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News

SPECIAL
EDITION

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



ALLEYES ON UKRAINE

Getty

BACKGROUND TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

RUSSIA has invaded Ukraine and started a war. Why did they do that and what's going on?

A doctor at a Kyiv hospital stands in the children's ward, which was moved to the basement to avoid Russian airstrikes

● Why is Ukraine in the news?

Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022. But the lead-up to war began last year when Russia began positioning tens of thousands of soldiers along its border with Ukraine – then more inside the country of Belarus, a Russian ally (supporter). Western leaders were worried the Russians were preparing to invade Ukraine. Now that has happened. But why?

● Why did Russia invade?

Russia says it wants to know that Ukraine won't join NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). NATO is an international organisation that guarantees the freedom of its member countries. Russian president Vladimir Putin thinks that, if Ukraine joins, it will give the USA and its allies too much power right next to the Russian border. Russia has also demanded NATO removes all troops from Bulgaria and Romania.

NATO members and other countries are against the invasion of Ukraine. They argue that Ukraine should be free to do what it wants and Russia shouldn't interfere. Western leaders say if Ukraine wants to join NATO, it should be free to do so.

Also, thousands of Russian people who don't agree with President Putin's decision to go to war have been protesting in cities across the country.

● Are world leaders trying to resolve the crisis?

Yes. There have been talks between Russia and



Sanctions on Russia are making its money, the rouble, worth less, which puts pressure on Russia's economy

Ukraine to try to stop the conflict. The UK, EU, USA and other countries are making it tough for Putin by bringing in sanctions – penalties given to a country that is behaving badly. Sanctions make it difficult for a country to make money, so it can't carry on as normal. NATO has said it won't get involved directly with fighting.

● Where is Ukraine?

Ukraine sits between Russia and the central European countries of Romania, Slovakia and Poland. To the north is Belarus.



From 1919 until 1991, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union (also known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – USSR). This was a giant country formed after the Russian Revolution began in 1917. In total, it was made up of 15 states. All of them became independent when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. These former Soviet states include Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Kazakhstan.

Russia was the biggest power inside the Soviet Union. Many Russians lived and worked in other Soviet countries. There are still large Russian communities in many of these countries, including Ukraine.

● What was the Cold War?

The Soviet Union was very powerful. After the Second World War, another global conflict began, known as the Cold War. But this wasn't a normal war. The main countries involved didn't fight each other, but there was always tension because both sides feared the other would try to invade them or, worse, launch a nuclear war and wipe them out.

The Cold War saw the Soviet Union and many eastern European countries, like Poland and Hungary, pitted against NATO, which included the USA, Canada, UK and other western European countries, like France and West Germany.

The Cold War ended in 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed.

● But isn't NATO still in existence?

Yes, very much so. Although it was set up at the start of the Cold War, NATO didn't break up when the conflict ended. In fact, it has got bigger..

In 2004, former Soviet states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined NATO. Russia was not happy about this. It meant that an organisation it thought of as an enemy now had troops on its western border.

The decision to allow former Soviet states to join NATO also upset Russia because, back in 1990 and 1991, many Western leaders told the Russians they would not look to grow NATO eastward.



● What happened to Ukraine after the Cold War?

Since it became its own country after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has mostly been quite friendly towards Russia. But some Ukrainians want to be closer to the European Union and to join NATO.

When an uprising in early 2014 forced the pro-Russian president of Ukraine to quit, it seemed the country might change direction and become very pro-Western. Putin acted fast and sent in Russian soldiers to take control of Crimea. This region of southern Ukraine used to be part of Russia. It remains under Russian control today.

Russia also sent its troops to support pro-Russian rebel fighters in their war against Ukrainian government forces in the eastern part of Ukraine. This conflict, which began in 2014, is ongoing.

There are many Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine who prefer to be close to Russia, not the West. But Western leaders say that is no excuse for Russia to wade in and support a war.

Every week, First News will help you to make sense about what is going on in Ukraine. You can also watch FYI, the Sky Kids children's news show, at first.news/educationTV to find out more.

If you are worried, speak to an adult you trust or contact Childline on 0800 11 11.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

RUSSIA has attacked Ukraine, and hundreds of thousands of people have left their homes to escape the fighting.

We look at what's happening inside Ukraine, the effect it is having around the world, and what other countries are doing to try to stop the war and help Ukraine and its people.

A civilian block of flats in Kyiv that was damaged by a Russian rocket

Russia invades

Russian troops have attacked Ukraine from the north, east and south, including several attempts to enter Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. Russian forces control some sections inside Ukraine's borders, but Ukrainian troops have put up a tough fight and stopped Russia's first attempts to take over Kyiv. However, lines of Russian tanks several miles long have been seen headed towards Kyiv.

Russian missiles have hit lots of civilian areas in Kyiv and other cities, including Kharkiv, the second-largest city. On Sunday, human rights organisation Amnesty International said that Russian weapons had hit at least four schools, killing several people and a child. The head of Amnesty, Agnès Callamard, said it was "stomach turning" and "should be investigated as a war crime". Many civilians have been hiding in subway stations and bomb shelters to avoid Russian airstrikes.

Ukraine fights back

Although Russia's military is much bigger and has better equipment, Ukrainian troops are fiercely defending their country. They are also being helped by many civilians who have bought weapons and taken shooting lessons in recent months. Some Ukrainian businesses have even stopped producing goods so that they can make weapons instead.



A man is led away by police officers in Moscow, Russia, for protesting against the war

Anti-war protests – even in Russia

Ukrainians and their many supporters have been protesting in cities all around the world, with many people criticising

Russian President Vladimir Putin's actions.

Getting reliable news is limited in Russia, as the government runs much of the media and has closed down many independent news organisations. But even this hasn't stopped many people in Russia from protesting against the war. Protests have taken place in more than 50 Russian cities and towns, with police arresting hundreds of protesters.



