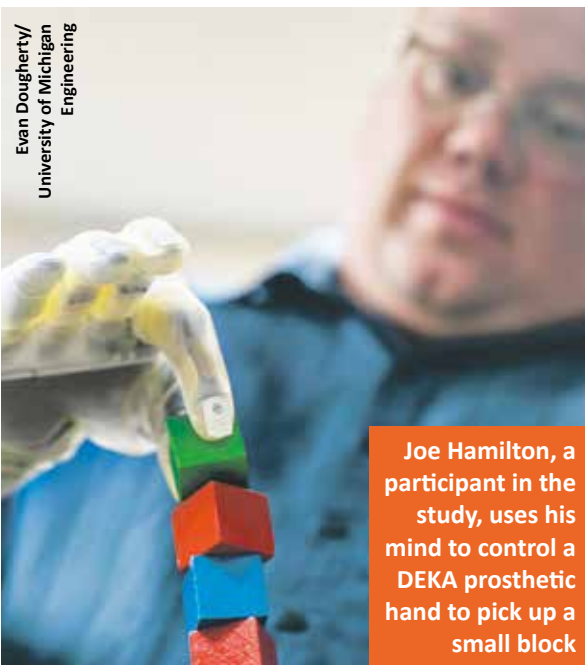
MIND-CONTROLLED ARM

SCIENTISTS have designed a prosthetic hand that is controlled by the mind.

Researchers at the University of Michigan Medical School were able to create the device by finding a way to read the signals from the body's nerves.

The revolutionary technique allows the new hand to read nerve signals that would have been transmitted to each muscle before the original hand was amputated. Signals from small nerves are too weak for a prosthetic limb to use, but researchers discovered that attaching a small piece of muscle to each nerve boosted the signals. Then electrodes in the muscles recorded the nerve signals, passing them on to the prosthetic hand in real time.

At the moment, the device can only be used in the lab, but the team hopes to let people take the hands home within two years.



Joe Hamilton, a participant in the study, uses his mind to control a DEKA prosthetic hand to pick up a small block

EDITOR'S COMMENT



THE coronavirus has been the biggest story in the news for weeks, and it seems like the virus will be around for a long time.

Like with every big story, lots of people have taken advantage of social media to spread fake news about it. Whatever people's reasons for doing it, bad health advice is incredibly dangerous, which is why you should only listen to trusted sources. When it comes to health, fake news is no joke, so keep checking First News and the links on our front page for the latest advice.

GOOD WEEK FOR...

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

AFTER fast-food worker Malcolm Coleman lost his home to a fire and his father passed away, students at the University of Carolina leapt into action to help and have raised over £29,000 for the kind and friendly man.



Go Fund Me

BAD WEEK FOR...

STRICTLY FANS

POPULAR professional dancer Kevin Clifton has quit the show after seven years. Kev made the final of the show five times and won in 2018 with Stacey Dooley.



Getty

SPACE LETTUCE, ANYONE?



NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough harvesting lettuce on the International Space Station

NASA says that lettuce grown in space is just as nutritious and tasty as that grown on Earth.

Lettuce was grown in sealed units containing ceramic soil under LED lighting, with astronauts watering them through a tube.

The end result was vegetables that were similar to Earth-grown lettuces. In some trials, they were even richer in nutrients such as potassium, sodium, phosphorus, sulphur and zinc.

The ability of astronauts to grow food in space is good news for future long space missions, including NASA's first crewed mission to Mars, which is planned for the late 2020s.

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4. NEWS IN PICTURES

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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



A GIANT chandelier is transported across Sydney Harbour. The 9m-high crystal chandelier weighs 3.5 tonnes and is part of the set for Handa Opera's upcoming production of Verdi's *La Traviata*.

LONDON, UK



THE Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were among those who attended the Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey. The Commonwealth represents 2.4 billion people and 54 countries. The service was the final public royal duty for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex before they step back as senior royals.

PATNA, INDIA



DEVOTEES celebrate Holi. The Hindu festival of Holi, also known as the festival of colours, symbolises the end of winter and beginning of spring.

BIRMINGHAM, UK



MAISIE the wire-haired Dachshund and owner Kim McCalmont celebrate after winning Best in Show on the last day of Crufts. First held in 1891, Crufts is said to be the largest dog show of its kind in the world.

BIRMINGHAM, UK



ATHLETES and members of Team England during the launch of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games official countdown clock. The clock will take prime position in Centenary Square until the Games start on Wednesday 27 July 2022.

LONDON, UK



THE Duchess of Sussex smiles as student Aker Okoye speaks during a special school assembly at the Robert Clack Upper School, ahead of International Women's Day. She told Aker he was "very brave" as he joined her up on stage. He then declared to the entire school: "She really is beautiful, innit!" A clip of his big moment went global, leaving people very amused at his cheeky comment.



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NOT GREEN ENOUGH FOR GRETA

THE EU has revealed proposals to tackle climate change with a Green Deal – but environmental activist Greta Thunberg says it's not good enough.

If passed, the European Climate Law would make it a legal requirement for the EU to be carbon neutral by 2050. The EU plans to invest £86m to help countries dependent on fossil fuels move to renewable energy sources. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of 1990 levels by 2030, instead of the current target of a 40% cut, as well as planning to eliminate waste and improve sustainability of food production and distribution.

However, Greta Thunberg is not happy about the law, as she feels it does not go far enough.

She is concerned that the Green Deal would give the world “much less than a 50% chance” to limit global warming to 1.5°C. This is the figure agreed by the 197 countries who signed up to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Meanwhile, this winter was the warmest ever recorded in Europe. The average temperature between December 2019 and February 2020 was almost 1.4°C higher than the previous warmest winter in 2015/2016. The Copernicus Climate Change Service said global warming was to blame.

COOL CAT

MEET Mittens, the most famous feline in New Zealand.

The Turkish Angora cat can often be seen strolling around New Zealand's capital city, Wellington, visiting offices, restaurants, hairdressers and greeting people in the street. He has become a social media star, with locals snapping pics of him wherever he goes.

Adventurous Mittens lives with his owner, Silvio Bruinsma, and brother Latte (who doesn't like to go out). He hates to be locked up and loves to go out exploring.

The cute kitty is so famous in Wellington that he even has his own Facebook group, the Wondrous Adventures of Mittens, which has 30,000 followers.



WOW!

A CHILDREN'S book in Sri Lanka has been awarded a Guinness World Record for having 1,250 alternative endings. Writer Sybil Wettasinghe asked children to help contribute writing, drawings and poetry to complete the story in her book, *Wonder Crystal*.



HEAVY METAL WEATHER

SCIENTISTS have spotted signs of what might be iron rain on an ultra-hot exoplanet.

WASP-76b is an exoplanet 390 million light years away in the constellation of Pisces. A study published in science journal *Nature* suggests that one side of the planet always faces its sun, resulting in surface temperatures of up to 2,400°C – hot enough to vaporise metals. On the cooler 'night side' the temperature drops to a mere 1,500°C. Winds carry the iron vapour from the hot to the cool side, where it condenses into drops and falls as iron rain.



ROWING RECORD

SIXTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD Sara Brewer has become the oldest woman to row an ocean after crossing the Atlantic in 86 days.

Brewer, who only took up rowing seven years ago, achieved the feat alongside her rowing partner Ann Prestidge, 35. The pair rowed 3,000 miles from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean, while taking part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

The crossing wasn't all plain sailing – it took two weeks longer than expected after they were hit by bad weather and, at one point, had to survive on two meals a day after running short of food. They raised £45,000 for the Alzheimer's Society and the Street League charity.



CHILDLINE HELPS THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN EVERY WEEK. IF YOU EVER FEEL WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING IN THE NEWS OR YOU JUST NEED TO TALK, YOU CAN VISIT WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK OR CALL THEM ON 0800 11 11.

WALES

● **Coil spill**

Miles of plastic piping have been washing up on the coastlines of Wales, after 200 coils fell from a ship during Storm Dennis. Pipelife UK, which made the piping, has found around 80 coils and is looking for the rest. "Our commitment to reducing plastic waste is a fundamental principle of our company," Pipelife said. "When accidents occur such as this, we strive to remedy the situation as quickly as possible."



SCOTLAND

● **Funds for farmers**

The National Farmers' Union Scotland has said that farmers in the country need millions more to help them tackle climate change. The organisation says £100m of Government funding is needed each year to help farmers with emission-cutting schemes like planting woodlands and investing in green energy.



NEWCASTLE

● **Social robot**

St Oswald's Hospice in Newcastle has been using a robot called AV1 to help sick children feel less isolated. Children can control the robot remotely, as well as seeing and hearing what the robot can. The device is designed so that a child who has a long-term illness can take part in everyday activities. It allows them to remotely connect to friends and family or even take part in school lessons.



_noisolation/Instagram

WEST YORKSHIRE

● **Giant Greta**

To mark International Women's Day, a giant portrait of Greta Thunberg was unveiled at Hebden Royd Primary School in Yorkshire. The 60-metre-long artwork was created on a playing field by art collective Sand In Your Eye. They used the same paint that is used to mark the lines on football pitches. Pupils at the school chose Greta as their most inspiring woman and helped to finish off the artwork.



sandinyoureye/Instagram

WORCESTERSHIRE

● **All-clear for mum and son**

A mother and son who were both diagnosed with cancer have been given the all-clear after a four-year fight. Vici Rigby and her son George were diagnosed within months of each other. After years of treatment at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, they are both better. Vici said the team at the hospital were "all just brilliant" and her family are now looking forward to making plans and booking a holiday.



WorcestershireNHS/Twitter

TYNE AND WEAR

● **Bullied book lover**

A 13-year-old boy who set up an Instagram account to share his love of books was mocked online by bullies. After his sister tweeted her disgust, there was a wave of online support from people, including bookshops and famous authors. Callum's account, [@cals_book_account](#), now has more than 350,000 followers.

SURREY

● **Endangered eels**

A man who smuggled £53m of live eels out of the UK has been sentenced to 240 hours of unpaid work in the community. Gilbert Khoo, from Chessington, hid endangered eels under chilled fish and took them from London to Hong Kong. Eels are often illegally smuggled to Asia, where they are a popular food.

NEWS IN NUMBERS

1,000 teddies have been knitted by Josie Hind since 2016. The 81-year-old volunteer donates them to the Zambezi Sunrise Trust, which gives them to children in Zambia.

150 crisp packets is what it takes to make a bivvy bag for a homeless person. These are waterproof bags that keep sleeping bags warm and dry. Pen Huston from the Crisp Packet Project runs workshops to show people how to make them.



crisp.packet.project/Facebook

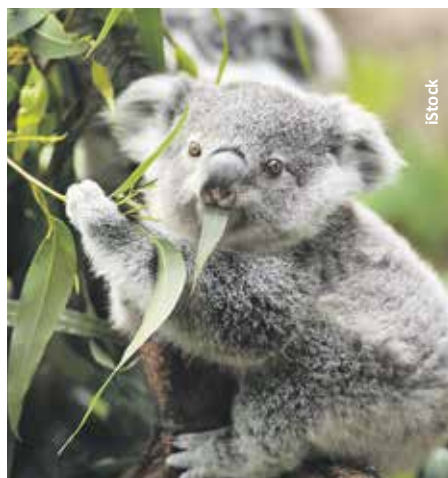
£32,000 is the average that insurers will pay out for a household affected by the recent floods. The Association of British Insurers calculated the cost of storms Ciara and Dennis at a total of more than £360m.

20 hamsters were found dumped in a hedge inside takeaway boxes. Pauline Wilson of the National Animal Sanctuaries Support League described the incident as "bizarre and heartbreaking". Luckily, the hamsters are okay and are in the process of being found new homes.



Getty

KOALA CRISIS



THE impact of the record-breaking New South Wales (NSW) bushfires on Australia's koala population has been revealed in a new study.

The study, commissioned by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), found that at least 5,000 koalas are thought to have died in the fires – that's around 12% of the koalas in the NSW area.

While it's certainly bad news, the IFAW says that koalas have been struggling for decades. "Koalas were already living on the brink before these fires, with populations declining due to land clearing, drought and disease," it said.

The IFAW is now calling for koalas to be listed as an endangered animal and for all activities that harm koalas and their habitat to be paused while the population recovers.

"This is a koala emergency," a campaigner for the IFAW said.

ANCIENT CREATURES UNCOVERED



by Aaron Henderson

An artist's impression of *Lekaneleo roskellyae*

PALAEONTOLOGISTS on the other side of the world have uncovered two very peculiar prehistoric creatures.

This week, palaeontologists revealed the fossilised remains of a new type of marsupial lion that they've described as "extraordinary".

It's long been known that tens of thousands of years ago, large marsupial lions roamed the forests of Australia.

Like other marsupials, these creatures would carry their young in pouches.

This newly discovered lion, named *Lekaneleo roskellyae* and believed to have died out 35,000 years ago, had extremely powerful teeth that could slice straight through bones.

"They had teeth a bit like micro bolt cutters," explained Michael Archer, professor of environmental sciences at the University of New South Wales. "There is nothing this animal couldn't have cut into bite-sized, swallowable pieces almost immediately."

Meanwhile, in the north of Myanmar, a slightly less terrifying creature has been discovered.

Trapped in 99-million-year-old amber (fossilised tree sap),

palaeontologists found a tiny, bird-like skull, just 7.1mm in length.

Despite its tiny size, the creature, which has been named *Oculudentavis khaungraae*, was believed to have been a predator, since its small beak was packed with razor-sharp teeth.

An artist's impression of *Oculudentavis khaungraae*. Below: the skull preserved in amber



WELCOME TO THE VR-MY



THE Ministry of Defence (MoD) will soon begin trialling a virtual reality (VR) training platform for new recruits.

Developed by veteran-run software company SimCentric, and costing the MoD £300,000, the VR training platform will be used to put recruits in realistic military simulations before they try them out for real.

According to tech company SimCentric, the simulator can support more than 30 people at the same time. It also has "highly realistic visuals and HD surround sound to bring training scenarios to life".

While it's the first time that VR is being used to train soldiers in the UK, it's not the first time that VR has been used by those from the military.

Soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can be reminded of a terrible situation they faced while at war, and suffer from anxiety and panic attacks.

By using VR, doctors can simulate situations that may be difficult for soldiers with PTSD, allowing them to work through their emotions in a safe, controlled space.



WOW!

A prototype console created by both Nintendo and Sony back in 1992 has sold at auction for a whopping \$300,000 (£228,000). The Nintendo PlayStation was bought by a collector called Greg McLemore, who wants to build a museum where he can show off the unique bit of gaming history.



A GAMER'S DREAM?

DEPENDING on how you feel about videogames, this 'gamer bed' is either the greatest thing you've ever seen – or one of the worst.

Built by Japanese company Bauhttte, which specialises in building desks and other furniture for gamers, the 'ultimate gaming bed' combines eight products into one gaming station.

Costing £800, the bed includes a desk, snack shelves and a tablet holder, meaning that gamers will only ever have to get up to use the bathroom. But Bauhttte also has an answer for that, as it also sells a onesie which features a zip-flap over the bottom, for speedy

number twos.

Of course, we should mention that the gamer bed would probably be terrible for your sleep.

The NHS says that you should avoid using smartphones, tablets or other electronic devices for an hour or so before you go to bed, as the light from the screen on these devices may have a negative effect on sleep.

Good luck avoiding screens in this bed!



VOTE IN OUR POLL

Is a gaming bed a good idea or too much?
first.news/polls

ICELAND



● New names

Icelandic families may soon be able to choose any name they like for their children. Since 1991, Icelanders born in Iceland have had to use a list of approved names – if they want something different, they have to go through the Icelandic Naming Committee. They have tough rules on what names are allowed, such as the name fitting in with Iceland's culture, or only containing letters from the Icelandic alphabet. But now, a new law that breaks up the Icelandic Naming Committee has received support across the country, including from the committee's former chairman.



USA



● Nashville tornadoes

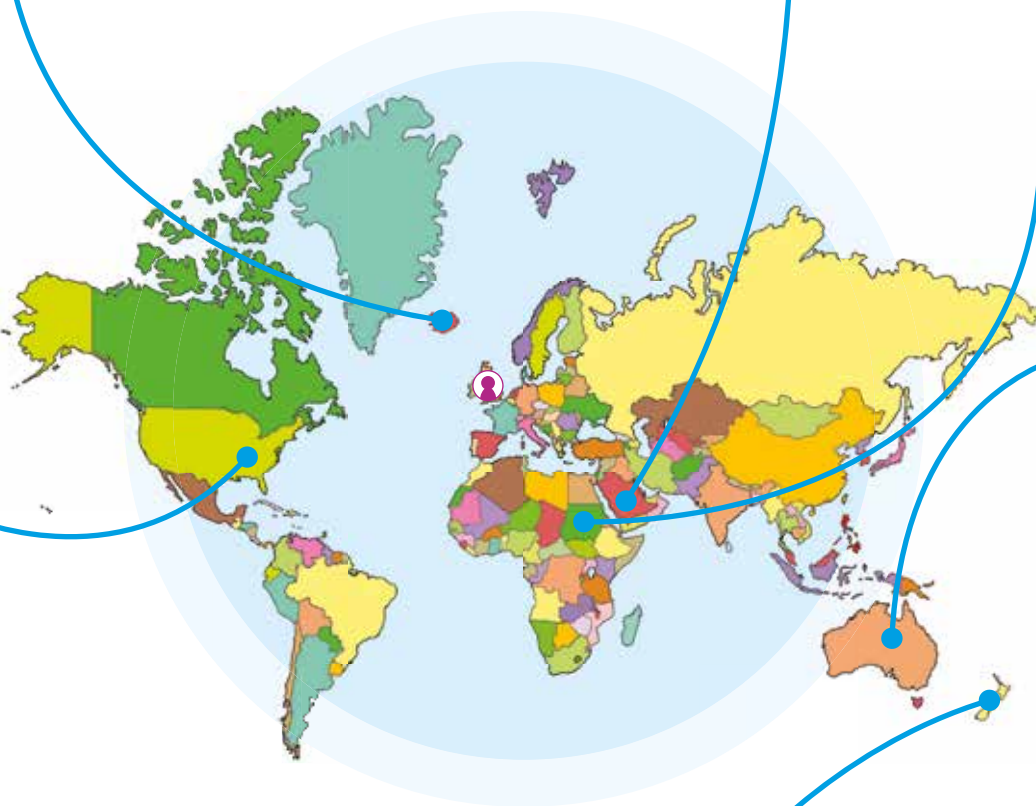
A series of powerful tornadoes tore through Tennessee last week, killing at least 24 people, damaging more than a hundred buildings and leaving thousands without power. In America, citizens have to pay for medical care, but one hospital treating 82 people affected by the tornado has said it won't charge the victims medical fees. US President Donald Trump visited the state following the disaster, where he said: "Our hearts are full of sorrow for the lives that were lost."

SAUDI ARABIA



● Plummeting prices

The price of oil dropped quickly this week after Saudi Arabia, the world's second largest oil producer, suddenly announced that they'd be selling oil barrels at a much cheaper price. It's thought that Saudi Arabia decided to sell oil at a cheaper price because of a row with Russia. The decision had a big effect on the world's stock markets, which faced their worst day since the financial crisis in 2008.



SUDAN



● Assassination attempt

Sudan's prime minister, Abdalla Hamdok, has survived an attack on his life. The former economist was travelling towards his office in the country's capital when there was a large explosion. Fortunately, no-one was hurt in the attack. Hamdok later said that the attack was nothing but "an additional push to the wheel of change in Sudan".



AUSTRALIA



● Stretched summers

Climate scientists have found that in Australia, summers have become on average a month longer than they were in the 1960s. Scientists from the Australia Institute looked at data from 70 weather stations across the country. They found that the major cities reached summer temperatures for 28-48 more days than in the mid-20th century. On the day that the research was announced, Sydney reached highs of 38°C. The average temperature for Sydney in March is just 24.8°C.

NEW ZEALAND



● Water happened?

Thieves have been stealing water from fire hydrants in Dannevirke on New Zealand's North Island. The town is facing a severe water shortage and there are restrictions on what residents can use. It's believed that the thieves used a tanker to take 24,000 litres of water before driving off. That's around the amount used by 80 people in a whole day.



OUR WORLD

NAME: JAYDEN LIVES: LONDON

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.SPORTRELIEF.COM

JAYDEN says the BIGKID youth club is about much more than playing football.

For him, it is a "big family" that got him off the streets and helped him become more confident and engaged in his community.

Using money raised through Sport Relief, in partnership with the #iwill fund, BIGKID runs twice-weekly football sessions as well as providing learning opportunities and coaching skills. According to Jayden, BIGKID has "helped me be myself. I've overcome a lot of fears being here".



SYRIA'S CHILDREN

Sunday 15 March marks nine years of conflict in Syria, which has led to millions of people losing their homes and fleeing the country. Many of these people living in terrible conditions are children like you.

NINE YEARS OF VIOLENCE

Over the course of the nine years of conflict in Syria, schools, hospitals and water facilities have been destroyed. It's been reported that almost 300,000 children can't go to school, either because the schools have been forced to close or they have been attacked.

In all conflicts, it's children who are the most vulnerable, as they are at greater risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and being caught up in the fighting. In Syria, the leading cause of casualty and death for children is unexploded devices, like mines.

Many Syrian families have been forced to look for safety in places like mosques, unfinished buildings and shops, often burning their own clothes and furniture just to keep warm for a few hours. Lots of children are simply living outdoors and being exposed to heavy rains and freezing conditions, which means they are more likely to suffer hypothermia and to catch dangerous infections.