Kyiv is 1,500 miles (2,414km) from London, about the same distance from the UK to the south of Spain, so it's really far away

The world unites against Russia

On Sunday, European Union (EU) leaders agreed to send millions of pounds' worth of weapons and other aid to Ukraine – the first time the EU has ever done this. Many countries around the world have also put financial restrictions called sanctions in place. This means that Russian companies and banks will struggle to carry out their normal business.

On Monday, it was reported that the European part of Russia's biggest bank, Sberbank, was in big trouble after so many people decided to take their money out. It was also reported that Russian citizens are already feeling the effects of sanctions, with prices rising in shops and some things being harder to find. Even though the Russian government controls a lot of the media, it can't stop people noticing empty shelves and higher prices.

A fuss over fossil fuel

The big problem with the sanctions is that many countries (including the UK) rely on Russia for lots of their oil and gas supplies. So, even while Western countries are protesting against Russia's actions and trying to restrict the country's economy, they are sending millions of pounds to Russia in exchange for fossil fuels. Many have

said that this is yet another reason why moving to greener sources of energy that we control ourselves is a wise move, as it would limit how much money Russia could spend on its military.

Bear vs bear

Russia as a country has often been nicknamed the 'Russian bear', but Ukraine also has a bear on its side – Paddington! Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, used to be an actor and comedian – and provided the voice for Paddington in the Ukrainian versions of the two hit movies.



An illustration of the 'Russian bear'



Children's charity UNICEF says Paddington's kindness makes him a perfect champion for them

Mr Zelensky became famous for starring in a TV show called *Servant of the People*, where he played a teacher who became president after ranting about the state of politics. He also competed in the Ukrainian version of *Strictly* back in 2006!

Hugh Bonneville (on the right of Paddington in the picture above), who voiced Paddington for English-speaking countries, tweeted about Mr Zelensky's role as the marmalade-loving bear. He also posted a link to the website of children's charity UNICEF, which has Paddington as a children's champion. You can find out more about how UNICEF is helping the children in Ukraine or donate money by visiting www.unicef.org.uk.

The situation in Ukraine is changing rapidly, but you can keep track of events with our daily update at live.firstnews.co.uk.

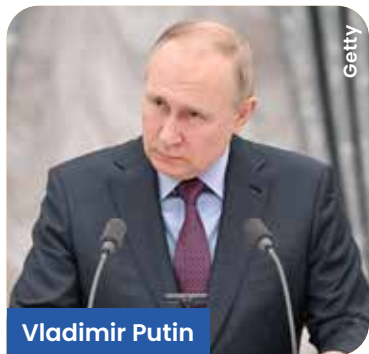
UKRAINE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

SOME of you got in touch with us to ask questions about the Ukraine situation (thank you especially to Portway Primary School), so we've answered some below to help you understand better what's going on.

● What is the reason for it starting? Who agrees and disagrees with Russia?

Mahreen, Portway Primary

The main reason seems to be that Russia is worried about losing its influence over the countries that surround it, which will mean that Russia has less of a say in world affairs. Russia is basically on its own with this attack, although Belarus is allowing Russian troops based there to launch attacks on Ukraine. Even its big supporter, China, is trying to stay out of it, and has said that both sides should stop the fighting.



Vladimir Putin

● What does Russia want from Ukraine?

Simona, Portway Primary

Ukraine has a very long border with Russia, so Russian President Vladimir Putin seems uncomfortable

with the idea of Ukraine being more friendly with Western countries such as the UK and US. Although Russia fought on the same side as the UK and US in World War Two, since then they haven't really been on friendly terms. So, possibly, Putin is worried that countries he sees as opponents may, in future, have troops based over the border in Ukraine.

● How long is it going to continue?

Joy, Portway Primary

It's impossible to say. Russia has been funding small rebellions in eastern parts of Ukraine for years, but a full-scale assault is another matter. The attacks are seriously harming Russia's global reputation, and the world's countries



Cars queue as people try to cross the border into Poland

are increasing the pressure on Russia's economy, so Russian citizens and businesses are unlikely to support the war or want it to continue for long.

● What's being done to stop Russia?

Stopping the war is the main thing on



A girl calls for peace at an anti-war protest in Amsterdam, Netherlands

many people's minds right now. World leaders are being joined by business leaders to make it harder for Russia to make money (see p3). Sport is also helping to increase the pressure on Russia from all angles. Russian athletes are being banned from many international events, including the Champions League and the qualifiers for this year's men's football World Cup, which is the most-watched sporting event in the world. Sport, especially football, is big business and has huge influence around the world, so it all helps to pile pressure on Russia.

● Why aren't other countries like the UK sending troops to help Ukraine?

Russia has one of the most powerful armies in the world, so starting a war against it would be a bad idea. That's why world leaders are trying to talk to Russia, so that things can be worked out in discussions rather than on the battlefield. Russia also knows that Ukraine isn't yet part of NATO (see p2). Countries who are in NATO will join a war if another member is attacked, but Ukraine doesn't have that protection.

● Could Russia invade the UK?

No. Russia has no reason to invade the UK. Even if it did, it is a very long way away from the UK, with lots of countries and sea in between. It is much easier for Russia to invade Ukraine, as it can send tanks and troops the short distance by land and air. Also, the UK is a part of NATO, so could call on the help of other NATO countries such as the US, France and Germany. It might be hard to judge what Vladimir Putin is thinking, but he isn't stupid.

● Will this lead to World War Three or a nuclear war?

The world has come a long way since World War Two, and all countries realise that the risks of a world war are too great. After WW2, organisations such as the United Nations and NATO were set up to avoid the threat of future world wars. Only two nuclear weapons have ever been used in war, and both were in 1945 against Japan. People were horrified at the devastation caused by those two bombs, and huge efforts have gone into making sure that it never happens again. Putin knows that a nuclear war would only lead to the destruction of Russia, so he has nothing at all to gain from starting one.