FLEEING THE CONFLICT

Over the course of the conflict, more than six million people have fled the country to escape the violence. Half of these are children. Many of these people have found themselves in countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, and are now living in makeshift shelters with very few clothes or possessions.



TAWASEEF AND SITA

Five-year-old Tawaseef and her four-year-old sister Sita are refugees in Jordan and are unable to go to school at the moment. This winter, UNICEF has provided them with warm clothing so they can still play outside and stay active during the extremely cold weather. "The winter is tough but all we can do is buy plastic sheets to cover the tent," says their mother, Malak. "This is the first support we have received this winter. It's important because I can dress my children and keep them warm. I couldn't let them go out to play much because they had no shoes or jackets."



HOW TO HELP

To help UNICEF provide life-saving supplies and support for more Syrian children, you can donate today at www.unicef.org.uk/donate/syria

THE BIG PICTURE

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day has taken place on 8 March every year for more than a century.

It is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

This year, it was marked by marches around the globe, both as a celebration of women and as a protest against continued inequality. Despite coronavirus fears, there was no shortage of well-attended marches and events.

In this picture, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan joined Sandi Toksvig and other celebs for the March for Women, one of several marches around the UK.



THE HIDDEN FIGURE

The brilliant American mathematician Katherine Johnson, pictured here in 1966



WITHOUT Katherine Johnson, humans wouldn't have made it to the moon.

The American mathematician, who died last month aged 101, was a crucial member of the NASA team of experts that got astronauts safely to the moon and back in 1969. She calculated the precise journeys that would let Apollo 11 land on the lunar surface and return to Earth.

Before that historic mission, Johnson was part of another two moments of space history. Her calculations helped plan the flight made by Alan Shepard, the first American in space on board the Mercury spacecraft in 1961. Then she was a crucial part of the team that plotted John Glenn's mission in the vessel Friendship 7, helping him become the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962.

But despite her amazing work, often done with only a slide rule (a very basic analogue calculator) and pencil, nobody outside NASA knew about Johnson's work for decades. That's because, being a woman and African-American, Johnson and her colleagues weren't given the credit they deserved. It may seem ridiculous and awful today, but black Americans were still forced to use separate schools, colleges and public transport until 1964.



Johnson joins the cast of *Hidden Figures* at the Oscars

It's only recently that the record has been put right, and these women, known as the hidden figures of the first American space missions, are now celebrated as heroes.

Johnson's story – and that of two other unsung NASA mathematicians – was told in the Oscar-nominated 2016 film *Hidden Figures*.

KATHERINE JOHNSON A TIMELINE

1918 – Johnson is born in West Virginia.

1930 – School for African-Americans in Johnson's district was only available until the age of 12, so her parents move to an area where she could continue her education.

1933 – Aged 15, Johnson graduates to the West Virginia State College. She leaves with the highest honours in maths and French in 1937, aged only 18.

1940 – Johnson becomes one of three black students, and the first black woman, to enrol on a master's course at West Virginia University.

1953 – She gets a job at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (which later turned into NASA).

1986 – Johnson retires from NASA.

2015 – President Obama gives Johnson the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

'SNOWMAN' SPOTTED



ASTRONOMERS have discovered a giant snowman in space!

Okay, it isn't really a snowman, but that's what it looks like. This is, in fact, two stars that have merged to form a giant white dwarf that is two-thirds the size of planet Earth! It's called WDJ0551+4135. Snappy name, right?

White dwarfs are the remains of ordinary stars, like our sun, that have burnt all their fuel.

CLIMATE CONS

MORE than 40% of Conservative Party members don't believe in man-made climate change.

A survey by the Conservative Home website found that 10% did not think global warming was happening, while 33% thought it was happening, but that human behaviour was not the main cause. Some 49% agreed with the overwhelming evidence that human activity is driving climate change.



Another 9% of party members said they don't know what their view on the subject is.

TATA
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES

INNOVATIONS

COULD caterpillars solve Earth's plastic waste problem?

Scientists in Canada have found that the larvae of the greater wax moth (below) is able to eat polyethylene, which is one of the most commonly used plastics. In fact, they can survive on a plastic diet for weeks!



The researchers reckon the bacteria in the caterpillars' guts could be developed in the lab in order to break down plastic waste. Like most plastics, polyethylene takes hundreds of years to biodegrade.

More tests will now be carried out to see if these caterpillars can help eat into our huge heaps of plastic rubbish.

SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP

This report is from our friends at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester

IF you're interested in cars then you've probably heard of Rolls-Royce, one of Britain's most famous car brands. But do you know how it started?

Rolls-Royce began life in Manchester and is the result of a remarkable partnership between Henry Royce and Charles Rolls. Henry was an expert engineer and Charles was a pioneer with a passion for motorcars. Together, they were committed to experimenting and testing new technology, and would often enter their motorcars into races to challenge their competitors.

Their dedication to improvement earned Rolls-Royce a reputation for making quality vehicles with powerful, quiet and reliable engines.

You can see one of the earliest Rolls-Royce motorcars on display at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. It was driven by Henry Royce himself and is one of only three surviving cars of this type in the world.



THE MANY FACES OF SHAKESPEARE

SHAKESPEARE WEEK
Join the national celebration

PEOPLE often wonder what William Shakespeare really looked like. While there are many portraits of the famous playwright in museums and galleries around the world, including at his childhood home, we may never be able to confirm exactly what he looked like in real life. For this year's Shakespeare Week, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust wants to see how you picture the immortal Bard!

PICTURE THE BARD

We have a general idea of how William Shakespeare looked, thanks to in-depth research by Shakespeare experts. It's generally thought he had a balding head, a moustache, a plain white collar and an earring.

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, which organises the annual Shakespeare Week celebration in primary schools nationwide, is calling on young people to get creative and draw their very own portrait of the Bard.

TAKE INSPIRATION

We've teamed up with some of the country's best-loved children's illustrators to inspire you to create your very own portrait of Shakespeare, including popular TV presenter Ricky Martin from CBBC's Art Ninja; Korky Paul, illustrator of the popular Winnie the Witch children's books; award-winning children's author and illustrator Marcia Williams and many more. Take a look at some of their creations on the right and be inspired to create your own!

CELEBRATING SHAKESPEARE

This year's Shakespeare Week runs from 16-22 March, and throughout the week there will be free events held across the country, especially in Shakespeare's home town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Since its launch in 2014, nearly eight million children across the UK have taken part in Shakespeare Week, celebrating Shakespeare's life and his wonderful stories. Don't miss out on the fun and take part in this year's Shakespeare Week, by heading to the website at the bottom of the page.



For more information and to take part, see www.shakespeareweek.org.uk



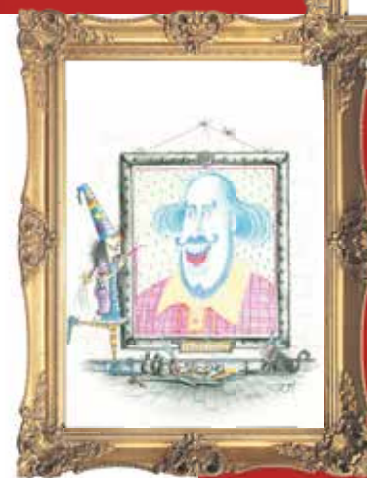
Mini Grey's William Shakespeare

"My picture shows Shakespeare at work on *The Tempest*. Recently I've been very interested in model theatres and this got me wondering if I could hide Shakespeare in a sort of model theatre."



Winnie and Wilbur, and Shakespeare by Korky Paul

"I am a cartoonist and include lots of visual humour in my work. I wanted to give Shakespeare a more cartoony, funny expression, rather than the rather sombre, sad expressions that you often see."



William Shakespeare by Marcia Williams

"I wanted to think of a way to create a portrait of Shakespeare that could be created by one child or a group of children working together, because sometimes it is fun to work with other people and can lead to stronger ideas. I decided that a collage would be a fun way of taking a new look at the great man."



Pop Art Shakespeare by Ricky Martin, aka Art Ninja

"I did my Shakespeare portrait in the style of my three favourite pop artists: Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and Keith Haring."

"BREAK THE ICE"

– to make things less awkward. From *Taming of the Shrew*

"RHYME NOR REASON"

– without common sense or logic. From *The Comedy of Errors*

"WILD-GOOSE CHASE"

– a hopeless search. From *Romeo and Juliet*

SHAKESPEARE'S PHRASES

Even though William Shakespeare wrote over 400 years ago, we continue to use words and phrases found in his sonnets and plays today. You could be quoting Shakespeare without knowing it! Here are some of the phrases that we attribute to Shakespeare's plays.

"WHAT'S DONE IS DONE"

– you can't change what's already happened. From *Macbeth*

RESCUE AND RELEASE

FIFTEEN endangered sea turtles have been released into the wild by the animal rescue team at SeaWorld Orlando.

In the last two weeks, five green sea turtles and ten Kemp's ridley sea turtles have been released into the Atlantic Ocean from New Smyrna Beach, Florida. All the turtles were rescued at the end of 2019 and flown to Orlando after being found "cold stunned" in waters off the coast of New England.

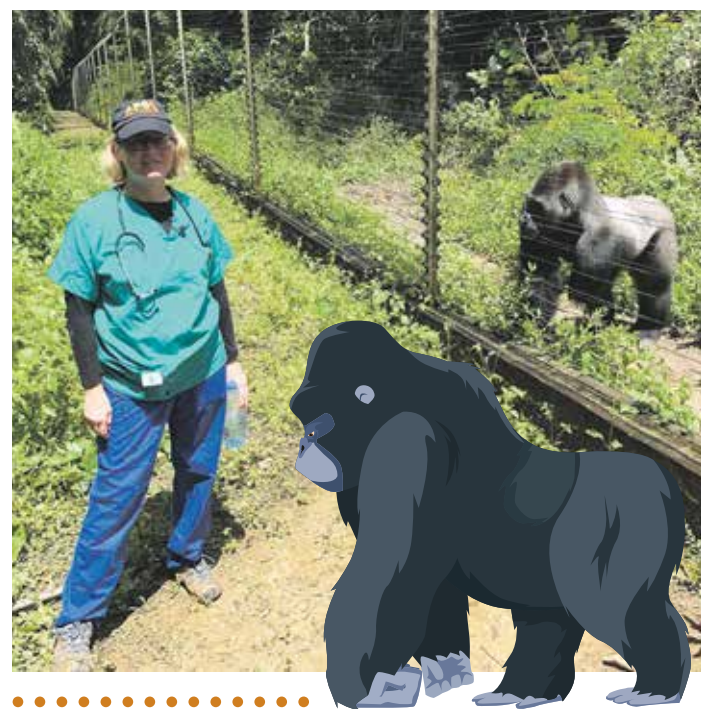
After months of specialised care, the turtles were declared fit to be released back into the wild.

Turtles are reptiles, which means they are cold blooded. If they spend too long in cold water they can become too cold and very sick; many even die from being cold stunned.

Since 1980, SeaWorld has helped rescue more than 2,800 sea turtles and more than 36,000 ill, injured, orphaned or abandoned animals around the world.