● Will my parents have to fight?

No. A lot of people have asked this, maybe because Ukraine has barred men aged 18–60 from leaving the country, in case they are needed to fight. But there isn't even the slightest possibility of such a thing happening here. So, your parents won't be going anywhere. You'll still get your dinner every night and you'll still have to tidy your room!

● What's happening to the families who are leaving Ukraine to escape the fighting?

By Monday, more than half a million people had already fled Ukraine. Most have crossed into Poland, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. Organisations like UNICEF and the Red Cross have set up camps where people can shelter, warm up and get food. Countries around the world are taking Ukrainian people in, and many people who aren't from Ukraine, such as students who are studying there, are being helped to get back to their own countries.



Refugees being fed after leaving Ukraine and making it safely to Slovakia

We know many of you have questions about what's happening in Ukraine, so send us your questions at [first.news.ukrainequestions](https://www.first.news.ukrainequestions) and we'll answer more in an upcoming issue.

WORRYING ABOUT WAR?

THE news from Ukraine is unsettling for everyone. We hope the information in *First News* this week has helped you understand everything a bit better. When you just hear a worrying headline, or scary words are thrown about, it can be upsetting. It's the "fear of the unknown". Knowing more about what's going on hopefully has helped you not to feel worried. But, if you are still feeling anxious, here is some advice from Childline, who have been talking to children who are worried about events in Ukraine.



by Childline

There's been a lot of news about Russia invading Ukraine, and how other countries might respond. Some things that happen in the world can make us scared, confused, and unsafe, or like we don't have any control. These are all totally normal and expected reactions.

Here are some things you can do to help when you're worried or upset about things in the news.

Talk to someone you trust

Share how you're feeling with an adult you trust and ask questions about what's happening.

Get the facts

You might hear people talking about what might happen next in Ukraine or the rest of the world. But some of that isn't based on fact. Double check the information on what's happening with sites you can trust to manage your reaction to the news. (*First News* and *FYI* at [first.news/educationTV](https://www.first.news/educationTV) can help).

Want to talk about the news or what's happening? You can share your feelings safely and anonymously on the Childline message boards, or can speak to a counsellor on 0800 1111 or [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk). They are available 24/7.

Take a break

When the news is talking a lot about what's happening, it can be hard to get away from it.

Take media breaks, including from social media, and limit discussions, such as having discussion/media-free mealtimes.

Try doing something that relaxes you for a while, or turning off notifications so you're not getting lots of breaking news alerts and reminders.

Do something positive

There are some basic things we can all do. Ask an adult what you can do to help other people, support a friend who's upset or share something positive online. Doing things to help other people can help you to cope and feel more in control.

We may know people from Ukraine who are worried about loved ones. Check in on them. Let them know you are here to listen or talk if they need. Is there anything you can do for them?

ITV *This Morning*'s clinical psychologist Dr Anna Colton has more advice for *First News* readers

Remember that while war is scary and the news makes it very real, you are safe. The UK is a long, long way from Ukraine and it is safe here.

If you are feeling worried or upset speak to your mum, dad, family or teachers. They will reassure you and talk things through with you.

It's natural and normal to worry, especially when there are big world events like the invasion of Ukraine happening. Know that you are not alone in feeling worried, and there's nothing wrong with you for feeling worried.

Although it might feel hard, try to find things to do to distract yourself from the news. When we focus our mind on something worrying or upsetting it gets stuck there. So, when we focus on something different that we enjoy, our mind gets filled with that and our anxiety reduces.

Stop the scroll. Bad news draws us in and we keep wanting to find out what's happening. But this doesn't

help us at all... we can't change the situation, so constantly watching the news or videos just makes us feel worse.

Look only once or twice a day, if that, and certainly no more.

Anxiety loves attention. So the more attention you give it – by thinking about whatever's worrying you – the bigger it grows. It's like watering a plant. To stop growing your anxiety, take away the attention. Talk to friends, engage in a hobby, be with family, play games.

Feelings blow in and then they blow out, so know that your worries won't stay forever.

Make sure you notice the times the worry isn't there as well as when it is.



FYI: UKRAINE VIDEO EXPLAINER



OUR partner weekly news show, *Sky Kids' FYI*, has made a short film that explains what is going on in Ukraine. You can watch it right now at [first.news/educationTV](https://www.first.news/educationTV), or by scanning this QR code.

In the film, presenter Braydon explains the background to the war and why it hasn't just come out of the blue, but has a long history.





WASHINGTON, DC, USA

FLOWERS, including sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, surround candles on the steps of the Ukrainian Embassy.



NEW YORK, USA



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

IN a sign of solidarity, famous landmarks around the world, including the Empire State Building (top) and Sydney Opera House, are lit up in the colours of the Ukrainian national flag.



LIVERPOOL, UK

EVERTON and Manchester City players pay respect to Ukraine ahead of their game. Both clubs have a Ukrainian player, with both teams wearing the Ukraine colours of yellow and blue as support for the country and for their team-mates.



MADRID, SPAIN

TENS of thousands of adults and children demonstrate against the war in Ukraine.



KROŚCIENKO, POLAND

POLISH citizens put together individual packages from aid donations near the border crossing point from Ukraine. Clothing, food, and essential items have been donated in huge quantities from all over the country.



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WILDFIRES TO BECOME MORE COMMON



Getty

A United Nations (UN) report says the world will continue to experience more extreme wildfires due to global warming and the way we use land. It says that extreme wildfires will be 14% more frequent by 2030, up to 30% by 2050 and rising to 50% by the end of the 21st century. Scientists from the UN say recent wildfires have burned hotter and for longer in many parts of the world, and they are worried even colder regions could be affected. The study says we should spend more on stopping fires happening, rather than fighting them once they have already happened.

BATTLE OF THE BELLS

The people of northern Italian town Dolina are in a bitter battle after noisy church bells were removed by a judge. Some people from the town have Slovenian heritage (Slovenia shares a border with Italy) and the ringing bells are seen as a Slovenian tradition. However, a petition from Italian locals said the bells were driving them crazy and a judge agreed. The bells rang 550 times a day, and 1,350 times on Sundays!

DOG KENNEL HIT BY SPACE ROCK SOLD

Rare space rocks, as well as a dog kennel that was hit by one, have been sold at auction. A shard from Mars, weighing in at 178.7g, hit the kennel of Roky the German shepherd in Costa Rica in April 2019. Luckily, Roky was fine but, when they went under the hammer last week, the kennel fetched \$44,100 (£32,896) and the rock \$21,420 (£15,983), just a fraction of what was expected.



Christie's

QUICK NEWS

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CHESS TEEN BEATS WORLD CHAMPION



Getty

An Indian teenager has beaten the highest ranked chess player in the world. Sixteen-year-old Rameshbabu

Praggnanandhaa beat Norway's Magnus Carlsen, 31, adding to a string of impressive wins for the teen over the last six years. Indian prime minister Narendra Modi called Pragg, as he is known, a "young genius" and said he was "proud of his accomplishment".

MEMORY WALKS

The Alzheimer's Society is looking for people to take part in their Glow walks throughout March. The memory walks are a way of raising money in the fight against dementia, a disease that affects the brain and people's memory. If you're interested, head to tinyurl.com/walkwithglow to see if there's a walk near you.

MILLIONS OF KIDS HAVE LOST PARENTS TO COVID

Analysis by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that 5.2m kids globally have lost a parent, grandparent or caregiver to Covid-19. They estimate around 3.3m of those kids lost a parent but added that the true number is probably higher.

POGO PUZZLER

Have you ever tried bouncing on a pogo stick or solving a Rubik's Cube? They're both pretty hard but imagine doing both at the same time. That's what Canadian teenager Saul Hafting did when he jumped on a pogo stick for 72 minutes, solving 211 Rubik's Cubes along the way. Unsurprisingly, he set a Guinness World Record. Well done, Saul!

BTS ON TOP

BTS were the best-selling artists in the world for the second year running. The K-pop megastars beat the likes of Taylor Swift, Adele, Drake and Ed Sheeran with their combined streams, downloads and physical sales around the globe.



Getty

CRACKING IDEAS

The Wallace & Gromit Cracking Ideas competition is back! This year, any kids aged 4-11 are being asked to use their creative minds and invent a new mode of transport to get Wallace & Gromit across the UK. Head to www.crackingideas.com to find out more and get involved.

MAN SNAPPED AT RIOT SENT TO JAIL



Getty

A man who was photographed taking part in the Capitol riots has been sentenced to 75 days in prison. Adam Johnson was one of more than 700 people arrested for their involvement in the riots. On 6 January 2021, people broke into a US government building to protest against the presidential election that Joe Biden won, saying it was 'stolen' from Donald Trump. Mr Johnson says he "deeply regrets" his actions that day.

HONG KONG ORDERS COVID TESTS FOR ALL



Getty

Shoppers browse test kits in Hong Kong

As Hong Kong struggles to cope with Covid infection rates, the government has ordered that everyone living there must be tested for Covid. Chief executive Carrie Lam said schools would close earlier than usual for summer and that the entire 7.5m population will be tested three times over the coming months.

BYE BYE BABY WIPES

Tesco has said it will stop selling baby wipes that contain plastic. The supermarket is the biggest seller of baby wipes in the UK, selling 75m packs a year. Wet wipes play a big part in fatbergs, which are massive mounds of rubbish that build up in sewers and cause blockages.

MANY HANKS

Last week, we told you about a very big bear, nicknamed Hank the Tank, who was terrorising the California town of Lake Tahoe, breaking into more than 30 homes. But DNA evidence has now revealed that there was not one, but three bears responsible for the chaos. All three bears will be captured and given a more suitable home.

GOTTA BUY THEM ALL

A rare Pokémon trading card has sold for \$900,000 (£670,000). The 1998 Pikachu 'Illustrator' Holo promo card was sold at auction for the huge sum, after 34 bids for it saw the price skyrocket.



CLEVER BIRDS BEAT SCIENTISTS



Getty

Australian magpies like teamwork!

MAGPIES in Australia have outsmarted scientists by helping each other take off their tracking devices.

Five magpies were fitted with special GPS trackers as part of a study by experts at the University of the Sunshine Coast. They wanted to learn more about the movements of the birds and test out new technology.

The trackers were attached to each magpie with a tough harness, which the scientists thought could only be removed by a magnet. Little did they know!

The clever birds put their problem-

solving skills into action and started to help each other to remove the devices. Dominique Potvin, from the research team, said it was the first time they had seen the magpies "helping another member of the group without getting an immediate... reward".

Scientists say it shows a rare type of rescue behaviour for the birds.

The research was published in the journal *Australian Field Ornithology*.

THE POWER OF POOP

HUMANS should be eating more insects and using their poop to grow crops, says a plant expert.

Marcel Dicke, a researcher from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, knew that insects are a good source of protein for us, but didn't realise they could also help our plants too.

He and his team found that insect poop is rich in nitrogen, which is a very important nutrient for helping plants to grow. It's also one that isn't found in most soils. The scientists say that adding this type of waste to soil could help with the health of plants and pollination.

The researchers now plan to continue their investigations into whether the poo could also help to control plant diseases and pests.



Getty

Would you eat insects?

A NAPPY ENDING!

RECYCLED nappies are being used to pave roads in Wales.

The Welsh Government is trialling the unusual idea as part of its plans to become a zero waste nation by 2050.