GORILLA GOES HOME



A GORILLA called Freedom has been rescued and released into the wild in Cameroon, a first for the African country.

Two great ape experts from Twycross Zoo in Britain travelled to Cameroon to work with primate conservation charity Ape Action Africa (AAA). They worked together to make sure Freedom was ready to return to life in the wild.

Freedom was taken to AAA in August 2019 after wandering into a highly populated area, which was not a safe place for him to live. The team from AAA and Twycross Zoo spent months searching for the perfect area of dense forest for him to be released, away from the threat of poachers and from developed areas.

Freedom's relocation and release is the first of its kind in Cameroon and a great example of the way conservation charities and governments can work together to help and protect endangered species.

HELPFUL PREDATORS



NATIVE predators can help revive ecosystems and save struggling species, says a new study by researchers at Queen's University Belfast.

Pine martens are being used as the case study for the research in Northern Ireland. The shy predators – who are recovering from near extinction themselves – help to control the number of grey squirrels, allowing red squirrel numbers to recover.

Pine martens prey on squirrels, and researchers found that red squirrels were a lot more cautious when they could smell pine martens near their feeders. Grey squirrels didn't seem to notice and still visited feeders that had been coated with the scent of pine martens, making them easier prey for the predators.

Red squirrels have been driven to near extinction in the UK and Ireland by the larger, bolder greys, who didn't arrive in the UK until the 19th century.

The full study, published in *Royal Society Open Science*, explains the importance of conserving native species across Europe to help ecosystems return to normal.

PORKY PETS

VETS are warning that many pet snakes are overweight because of their poor diets and a lack of space to move around in.

Obesity in snakes can cause serious health problems, including liver issues.

A recent survey by the British Veterinary Association (BVA) found that 89% of vets say many pet snakes in the UK are not housed in enclosures with enough space to roam, or a safe space to hide. Many species of snake can live for at least 15 years, with some living much longer.

If you want to have a pet snake, it's important to make sure you have the space and time to care for it properly.



SUPER SPY!

YOUNG actor Chloe Coleman stars alongside action hero Dave Bautista in *My Spy*, the new family action adventure that hits cinemas this week. We chatted to Chloe about the film.



● What was it like making *My Spy*?

I had such a blast making *My Spy* because there were so many firsts for me on this movie. Doing stunts was a first for me, and getting to work with Dave Bautista was mind-blowing for me. I was so happy to get to work with him, and the director, Peter Segal, was so much fun too.

● Can you tell us about your character, Sophie?

Sophie is a very rascally character. She is very clever and smart, she's definitely a self-starter. I mean, she gets ideas and just runs with them. She's left alone a lot and that gives her time to become super resourceful. She really likes to learn a lot about things on her own, but she's kind of too smart for her own good. If you've seen the film, you'll understand what I mean!

● At the start of the film she's just moved from France and has a hard time fitting in. Have you ever had any experiences like that yourself?

I think that almost all kids go through it at some level, either not fitting in or feeling left out or lonely or something like that. Big groups of kids, or people anywhere, can feel intimidating and I think it's important to be very nice to people.

● Did you have to learn any new skills?

I speak a few French lines in *My Spy*, so I did have

French lessons.

I brushed up on my ice skating and I got to learn some really cool stuff, like doing certain jumps and turns. I had to learn how to fall properly because I have to fall on the ice in the film. I also learnt how to walk away from an explosion! That was really something. It was really, really loud and really hot but it wasn't scary, it was kind of cool. It was really exciting!

● What was your favourite scene to film?

I think some of my favourite scenes were the plane scenes. Those scenes were my first stunt scenes and working with the blue screen. It was quite hard at first because it was a completely new thing, having to look at the screen and imagine it was something completely dramatic and different. It was pretty big. I loved walking all around that plane too, that was so awesome. It really moved on hinges too, which made me scared!

● Did Dave Bautista give you any tips?

Dave, being the action star that he is, taught me that when you do your stunts you have to be really intense to pull off the fact that you're punching somebody. You can't just pretend to punch somebody and not have your face scrunched up, you have to really throw your whole body into it. Just don't really punch somebody because you don't want to get fired!

● Sophie decides she wants to be a spy; would you be a good spy?

I don't know if I would like to be a spy in real life. Being a spy is a dangerous business; you could get kidnapped, captured or even killed! It's pretty dangerous. I just like acting, so I can pretend for fun and I really enjoy that. I get to try lots of different jobs as an actor!

● What's the most surprising thing about making a film?

It's really surprising how many actual crew members there are involved. You know at the end of a movie when the credits roll on forever? Those are real people on set, walking around, doing jobs. I think it's fascinating how many people it takes to make a movie. I love this business.

GET TO KNOW CHLOE

Chloe loves drawing and making her own animations at home!

Chloe is only 11 years old but has already starred in more than 20 TV series and films. You'll soon be able to see her in the new Disney+ film *Timmy Failure* and in *Avatar 2*.

Chloe is a straight-A student and goes to a normal school when she isn't filming. When she's working, she has special classes on set.

Catch *My Spy* in cinemas now!

Chloe took a swear jar on set with her while filming *My Spy*. Whenever any of the adults on set used bad language, she collected the money. In total they raised \$255 (around £199), which Chloe matched with her own money and donated to the Rainforest Alliance.



1 Joe Swash has been crowned the winner of *Dancing on Ice* 2020. The actor and his skating partner Alex Murphy beat Diversity star Perri Kiely in the grand final. Joe paid tribute to his friend Caroline Flack, who died last month, by featuring a poster with the words “Be Kind” in his routine.



2 The release of the new James Bond film, *No Time to Die*, has been delayed until November. Film-makers made the decision to delay the release after an “evaluation of the global theatrical marketplace”. The studio had been under pressure from Bond fans to delay the release because of fears over coronavirus and the large numbers of people who would be attending the world premiere in London and visiting cinemas to see the film.

3 Ballroom and Latin dancer duo Michael and Jowita have won BBC One’s *The Greatest Dancer*. The duo were mentored by professional dancer Oti Mabuse, who joined them for one routine during the final.



PICS OF THE WEEK

NICKELODEON’S Slimefest 2020 launched this week with the news that it will be held in Blackpool AND London!

Jordan Banjo and Perri Kiely will host the slime-filled celebrations, and they’ll be joined by pop duo Max and Harvey plus social media stars and other special guests still to be announced.

You can catch Slimefest at The Arena at Blackpool Pleasure Beach from 17-19 October and then in London at The SSE Arena, Wembley on 26 October.

Tickets are on sale now at www.nickslimefest.co.uk



ALL ABOUT DISNEY+



THE brand-new streaming service launches next week, but what is Disney+? What do you get with the new service? And is it worth signing up?

WHAT IS IT?

Disney+ is a brand-new Netflix rival launching in the UK on 24 March. It has already launched in America and other countries around the world.

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU SIGN UP?

Disney+ will be the home for all your favourite Disney-owned brands, including Disney, Marvel, Pixar, Star Wars and National Geographic. As well as old classics, which will only be found here, there’ll be brand-new shows and

films that will be exclusive to Disney+.

WHAT’S NEW THAT WILL INTEREST ME?

Plenty! Forky from *Toy Story 4* gets his own series, *Forky Asks a Question*, then there’s the highly-anticipated Star Wars spin-off series *The Mandalorian* and the all-singing, all-dancing *High School Musical: The Series*. Film-wise, *Lady and the Tramp* has been turned into a live-action film, *Timmy Failure* is based on the popular book series and *Lamp Life* is an animated short film about Bo Peep from *Toy Story*. There are also crafting shows, reality shows and a cooking show, all with a Disney twist. More content will be announced throughout the year.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

It’s £59.99 for a year (£49.99 before 23 March) or £5.99 a month, so it’s a similar price to other streaming services.



Disney+ launches in the UK on 24 March. Find out more at disneyplus.com

REVISE RIGHT WITH STABILO'S

TOP TIPS!

WITH buckets of handwriting, highlighting and colouring expertise, STABILO is perfectly placed to help you organise your revision, to ensure that you're perfectly prepared for those all-important tests and exams.

Colour is key! Colourised revision notes will help to trigger your memory on exam day. Whether it's using the brightest colours you can find, like STABILO NEON highlighters, or drawing your favourite diagrams with the brilliant STABILO point 88, then colour co-ordinating your notes and revision cards will ensure they stand out, to make memorising them much easier!



As well as strategic highlighting, you can organise your notes by using different colours as you write. STABILO pointMax is a cleverly designed, fibre-tip writing pen that is available in 24 vibrant colours. Its robust tip won't fray or split and makes writing revision notes a doddle!

The STABILO EASY range features a selection of ergonomically-shaped funky pens and pencils with a design for everyone. Whether you like vibrant block colours or standing out from the crowd in metallic or graffiti designs, choose your EASY writing tool and tackle your exams with confidence!

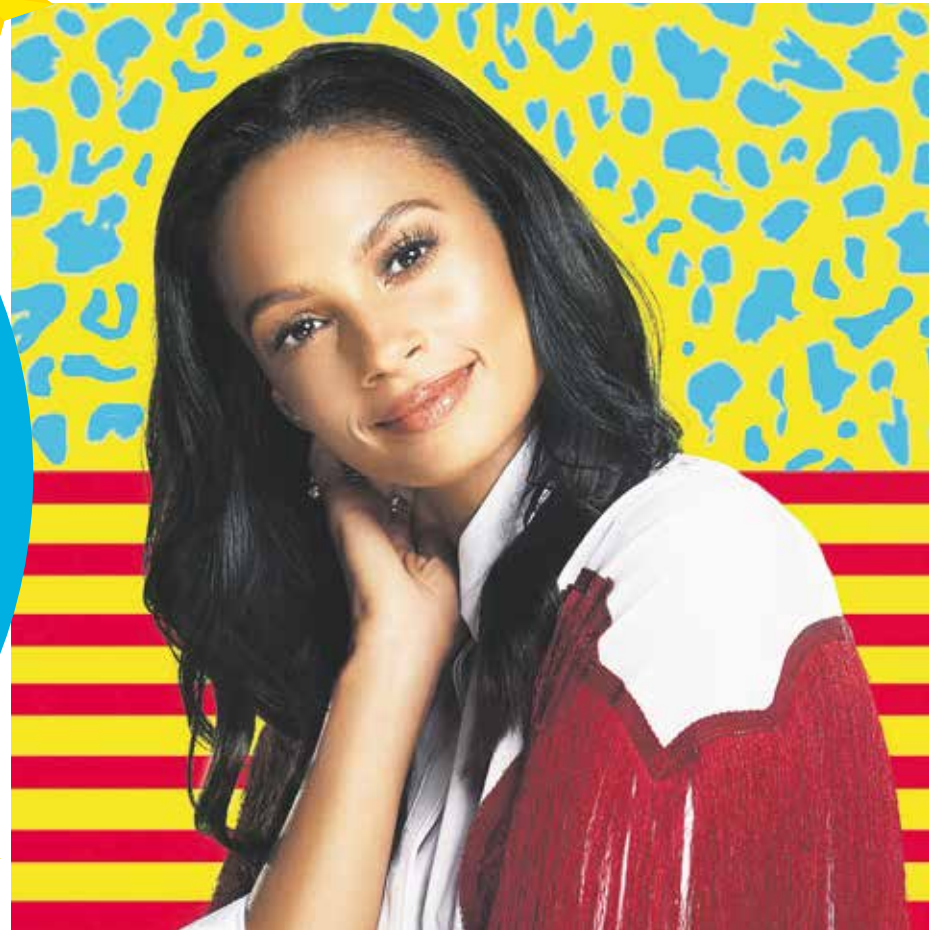
However you revise, make sure you take regular breaks as you go!
Too much at once will overcrowd your brain and you won't learn efficiently.
Wishing you the best of luck from all at STABILO! www.stabilo.co.uk

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ALESHA DIXON:

“THERE ARE A LOT OF CHILDREN OUT THERE WHO ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED”

SINGER, TV presenter and author Alesha Dixon chatted to First News about her new book, *Star Switch*, and why it's important for everyone to feel represented in books.



● WHAT IS *STAR SWITCH* ABOUT?

It's about two girls: Naomi Starr, the biggest pop star on the planet, and a young girl called Ruby. Naomi is caught up in the world of fame and stardom and is quite the diva. Ruby is her adoring fan and dreams of being Naomi Starr – then something happens to the two of them. They basically swap bodies like in *Freaky Friday*, so they step into each others' shoes and see things from the other side. They both learn things from each others' lives. Ruby learns how difficult it is to be a pop star and how much work goes into it. Naomi has been quite isolated and feels alone, so she learns about friendship and teamwork and how to be kinder. I think it's so cool for young people to be very mindful of hard work, kindness and teamwork. And those are the messages that run throughout the book.

● WHAT WAS IT THAT APPEALED TO YOU ABOUT THE BODY-SWAP *FREAKY FRIDAY* STORYLINE?

I thought it was quite a cool idea to have the dual narrative and see the story from different perspectives. We live in a time where people are obsessed with other people's lives. We make so many quick judgements about other people. One of the things I'm constantly saying is: "Until you've walked in that person's shoes, you don't know how they're feeling or why they said what they said or did what they did." I quite liked the idea of actually walking in the other person's shoes and living it for real. You don't learn the lesson any quicker than that!

● IS THE BOOK AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL?

It's definitely not autobiographical! I was 22 when Mis-Teeq [Alesha's pop group] signed their first record

deal. I mean, the inspiration obviously came from my own story in as much as I'm from the music industry, I understand that world, I understand people's perception of that world. I also understand from Ruby's point of view what it's like to grow up in a huge family, to be insecure, not be particularly confident at times, so there are aspects of both girls that I can relate to.

● ARE THERE ANY DIFFERENCES IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT YOU FEEL AS A MUM VS A CELEB IN THE PUBLIC EYE?

It's a good question, actually. First and foremost, as a mum I feel very responsible for my girls' wellbeing and how they view themselves. You try to make sure that they feel represented, that they feel important, that they believe that they can do anything. To make sure they are self-assured, healthy, happy children. And then as somebody in the public eye, I feel that it's not necessarily my responsibility, but I think that if you're given a platform then I think it's a great idea to use it wisely. If you can use your platform to create something that taps into the minds of young, vulnerable people, then it's a good thing to do.

● IN 2018, ONLY 4% OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS HAD A BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC (BAME) MAIN CHARACTER. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU TO ADD TO THAT DIVERSITY?

That percentage really, really upsets me. Obviously, doing *Lightning Girl* and having Aurora Beam on the front cover was a huge deal for me. There are a lot of children out there who are under-represented, without probably even being aware of it, but parents are certainly aware of it. It is a shocking number – that

has to change. Everyone needs to contribute – all authors out there need to be mindful of it, schools need to be mindful of it. What are the children at school reading and are all the children feeling included and like they're being represented? I find it mind-boggling, to be honest with you. But you know what, I hear statistics like that and it just keeps me motivated to think: "Right, there's more to be done here."

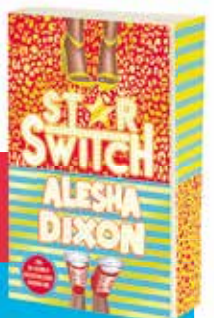
● WERE THERE ANY CHARACTERS IN BOOKS THAT YOU CONNECTED TO GROWING UP?

Absolutely not one. To celebrate curly hair, as simple as that, you know? To not always want to straighten your hair because you think that's the idea of what beauty is. But it's so much deeper than the hair, it's just more about seeing someone, something that is a reflection of who you are. No matter where you're from, I think you should feel included. I would have loved to have something like *Lightning Girl* or *Star Switch* as a young girl. But what's so nice is on World Book Day last year, I got so many photographs of young girls dressed up as Aurora Beam, and they weren't just young girls of colour. There were so many different people dressed up as *Lightning Girl*, proving that children don't see colour, they see characters, personalities and stories.

● IS THIS THE START OF A SERIES?

I'd love for it to be a series. I always write with the intention of the story continuing. With *Lightning Girl*, even though we completed it, there's still part of me that wants to carry on with Aurora Beam. I'm not ready to end her story yet, so we'll see!

Star Switch by Alesha Dixon is out now



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



A DELIGHTFUL DUNGEON ADVENTURE!

IN this bright and colourful adventure, it's up to you to save Pokémon from sticky situations – as a Pokémon yourself!

Pokémon Mystery Dungeon: Rescue Team DX is a remake of Pokémon Mystery Dungeon: Rescue Team Red and Blue, which came out in 2005. This latest version has a new style that makes the whole game look like a watercolour painting.

You play as a human who has mysteriously woken up as a Pokémon, so the game starts with a series of questions to determine which Pokémon you play as. Depending on how you answer, you may end up as an Eevee, a Pikachu or even a Psyduck! But don't worry, you can just choose a Pokémon to play as, if you don't like the one you're given.

Once you've picked a partner Pokémon to begin your rescue with, things really get going and you start taking on dungeons to save Pokémon who are in trouble.

Like the main Pokémon games, battles take turns. They're much quicker in Mystery Dungeon but require a bit more strategy, since you've got to figure out where you're attacking from too. It's not the most exciting game, but it's fun in a different way, plus each dungeon is randomly generated and filled with different Pokémon. After a while, enemies can be recruited into your team. Instead of catching them, though, they ask to join you!

The game can be pretty repetitive, and I found that it was much more enjoyable to play in handheld mode rather than on a TV. The story is fun and it's easy to spend a lot of time playing it!



THE PLAYSTATION 2 TURNS 20!

THIS week, the world's best-selling videogame console of all time, the PS2, turned 20 years old!

The PlayStation 2 (PS2) arrived in Japan on 4 March 2000, and was manufactured by Sony until 2012. In those 12 years, 155 million consoles were sold.

The console introduced players to amazing 3D worlds for the first time and had graphics that were revolutionary at the time.

It was also the first PlayStation to have online multiplayer. Although back then, you had to buy a lot of extra wires to get everything working!



STAR WHAT?! : NO-HIT RUN

AN accidental appearance of a mysterious new Star Wars game has fans going crazy!

Last week, a game called Star Wars: Project Maverick appeared on the PlayStation Network store.

There were no more details, other than an image of a lava-covered planet, but we're already extremely excited!



A DEVOTED gamer has successfully beaten Pokémon Platinum without taking damage.

Every time his Pokémon was hit, the player restarted from the last gym they beat. In total, it took 138 in-game hours – not counting all the resets!

The first battle in the game took nine hours of preparation! We won't be trying it ourselves...

SPANISH FOR LITTLE ONES *Advertisement feature*

LEARN WITH SPANISH FOR LITTLE ONES!

ARE you a parent or teacher? Do you want your children and/or pupils to learn Spanish in a fun and natural way? Then visit www.spanishforlittleones.com to find a universe of resources designed with love, passion, magic and creativity. Spanish for Little Ones will awaken the curiosity of children during their learning process.

VIDEOS

Children will learn Spanish through videos starring four different characters, along with puppets and the funny dialogues between them.

SONGS

Original rhythmic songs to help teach Spanish. For ease of use, lyrics are included with every single song, along with worksheets to enhance learning.

STORIES

Interactive stories will allow children to have fun while they are learning Spanish in a simple and natural way. Different activities and games are provided for every story.

WORKSHEETS

Literacy worksheets with exercises to initiate children into reading and writing skills in Spanish: vocabulary, riddles, games and much more.



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SAVING SIGHT

Preston (right) and his granny (second left) meet Etienne and his parents



Louise Tugwell

IT'S estimated that 75% of all blindness is avoidable. Put simply, millions of people become blind because they can't get simple surgery or treatment that could save their sight. And too often, if you live in a poor community, going blind means losing your chance to go to school, earn a living or live independently. CBM is a charity that works across the world's poorest countries to prevent avoidable blindness and restore sight.

TV presenter Diane Louise Jordan recently got to visit Rwanda with CBM to meet a ten-year-old boy called Etienne. He had cataracts, which is like a heavy white sheet that covers your eye, blocking your vision. Diane took her 12-year-old grandson, Preston, with her. Here, Preston tells us about his time with Etienne and the amazing sight-saving surgery that charities like CBM carry out.

THE JOURNEY

The flight to Rwanda was nine hours long. It was amazing getting off the plane. The air smelt different and humid; I liked it. I was tired and slept so well in the hotel that first night.

After breakfast the next morning, we jumped into a 4x4 and set off to meet Etienne in his village. The journey to the village was very bumpy because there were no proper roads after a bit, and it was just dirt with some really big dips.

Etienne's house was basic. I couldn't see any furniture. It was emotional to meet Etienne. He was kind of sad and nervous. He's got six siblings. Their clothes were a bit broken and tattered. We all chatted, then it was time for Etienne to go to the hospital. It was weird to see Etienne going in the car with his dad. It was his first time ever in a car. I think he was scared, and he was crying.



Louise Tugwell

THE GOODBYE

The next day, we made the journey over the bumpy roads to visit Etienne, who was back at his house. Etienne's mum looked totally different, smiling all the time. I was amazed again that Etienne could see. I gave him my football. He was really happy to have it. It was so good to see him kicking it around. My granny and I also gave him some colouring pens and a book to colour in. I couldn't believe it when I saw him starting to draw stick men. It really did seem like a miracle.

I was sad to say goodbye to Etienne but he'll be going to school now, which is great. I'd love to hear how he gets on. His dad said that he hopes Etienne will now become a doctor and help other people as he has been helped.

THE SURGERY

We had to get up at 6:30 the next morning. I was excited because Etienne would be having his surgery today. When we got to Kabgayi hospital, I wasn't allowed to see the surgery; I was too young.