The fibres from 4.3 tonnes of used nappies were taken out and used to make a type of very thick liquid called asphalt. This was added to aggregate (crushed rock) to resurface a stretch

of road between Cardigan and Aberystwyth.

If the trial is successful and the fibres work well, they could become a permanent replacement for other types of materials.

The Welsh Government believes the clever idea could help to reduce waste, tackle climate change and create more green jobs.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



YOU will have seen that we have given up a lot of this week's First News to events in Ukraine.

Firstly, this is because there is an awful lot to say and to understand.

Secondly, we know that there is a lot of misinformation online which can get repeated in the playground and be quite scary.

So, if you've read everything in this week's paper, you'll be able to put people right when they get things wrong. You Ukraine expert!

WE LOVE A SALE!

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A BRAVE BULL

A BULL in New Zealand has survived being swept 80km (49 miles) down a river, over a waterfall and nearly out to sea! The young bull (a Hereford, like the one below) was swept away by flooding and his owner thought they'd never see him again. He couldn't believe it when he got a call to say the bull had been found alive! The amazing story has gone viral, with the bull becoming a local celebrity.



Getty



GHOST FLIGHTS

MORE than 14,000 'ghost flights' left UK airports during the pandemic, new research has shown. The term ghost flight is used to describe a plane that is flying with hardly any passengers on board. During the pandemic, a lot of international travel was banned and it's believed many flights were simply being used to transport cargo (goods). Some people are now concerned about the environmental impact of so many empty planes taking off.



Getty

An estimated 143 million nappies are thrown away in Wales each year



Getty

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A “THREAT TO HUMAN WELLBEING”



CLIMATE change is getting worse very quickly and there is only a short time to reverse its effects, says a new global report.

The report, which came out on Monday, is the second part of a big study by the world experts on the climate crisis, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

What does it say?

The IPCC says that if global temperatures rise more than 1.5°C we can expect more extreme weather, such as droughts, floods, heatwaves and storms, and we won't be able to reverse things.

Hans-Otto Pörtner, a co-chair of the group who wrote this chapter of the IPCC report, said that the scientific evidence is overwhelming: “Climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet.”

António Guterres, the United Nations secretary general, said: “I have seen many scientific reports in my time, but nothing like this. The IPCC report is an atlas of human suffering and a damning

indictment [a sign of how bad something is] of failed climate leadership.”

Everywhere will experience some of the effects of climate change, but half of the world lives in areas that are “highly vulnerable” to climate change.

Africa will be badly affected, even though the continent produces the lowest levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

What can we do?

The report says there is only a short time for governments to adapt to the climate crisis by building flood defences, growing different crops and providing more sustainable transport.

The third part of the IPCC report is due out in April, and it will focus on how we can cut greenhouse emissions. A final part will be published in September, summarising how governments can make the changes needed.

WANTED: PROFESSIONAL POO SNIFFER

A DOG food company is looking for one very dedicated dog owner to sniff their pooch's poop for two months, to see how a plant-based diet affects it.

The particularly passionate pet owner will be given £5,000 by Omni, the plant-based dog food company, to record all the ways that their dog changes with a plant-based diet. The dog will get some sustainable dog toys and vegan treats, too.

That means keeping track of their bowel movements and how the poo smells, as well as things like their overall health, their weight, skin and fur condition.

If you were thinking of becoming a professional poo-sniffer, we have some bad news – the job is only open to those 18 and over!



Would you sniff all of your dog's poos for £5,000?

Vote at
first.news/polls



A NEW study by Griffith University in southeast Queensland, Australia, wants to see if human urine can be recycled as a fertiliser for the city's parks.

We asked you whether you thought that it was a cool idea – or if you thought it was a ‘wee’ bit gross.

Most of you were on board with the idea, with 70% of you saying that it was COOL, while the remaining 30% of you said it was GROSS!

Here are some of your comments...

I think it would be cool but also a bit weird, knowing that it's human wee.

– blackmamba

It's significantly better for the environment than man-made fertilisers.

Yes, it may be uncommon, but we should give it a chance! Who knows the wonders it could do our plants?

– charlieee7

Although it seems a bit gross, human urine is really good for plant life, and it doesn't cost anything, so it could be a really beneficial idea.

– tiger.star

I think using urine as fertiliser is a great idea as it saves money and is significantly better for the environment.

– izzylottie

If the urine can fertilise parks effectively, that prevents more potentially harmful chemicals from being fed into the ground and atmosphere. It also brings long-term costs down and that money can be spent elsewhere in the community.

– budgerigar

Join in the conversation and vote at
first.news/polls



● 2022 WINTER PARALYMPIC GAMES 4-13 MARCH

Paralympic athletes from across the world will be showing off their skills at the Games in Beijing.



● INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 MARCH

A global day celebrating the skills and achievements of women.



Getty

UK

● Ticket ballot opens for Queen's Jubilee concert

The ballot has officially opened to get tickets for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace. Ten thousand free tickets are up for grabs for the Platinum Party at the Palace, which is due to take place on 4 June. Some tickets will also be given out to charities. The huge concert will feature stars from TV, film and the stage, with singer George Ezra the first performer announced. The ballot closes on 23 March. In other Jubilee news, charities are set to light over 1,500 beacons (fires) across the UK to celebrate the occasion in June.



RZSS

EDINBURGH

● School names goats

Schoolchildren have helped to name Edinburgh Zoo's new female Bagot goats. Pupils from Dalkeith High School were delighted when they heard their suggestions – Judith and Janice – had been picked by zookeepers as the winners of a competition. The duo are now getting to know the zoo's male goat, Patrick. Bagot goats are thought to be one of the oldest goat species in Britain. They are important in conservation grazing and are often used to help clear invasive woodland species. Jonathan Appleyard, from the zoo, said: "It has been fantastic to get the community involved."