They explained to me that he would go to sleep with an anaesthetic, then they would make a small cut with a scalpel and take out the cloudy cataract. Then his eye would be clear and he could see again. For adults, they do the operation while you're awake, just with medicine to stop any pain. I was glad Etienne would be asleep, so he wouldn't feel afraid.

We had to go back to the hospital very early the next morning, as the doctors take the bandages off patients first thing. I sat on the bed with Etienne. It must have hurt when the bandages were taken off his eyes, but Etienne was so brave. The doctor held out a pen and it was crazy to see Etienne reach out and grab it. He could see! I felt amazed that it was that easy for someone not to be blind any more. It's cool how he could not see, then 24 hours later he could.



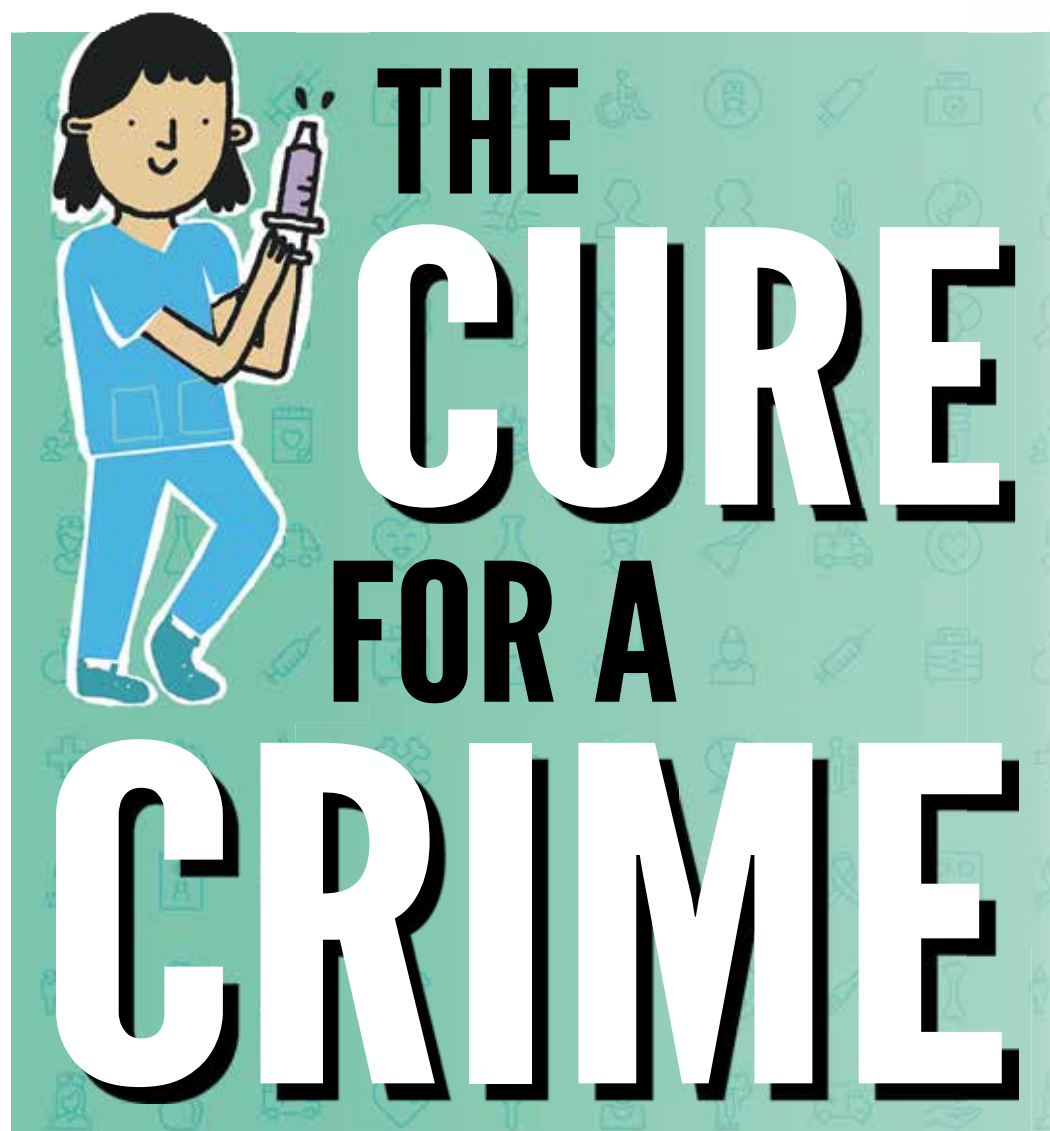
Louise Tugwell

DID YOU KNOW?

- Thirty six million people around the world are blind, while 217 million are visually impaired. The vast majority live in developing countries.
- Around half of all blindness is caused by cataracts, where the lens of the eye becomes cloudy. Cataracts can be treated with simple surgery, which costs as little as £24 for an adult or £95 for a child.
- Two-thirds of blind people are women. In wealthier countries this is because women live longer than men; in developing countries, it is because women are less likely to get the healthcare they need.
- Last year, as a result of CBM's fundraising, 29 million people were treated for blinding diseases. Some 605,000 people were given sight-restoring cataract surgery, while 446,000 glasses and low-vision devices were distributed.

the
overseas
disability
charity

cbm
together we can do more

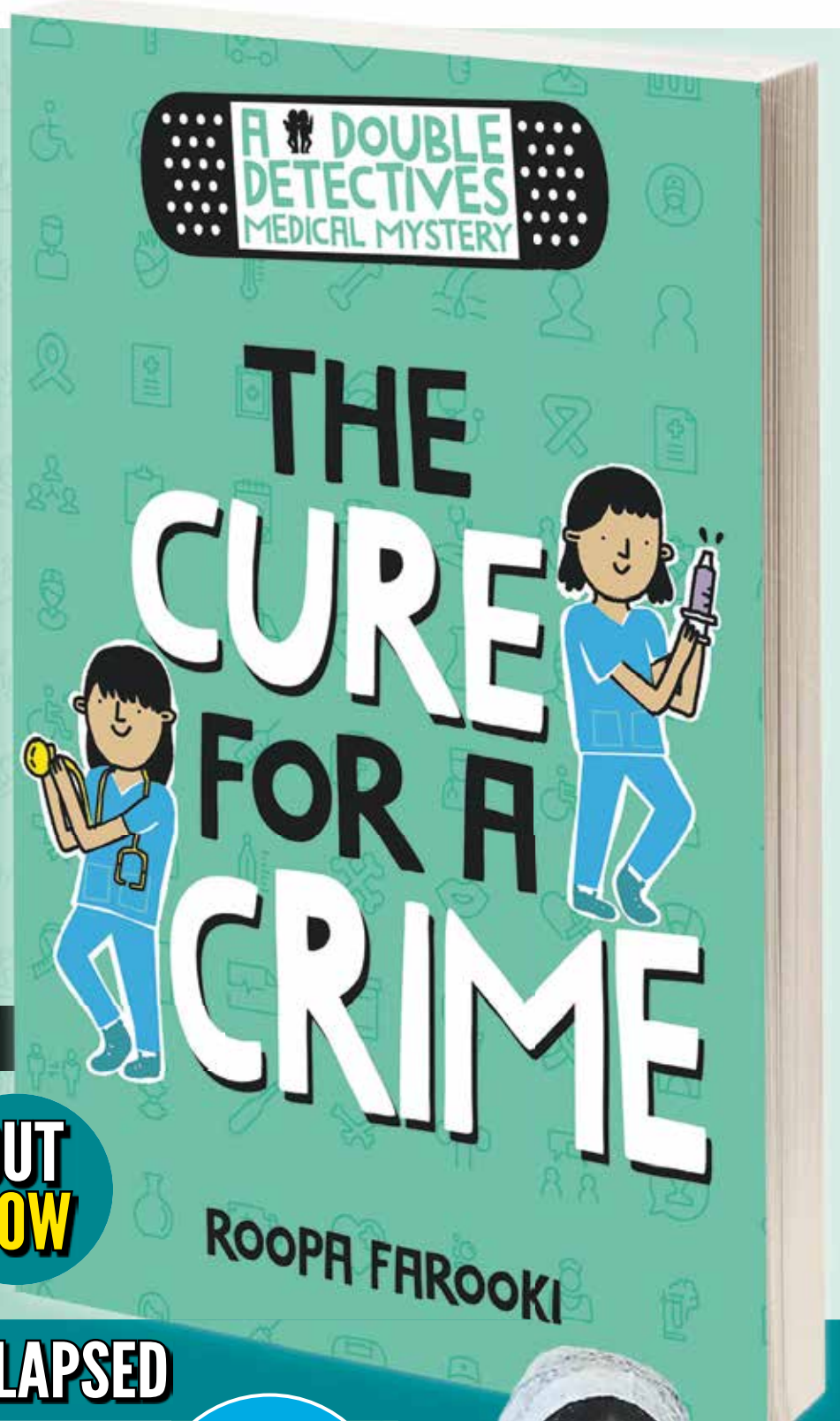


A BRAND-NEW medical mystery series by junior doctor Roopa Farooki.

When Ali and Tulip's mum becomes unnaturally sleepy and forgetful, the twins become suspicious of her new boyfriend. Luckily, they've picked up lots of medical knowledge from their mum, who works at the local hospital, so they are totally on the case to solve this medical mystery!

Perfect for budding medics and fans of mystery series like those by Robin Stevens and Sharna Jackson.

**OUT
NOW**



WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE HAS COLLAPSED

Well, you have to do something, right? Because it can take eight minutes for an ambulance to get to them – and a lot can happen in eight minutes.



What you do is called the Dr's ABC:

D stands for danger: Are they in danger? Is someone about to trample on them? Is a car about to run them over? Keep them safe!

R stands for response: Do they answer you if you shout their name? Or react if you pinch them? It's bad if they don't.

S stands for shout for help: Someone needs to be calling the ambulance and giving you a hand.

A stands for airway: Check if it's blocked. They might be choking on something. Or it could be swollen if they've got an allergy and ate peanuts in their food.

B stands for breathing: If they can't, you might need to breathe for them. Basically that means holding their nose and breathing through their mouth to inflate their lungs. It could save their life until someone gets there with a special mask to pump air into their lungs.

C stands for circulation: If their heart isn't pumping the blood round to their organs, they're in trouble. You might need to do chest compressions to pump the blood around.

Turn to
page 26 for
a quick-fire
consultation with
author Roopa
Farooki



This is what chest compressions look like



Artwork by Mike Lowery

Available now online and in all good bookshops!

OXFORD

FNQ

LIVE ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY

PLAY FNQ live at 5pm on Sunday and Wednesday!

You're one step ahead when playing FNQ with this copy of *First News*! All the answers to this week's live game of FNQ can be found inside this edition of *First News*.

Join in our live quiz at **5pm on Sunday and Wednesday** and be in with a chance to win Amazon vouchers.

Play with family and friends! You will earn an extra life and bonus points when you refer a friend who plays.

Get more friends to register and you can all play our after-school live game on Wednesdays. Each game will consist of five questions and a **£50 prize pot!**

Download the FNQ app from the App Store and Google Play now!



**WIN
AMAZON
VOUCHERS**

**FREE
TO PLAY**




FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.FNQAPP.CO.UK

2 WEEKS
TO GO!

DESIGN

THE FIRST NEWS KART FOR THE WACKY RACES!

WACKY RACES KART GUIDE

- We'd like your drawings to show each side of the kart, plus the front and the back.
- Your kart should be no longer than 250cm front to back, and no wider than 160cm.
- It can have three or four wheels, but must have a seat and a steering wheel.
- There's no need to worry about an engine, as the course is all downhill.
- Apart from that, there are no restrictions on your design. Previous kart entrants have included a hot dog, a brain and a plane – so let your imagination run wild!

THE PRIZE

We will select two designs to create and enter into the Wacky Races. The two winners will also each receive a **£100 AMAZON VOUCHER**.

HOW TO ENTER

Draw your design on paper or on a computer. Add a brief explanation of how and why you have come up with your design, plus anything we should consider in the build.

You can enter by post at: **First News Wacky Races, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT** or you can email your designs to **win@firstnews.co.uk**, putting **Wacky Races** in the subject box. *First News* will print some of the wackiest entries in the paper and on our social media channels.

The deadline for entries is 30 March 2020.

FIRST News will be entering the Shrewsbury Wacky Races and Northwich Crazy Races this summer. But we need a kart to enter – and that's where you come in!

We want you to design our *First News* kart! So, go nuts and make your design as crazy, hare-brained and wacky as you like!

The *First News* kart will have to drive down a 300m course, which may have small jumps, chicanes, obstacles and even water!

We want to see how each side of the kart will look on your entry design (see our guide, above

right). Also, tell us what inspired your design, along with anything else you think is important for us to know.

You can use your design to tell an important message, or simply design something so crazy and funny that people will be laughing their socks off! And you don't need to worry about building it – we'll manage that!

FIRST NEWS TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/WACKYRACES

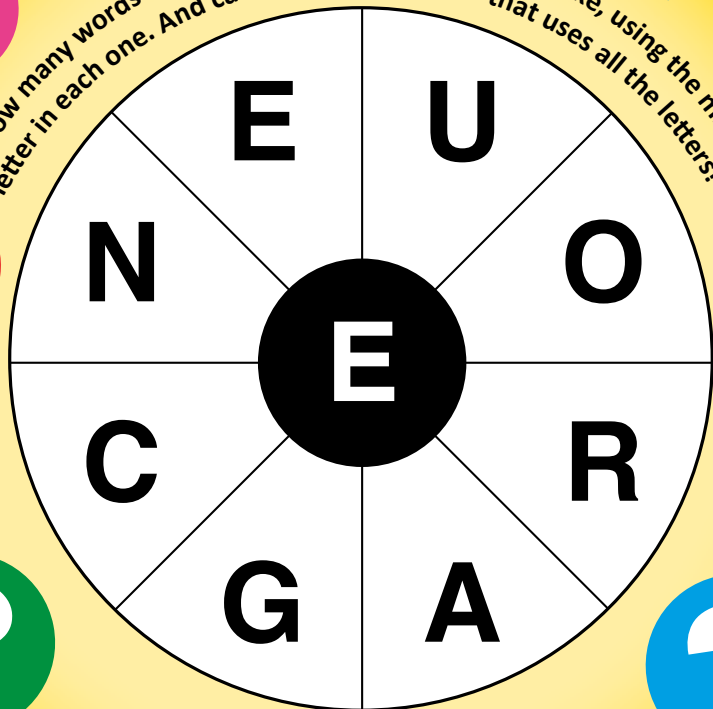
FOR MORE
DETAILS

Send in your answers and five lucky winners will win a *Harry Potter* Clementoni Panorama 1,000-piece puzzle. All Clementoni puzzles are of the highest quality in terms of materials, cut and print, and offer striking imagery from the *Harry Potter* films.

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

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?



WIN! AN AMAZON VOUCHER

★★★★★

The survey is for all *First News* readers under the age of 16. To enter this competition, you'll need a parent or guardian to confirm they are happy for you to have your say.



WIN! HAPPY CONFIDENT ME JOURNAL

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will get a copy of the *Happy Confident Me Journal*, a brand-new journal that helps you develop positive daily habits, happiness and confidence. This colourful journal is super-easy to jot in, with daily questions, worry boxes, weekly activities (that sometimes involve your family!) and free pages for doodling.

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

DOWN

- 1** The * symbol (8)

6 Useful or valuable thing (5)

7 These head covers protect you from rain (5)

9 Release; give out (4)

10 Showy (6)

12 Historical period of sustained cold (3-3)

14 Hero (4)

17 Pale-looking (5)

18 A book of maps (5)

19 Internet location where people talk (8)

2 Japanese dish of rice, often with vegetables and fish (5)

3 Consumes food (4)

4 Breathe in (6)

5 Understands (5)

6 The US (7)

8 Phrases (7)

11 A plan of things to talk about in a meeting (6)

13 A moral principle (5)

15 Large stringed instrument (5)

16 Two of a kind (4)





WIN! A MY SPY GOODIE BAG

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from My Spy? Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a My Spy goodie bag, which includes a hoodie, special spy pen and notebook, and a portable power pack. In My Spy, a hardened CIA spy finds himself at the mercy of a smart nine-year-old girl, having been sent undercover to watch her family. My Spy is in cinemas now.



WIN! A CARTAMUNDI CARD GAMES BUNDLE

FIVE lucky readers will win two must-have games from Cartamundi!

Color Addict is a highly addictive card game. To win, get rid of all your cards first by matching your cards to the colour or word card in the centre. But be warned: it isn't as simple as it sounds when 'orange' is written in green...

Alpha Zulu is the ultimate fast-thinking word game. Each round starts with a question, such as: "What's the colour of a London bus?" When a player turns over a 'go' card, they can answer. Players then race to shout out words that start with the same letters as the answer. For example, as the answer is red, a player could answer rainbow, echo, dog. To win, collect nine cards first!

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

Which of these is not a shade of yellow?
a) gold b) cornflower c) corn



For more information, visit www.amazon.co.uk

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY GAMES

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 26 March 2020.

WIN! A CLEMENTONI SCIENCE MUSEUM MECHANICS LAB BUNDLE

WE'VE teamed up with Clementoni to offer five lucky readers the chance to win a brilliant Science Museum Mechanics Lab bundle.

The bundle contains three awesome kits: a Mechanics Lab RC Police Car with 300 components to assemble, including gears, motors and transmission; a Mechanics Lab Monster Truck with over 200 components to build the coolest of big wheelers; and a Mechanics Lab Aeroplanes and Helicopters set, where you can construct ten flight models from over 200 parts!

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

What does the 'T' in STEM stand for?
a) Teach b) Tetra
c) Technology



Clementoni

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY STEM

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 26 March 2020.

COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (eg, Holiday), First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. **Please note:** First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Trinity Mirror and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: yellow band on wrist is missing, head is bigger, additional number 4 has been added, hairband is a different colour, extra belt has been added. **Word Wheel:** cameraman.

What on Earth?: Bunsen burner, microscope, Petri dish, test tubes, safety glasses, gas tap.

WAITRESS	R	9	1	3	5	4	2	8	7	6
OD	A	N	U	6	5	8	3	7	1	4
REEF	SWINGS	4	2	7	9	8	6	3	5	1
L	A	Y	T	U	8	7	4	1	5	9
DELAY	THROB	2	6	5	8	3	4	9	1	7
INDIA	AROMA	1	3	9	6	2	7	5	8	4
D	M	U	S	7	9	2	4	6	8	1
ESCAPE	TAXI	5	8	1	7	9	3	6	4	2
H	L	E	N	3	4	6	2	1	5	7
Y	SEPARATE	3	4	6	2	1	5	7	9	8

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

TRAVEL MUG MATALAN £6.00

Help to keep your mum's hot drink toasty all day, while also being kind to the planet and saying goodbye to disposable cups. This pretty floral travel mug has a bright yellow lid with a leak-proof design and is perfect to be used over and over again.



*All prices correct at time of printing

MINI PLANT POT GNOMES IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £11.99

Gnomes are said to bring you luck, and these little mascots will do just that! Their purpose is to protect house plants and window boxes and ensure your house is full of love and luck. This set of four miniature gnomes are full of character and colour, and bring a smile to your face too! If your mum is green-fingered or just likes cute gnomes, then this is the Mother's Day gift for her.



MOTHER'S DAY

DEAR MUM – FROM YOU TO ME BOOK PREZZYBOX.COM £11.99

This hardback book is the ultimate gift for super-special mums. Each page has a question for you to ask your mum, such as: what were your favourite childhood toys? If you were an animal, what type of animal would you be? Every page has space for you to note her answers, plus there's space for a photo too. Complete the book and your mum will have a journal she can cherish forever.



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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.



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*Terms and conditions apply.

CAN I BRING A GUEST?



A MAN invited a special guest to join him at his sister's wedding... a llama in a tuxedo!

When Riva Weinstock got engaged last October, her brother Mendl started planning the stunt to surprise his sister. Years before, he had made the bold claim to Riva on a road trip, when she was talking about her perfect wedding.

"I said: 'If you make me come to this wedding, I'm going to bring a llama with me,'" Mendl said. "It was just the first thing that popped into my head."

When the day finally came, Mendl had found a place that lets you rent llamas (!) and even got it a fitted tux.

"When my brother puts his mind to something, he gets it done," said Riva. "So at some point I had to accept it and decide that it was easier to get in on the joke than to fight it. I've definitely started planning my revenge. He should sleep with one eye open."



Toya Wimberly/Facebook

SISTER SHOCK

TWO friends who have been besties for 17 years found out that they were sisters.

Toya Wimberly and Ashley Thomas, from Pennsylvania, said they had often been asked if they were sisters because they look alike. They would say no, but now it turns out they actually are.

A family friend of Ashley's was scrolling through Facebook when she saw a picture of Toya's dad. She recognised him as someone who knew Ashley's mum years before and a DNA test proved that he was the father.

"That's why we're so similar, that's why we look so alike, that's why we've been inseparable since the 6th grade," wrote a stunned Toya in a Facebook post.

PLASTIC PLANT

A PLANT lover's world was turned upside down after the succulent she spent two years nurturing turned out to be fake.

Caelie Wilkes watered the plant, gave it the right amount of sunlight and cleaned the leaves to keep it in perfect health.

It was only when she went to put it in a new pot that she realised why the plant stayed in such good condition. It was made of plastic, nestled on top of a Styrofoam block.

"I was so proud of this plant," said Caelie on Facebook. "I feel like these last two years have been a lie."



Caelie Wilkes/Facebook

AIR GUITAR RECORD!