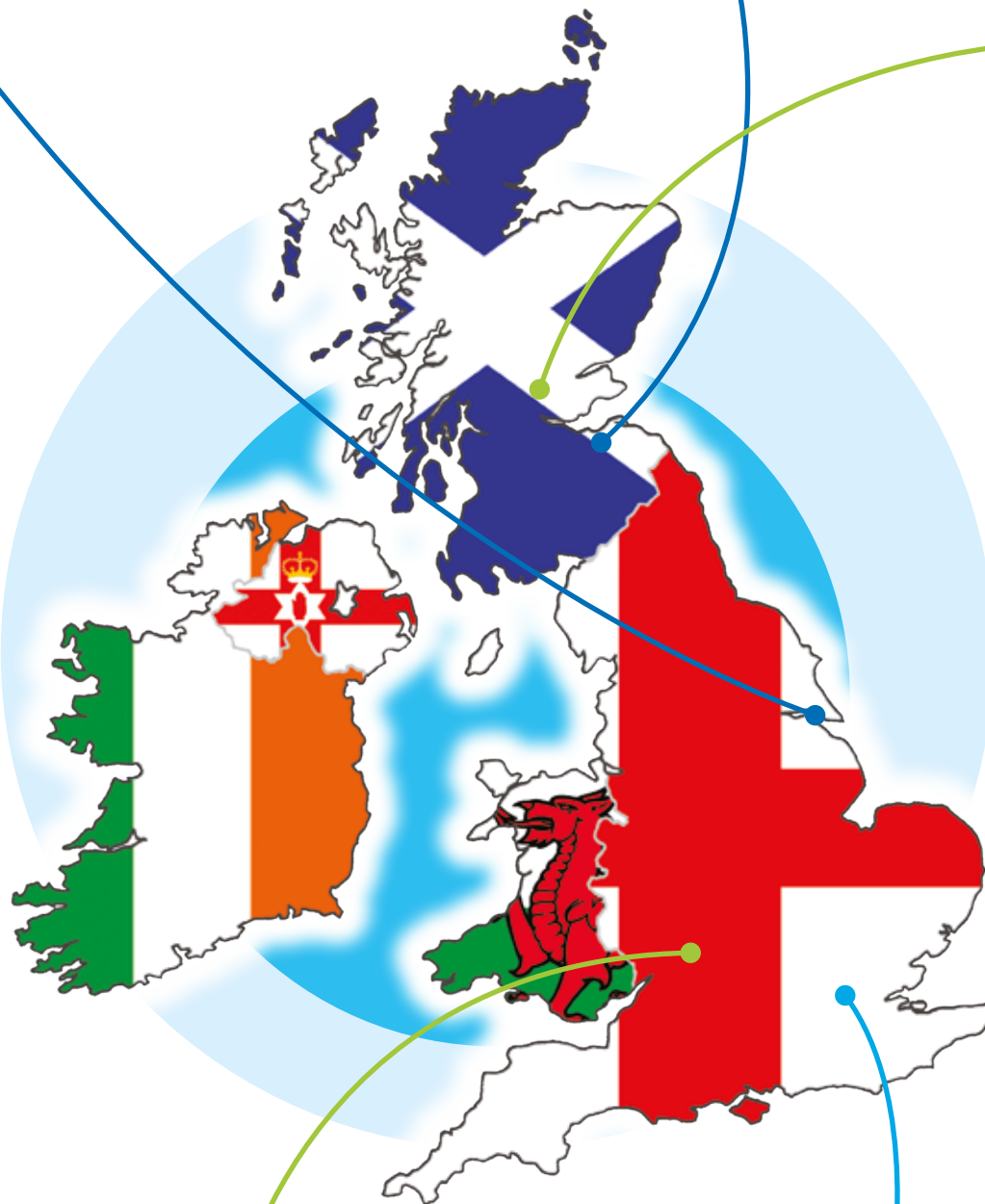
HULL



RSPCA

● Huntsman spider travels from China

A huntsman spider has been found by port workers, after making an epic 8,000km (5,000-mile) journey from China to Hull in a shipping container. Staff refused to go back into the yard until it was removed. RSPCA inspector Beth Boyd said: "It's probably one of the most unusual jobs I've done – I've not been called out to collect a spider before." The big fella has been named Rolf and is now being cared for by a specialist rescue centre in Yorkshire. The huntsman is venomous, but doesn't usually bite and is not considered dangerous.



DUNBLANE

● Theatre puts on fastest ever show!

A Scottish theatre company has staged a musical in under ten hours, scooping a new Guinness World Record. Rubber Chicken Theatre managed to put on a show in just 9 hours, 59 minutes and 3 seconds. They had never seen the script before or had any rehearsal time! Nearly 200 people took part in the challenge, with many more turning up to watch the final performance of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. This is the second time the company has broken the record – they first achieved the title back in 2020, but lost it to a group from Spain.



Rubber Chicken Theatre

WINCHCOMBE



Christie's Images Ltd. 2022

● Winchcombe meteorite sells for £22,300

A meteorite that fell in the Cotswold town of Winchcombe has sold for £22,300 at auction! The meteorite hit the UK on 28 February 2021, making headlines across the world. Scientists claim it is the most important space rock ever found in this country, as it tells us more about the formation of the solar system. A 15g fragment of the rock was sold by Christie's auction house. You can also see more of it on display at London's Natural History Museum.

LONDON

● Dippy the dinosaur heads home

Dippy the dinosaur is set to return to the Natural History Museum this spring after touring the UK for four years. The huge 26-metre-long *Diplodocus* model will visit the museum for six months as part of a new exhibition. Dippy was the first *Diplodocus* to go on display anywhere in the world when it was gifted to the museum in 1905. It has since been enjoyed by millions of people. *Dippy Returns* runs from 27 May until December 2022.