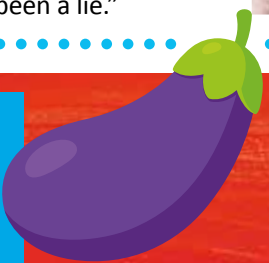
THE world record for the biggest group of people doing air guitar at the same time has been smashed.

Air guitar is a bit easier than playing the real guitar. All you have to do is pretend you're holding a guitar and rock out! That's exactly what 3,722 people did at a festival in Australia.

Perth Festival got people to play air guitar to a song by AC/DC, one of the biggest bands to ever come out of Australia. They beat the previous record of 2,377 people, set in America in 2011. Before that, Australia set the record in 2009, so the country will be happy to have the honour back. The only question is, will America's air guitar fans try to beat their Aussie rivals again?

What do you think? Are there any songs that make you want to air guitar around the room?

WHAT IS ALADDIN'S FAVOURITE VEGETABLE?
AN AUBER-GENIE!

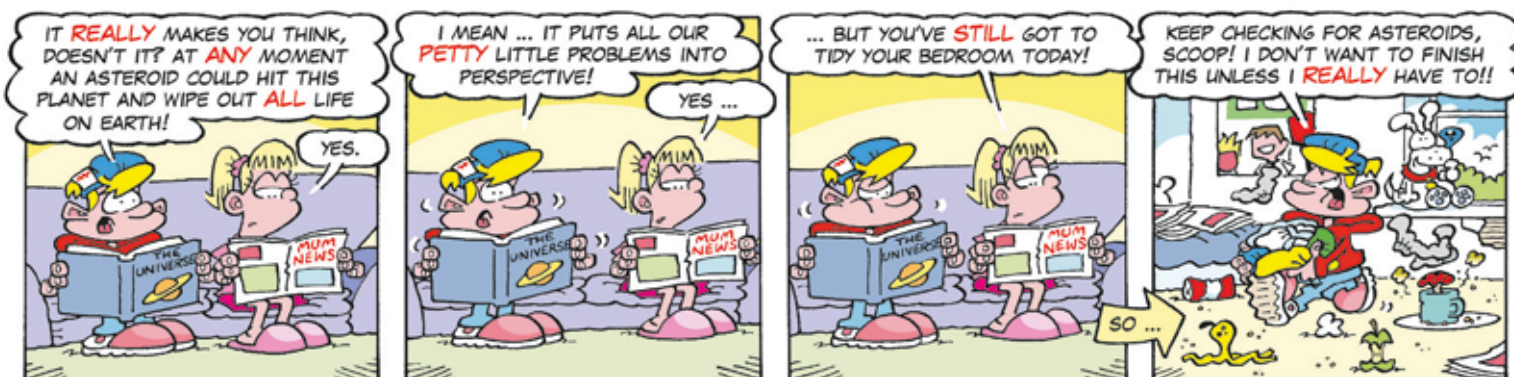


WHAT'S RED AND SMELLS LIKE BLUE PAINT?
RED PAINT!

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



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



WORDS FOR LIFE



SAM Sedgman is a novelist, playwright and award-winning digital producer.

Written with his friend, MG Leonard, *The Highland Falcon Thief* is Sam's first book for children. Sam told us what storybook character he would be:

“ I have always wanted to be like Thursday Next from *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde. She can jump into books and makes friends with all the characters. She also drives a really cool car and knows the complete works of Shakespeare back to front. ”



National Literacy Trust

TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS. FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK.



ROOPA FAROOKI

ROOPA Farooki is an author of six books for grown-ups and a

junior doctor for the NHS. Now she has written her first children's book, a medical mystery called *The Cure For A Crime*. We asked her for a quickfire consultation...



■ What makes a good story?

I think the best adventures have a mystery at their heart. You want to unravel it to find out why all these mad, scary, wonderful things are happening!

■ What is harder: writing for children or adults?

Children's books are so much harder! There's nowhere to hide, and children will tell you straight away if your joke isn't funny, so you have to write a better one.

■ Why did you write a book with a medical theme?

Being a doctor is like being a detective, adding up the clues until you find out what's going on. It also meant I could include fascinating medical facts at the end of the book, like what your poo can say about you!



WIN! A John Adams® GROSS SCIENCE BUNDLE

TO celebrate British Science Week, we have six Gross Science bundles up for grabs, which include:

Gross Science: The totally ghastly kit that will take you on a voyage of discovery of just how disgusting the human body can be! This kit comes complete with the tools to perform 12 horrid, yucky activities that include topics such as how farts brew, why scabs and boils form and how to make a life-size bouncy eyeball!

Really Gross Science: Perform a set of horrid activities that will teach you about making a peeing bladder and discover why we wee. Make an earwax viewer and mould an earwax ear. You can even make a life-sized gooey human heart!

Gross Magic: Plumb to new depths in bad taste (and bad breath). Pull rubbish from an empty dustbin, convince your friends you're handing them freshly-hatched cockroaches and magically clean a piece of 'used' toilet paper.

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

The human heart is made up of how many chambers?
a) one b) three c) four



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY GROSS

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 26 March 2020.

WIN! A BEAR GRYLLS ADVENTURE DAY OUT

WE'VE teamed up with The Bear Grylls Adventure to offer three lucky readers and their family the chance to win an epic day out you'll never forget!

Inspired by Bear Grylls himself, The Bear Grylls Adventure features ten action-packed indoor and outdoor experiences designed to put your courage to the test.

As well as unlimited access to the Assault Course, the lucky prize winner and their family will get to experience the thrill of a skydive in the attraction's popular iFLY wind tunnel, navigate 36 obstacles 20 metres above ground on the free-roam High Ropes, and journey through the unknown in the Fear Zone.

So, if you're ready to climb, fly, leap and explore as you take on some of Bear's favourite challenges, simply answer the following question to be in with a chance of winning:

How many indoor and outdoor experiences are at The Bear Grylls Adventure?
a) eight b) five c) ten

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BEAR

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 26 March 2020.

TUTANKHAMUN TREASURES

by Bill Barker

WHAT I liked most about the Tutankhamun exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in London was how well preserved the artefacts were, even though everything around us had been placed in Tutankhamun's tomb over 3,000 years ago.

The Ancient Egyptian idea was that different objects would be useful in helping the pharaoh on his journey through the afterlife. Everything was a brilliantly crafted work of art!

Tutankhamun became ruler of Egypt when he was only nine years old. As he died at the age of 19, you would have thought that the young pharaoh would be soon forgotten, but the discovery of his tomb by Harold Carter in 1922 has led him to, in some way, live for ever.

The casing that went around

his mummy was on display and was truly awesome. I really liked the delicately-made wooden model ships; 35 of them were found in the tomb. The Ancient Egyptians believed the power of magic would make each ship full-size and functional in the afterlife. The most exquisite object was the canopic coffinettes of Tutankhamun. This vessel was made from pure gold and stored the organs of the king after his mummification. A slightly gruesome use for a beautiful object!



JUNIOR JOURNALIST

King Tut's canopic coffinet

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

Are you doing something sponsored for charity? Starting your own school newspaper? Putting on a show? Are you off on an amazing holiday or did you have a great day out? 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.

DREAM FLIGHT

by Taliyah Jones

THIS was my experience at Discovery Cove, Florida.

My encounter with the dolphin was exhilarating! I was quite anxious at the prospect of swimming because I didn't know how to swim but, with a lot of encouragement from the escorts, I persevered and it was amazing.

I got to pet a dolphin called Acai and if I had to describe the texture of Acai, it would be smooth and moist.

Incredibly, I got to swim with Acai, which was exciting. Also, I got to swim among stingrays and a plethora of

colourful fish!

In the water, there was some coral and I also got to touch a few stingrays, which had a quite unique feeling. It was pleasant and revolting at the same time, which was peculiar and interesting, but I liked it either way.

Overall, I enjoyed my time at Discovery Cove. It made me feel special and unique, different from everybody else in a way and I was ecstatic to try new things there.



Taliyah and Acai

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

NICKELODEON ADVENTURE

by Mia



Meeting SpongeBob!

I went to the grand opening of Nickelodeon Adventure in Lakeside and had so much fun.

It's inside the big shopping centre and is a mix between a theme park and an adventure playground with rides, climbing frames, a 4D cinema and lots of other fun stuff to do. The different areas are from different Nickelodeon shows.

My little sister liked the Paw Patrol

section and I really liked the SpongeBob area, especially the boat ride. The 4D cinema was so much fun too; it was a Ninja Turtles mini film and the chairs moved and water squirted you. It made us jump and laugh a lot. At the special launch there was face painting and muffins too.

I had so much fun and can't wait to go back.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

2

more wins out of their final nine games is all that Liverpool need to claim their first league title in

30 years. Man Utd did their Liverpool rivals a favour by beating Man City 2-0, which is the first time that United have done the league double over City in ten years.



22

is the age of Thomas Gerken-Schofield, who has just won Britain's first ever World Cup medal in

the form of skiing known as moguls. He took silver in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. "I was very proud to represent my country on the second step of the podium," he said.



0

sport matches in Italy will be played until at least 3 April. The Italian government announced the ban

in an attempt to get a grip on the coronavirus, which has killed more people in Italy than any other country outside China. Some games have been played in empty stadiums, but it was decided that this wasn't enough.



WIZARDS OF OZ

A THUMPING 75 from Alyssa Healy set Australia up for a magical win over India in the final of the Women's T20 World Cup.

Healy smashed her 75 runs off just 39 balls, while Beth Mooney racked up 78 not out after 54 balls.

Those two alone scored more than India, who went on to be all out for just 99 runs, with Australia's Megan Schutt taking four wickets for 18 runs. Shafali Verma was out for 33 (right), but the 16-year-old was the only India player to score more than 20 runs.

"I don't think anything is ever going to top that," said Healy. "It's a dream come true and I enjoyed every single minute. I don't think you saw me without a smile on my face the whole time."

India finished level with Bangladesh for the most dropped

catches in the tournament. They let nine slip through their fingers, including both Healy and Mooney early in their innings in the final.

Schutt finished with 13 wickets, which is a joint record for this competition, and Beth Mooney's 259 runs was also a new tournament record. It also moved her up two places to become the world's top-ranked female T20 batter.

There were also 76 sixes in this World Cup, which beat the record by one. Five of those were scored by Healy in the final.



Alyssa Healy keeps an eye on the ball she just whacked for six

WRONG KIND OF SLAM

FRANCE'S high hopes of a Grand Slam came crashing down to earth at the weekend, as Scotland handed them a 28-17 defeat in the Six Nations.

It's the fourth time in a row that France have lost at Murrayfield. This time, France's Mohamed Haouas left his team-mates with a harder challenge than usual when he got sent off in the first half for an unforgivable punch (above). It means that a few teams can still win the title, but the coronavirus is affecting some fixtures.

In the women's tournament, a 66-7 win over Wales kept England comfortably at the top of the table, but there's also the same problem with the coronavirus.



France's Mohamed Haouas was sent off for this horrific attack on Jamie Ritchie