Getty

First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences CONTENT FUND** to make a series of films for you to watch at home or at school, called *Kidversation*. The plan is to explain stuff that can be complicated or difficult to understand. This week *FYI* takes a look at the families in the UK who struggle with getting enough food to eat.

FOOD POVERTY IN THE UK

IN recent years, the number of food banks in the UK has rocketed. In this week's *Kidversation* video, which you can check out by scanning this QR code, we hear from three children who rely on food banks – but how has the situation in the UK changed?



Felix, Asha and Fayeth

Join in the discussion and set up an *FYI* News Club in your school! Ask your teacher to go to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more about the *FYI* News Clubs.



Sometimes food banks will ask for specific items that are needed

Getty

because they couldn't afford or access food.

The Trussell Trust, which supports the nationwide network of food banks, gave out a record 2.5 million emergency food parcels during 2020 and 2021. Nearly a million (980,000) of these went to children.

In comparison, back in 2010, just 40,000 emergency food parcels were given out.



Getty

There are around 2,500 food banks in the UK

What is a food bank?

Usually run by volunteers, a food bank is like a supermarket, but one where everything is free for those who need it.

Families can visit food banks if they don't have enough money to buy food and other everyday items like soap, shampoo and toilet paper.

The aisles are usually stocked with items donated by members of the public. Some supermarkets also give some of their stock to food banks.

What's the situation like in the UK?

Last month, The Food Foundation published new data showing a continued rise in the number of British households without access to enough food. A million British adults reported that they or someone in their household have had to go a whole day without eating in the past month,

What can be done?

As Asha, one of the children in this week's *Kidversation* film, says: "They're there when people [are] in a crisis and they need help. But it's not a long-term solution."

The Food Foundation has called on the Government to make tackling food insecurity a priority of its new "levelling up" programme. The foundation says that the Government needs to help raise incomes and support those on lower incomes, so that everybody can afford and access a healthy diet.

Feeling judged

In the *Kidversation* film, the three young people explain how they feel when they have to go to the food bank – and they say it's not very nice. Asha explains that it's important not to worry

about the stigma: "Just get the help that you need, because it's easier to get help than to struggle, and I don't want anyone else to go through that."



Stigma (noun) – judgement or negative attitudes towards someone based on a characteristic, like their health or how much money they have.

Kids – you can watch our film about food poverty at first.news/Kidversation

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



USA



Getty

● First black top judge nominated

US president Joe Biden has nominated judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to become a justice (senior judge) in America's Supreme Court.

She's the first black woman to be nominated for the position in the 232-year history of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices, who make decisions in the country's biggest and most important cases.

Its decisions are then supposed to be followed by all other courts in the United States.

The White House said that Judge Jackson was an "exceptionally qualified" nominee for the job.



FRANCE

● Pooch picks a president

Valérie Pécresse, the presidential candidate for the Les Républicains party, is facing allegations that a dog has joined her political party.

An investigation by newspaper *Libération* claimed that the dog, Douglas, was signed up to the party in November, then voted for Mrs Pécresse to be the party's presidential candidate in the upcoming elections. Mrs Pécresse has denied any knowledge of Douglas, but *Libération* suggested that the party's members also include lots of other people who don't exist, and that it could be an attempt to fix party elections.



AUSTRALIA



Getty

● Major floods hit east coast

At least ten people have died and thousands of homes have been damaged after a record-breaking storm hit the country's east coast – with more rain on the way.

Hundreds of people have been rescued from their rooftops by boats, kayaks and jetskis. Many rivers are several metres above their previous record height.

Weather experts have said that there were lots of reasons for the massive storm, but that climate change likely made it worse.



CHILE



Getty

The moai will join other statues, as seen here

● Moai on the move

After more than 150 years away, a historic stone moai monument is being returned to Rapa Nui, better known as Easter Island.

The huge statue was removed and taken to the city of Santiago back in 1870. It's been kept in the National Museum of Natural History in the Chilean capital since then.

After years of discussions, the 715kg moai statue will now be taken back to the island, which is more than 3,200km (2,000 miles) away.

Rapa Nui is home to more than 1,000 stone statues, which were carved hundreds of years ago.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

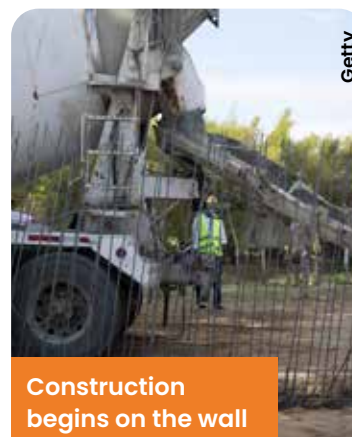
● Border wall to be built

The Dominican Republic has begun work on a wall along its border with Haiti.

Dominican officials say that the wall will stop crime coming in from Haiti, which has been hit by a series of political and environmental crises.

Dominican President Luis Abinader said: "Each time Haiti has suffered a catastrophe, the Dominicans have always been the first to arrive with help, [but] the Dominican Republic cannot take charge of the crisis in that country."

There are concerns that the wall's construction will cost the Dominican Republic a lot of money, and could become a cause of conflict and violence between the two countries.



Getty

Construction begins on the wall



TONGA

● Island's internet reconnected

After five weeks, Tonga has been reconnected to the internet.

An undersea cable that gave the country internet access was damaged during the volcanic eruption and tsunami that took place in January. A 92km (57-mile) section of the 827km (514-mile) cable, which is connected to Fiji and other international networks, needed to be replaced.

Some cable that connects the main island of Tongatapu to the smaller surrounding islands still needs to be repaired.

It's estimated that could take another six to nine months.



A satellite view of Tonga, following the eruption in January

SAFER INTERNET FOR ALL



THE Government is introducing new laws that will make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. For the first time, tech and social media companies will be forced to follow rules that keep their users, particularly children, safe. Here we find out more.

THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL

The Online Safety Bill is a set of new laws that will protect people from being exposed to illegal and harmful content online. It will tackle cyberbullying, trolling and under-age access to inappropriate material. The new laws will apply to companies that allow users to post content online or to

interact with each other, such as social media sites, message boards and interactive games, and to search engines. This bill comes with punishments for big tech companies. If they don't follow them, they'll face huge fines of up to 10% of their global turnover [money they make], which for the biggest companies will be billions of pounds.



Pupils from Rhyl Community Primary School talking about the new bill with Chris Philp MP

LET'S TALK TECH

A GROUP of Year 5 and 6 students from Rhyl Community Primary School sat down with the Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, Chris Philp MP, to ask him some questions about what the Online Safety Bill means for kids.

● What are some of the good things about the internet?

The internet has revolutionised [changed a lot] the way that people connect, communicate and do business all over the world. We all know it can be a lot of fun to spend time on the internet. It can help us do lots of things we enjoy, like playing games, watching videos, talking to our friends and learning new things. We want to make sure that the online world of the future remains a positive, fun and informative place to be.

● As a father, how do you feel about children having bad experiences online?

For all the positive aspects of being online, there are too many stories of people for whom the internet can be scary, overwhelming or lead to negative consequences. It makes me sad to hear about instances of children being bullied online, or young people viewing content that encourages damaging behaviour that can affect their physical or mental health. As a parent, I want children to be able to use the internet safely and securely without worrying that tech companies aren't doing enough to protect them.

● What is the Online Safety Bill? How will it help protect children?

I want every child in the UK to be free to explore the internet safely, and we are bringing in new laws to help do this. The Online Safety Bill is a set of legal rules that will help protect everyone, but especially children, from illegal and harmful content. We are making sure that many of the websites and apps young people use every day will have to do much more to protect their users from things like online abuse and cyberbullying.

● What can tech companies do to make the internet a safer place?

We want tech companies to be more responsible, and to make sure that children have fun, age-appropriate experiences when visiting their sites. Tech companies will also need to ensure that children and parents can easily report harmful content and receive support if they do come across anything that they shouldn't.



Pupils question Mr Philp about how the online safety laws will protect young people

● What is Ofcom and what is its role?

Ofcom is what's called a regulator, which means it is an independent body from the Government that ensures standards are being met. It will be Ofcom's job to set out the steps companies can take to protect children on their service, and enforce punishments like big fines if they don't comply [stick to the rules].

● What could we all do to try and make the internet a more positive place for everyone?

We want everyone to be able to enjoy all of the great things the internet has to offer, and the Online Safety Bill will make it a safe place for all of us. As individuals, we can help contribute by always being kind when interacting with others online, and by using the report functions on websites to flag anything inappropriate, which will help keep the internet safe for others.



SPOOKY SIDEKICKS

WE chatted to Ashly Burch and Dana Snyder, who play animated buddies Molly and Scratch in the Disney comedy series *The Ghost and Molly McGee*.

● What's *The Ghost and Molly McGee* about?

Ashly: It's a story about a young girl who is an optimist; she loves to "happify" things. She wants to "happify" everything in her life. She moves to this new house in a town called Brighton and unbeknown to her, there is already somebody living there. There is this ghost called Scratch who is living in the attic. He's grumpy and he doesn't like the fact that a new family is moving in. So to try to scare her away, he curses her and says he will be haunting her no

matter what she does or where she goes until she moves out of the house. Molly decides that if he's going to go wherever she goes and do whatever she does, it sounds like a best friend.

Dana: That is not what Scratch meant at all! Whenever she calls his name, it summons him and so he has to be where she is. She's all flowers and rainbows but he's all garbage and tears! Scratch is a grump but we all know a grumpy person is just someone who hasn't found his smile!

● Molly does manage to bring a bit of joy out of Scratch though...

Dana: I think Scratch would really love to have a best friend but he can't say that because it would go against his image. His job is to spread

misery. There's a misery level that The Ghost Council tracks, so he's conscious of keeping the misery level high. But then this ultra positive, wonderful person shows up and they're going against each other, so he has to find little work-arounds. There are a lot of high-jinks.

● Do you believe in ghosts and have you ever seen one?

Ashly: I haven't had any first-hand experiences but I have heard lots of stories and I do believe that they exist. I don't know why but I feel really confident that ghosts exist.

Dana: I believe in ghosts in animated form!

● Who's your favourite animated ghost?

Dana: Well nobody wants that snooze-fest Casper, it's all Scratch, baby! If you want excitement, music, garbage consumed? You want Scratch!

● The show is about friendship, so what qualities do you have that make you a good friend?

Ashly: I think I am a good listener. It's not too hard for me to listen to my friends when they are having a problem, and to see where they are coming from and understand how they feel. I think I'm pretty good in a crisis.

Dana: I think if it's not me, I'm great in a crisis. I'm very positive – sometimes not with myself, but if you feel negative, I would be the positive for you. I would be the yin to your yang.

Catch *The Ghost and Molly McGee* on Disney+ now



THIS WEEK

1 This November the British Academy Children's and Young People's Awards will return. The awards celebrate the best in children's film, TV and games. BAFTA's Young Game Designers award is also running again this year, and you have until 24 March to enter.



2 The Teenage Cancer Trust concerts are back after a two-year break due to the pandemic. The shows at the Royal Albert Hall will feature musicians like Ed Sheeran, Liam Gallagher and Yungblud, as well as comedians like Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan. The full line-up and ticket details can be found at www.teenagecancertrust.org/gigs.

3 Crealy Theme Park & Resort in Devon has announced plans for an entire area dedicated to Sooty! Sooty Land will open this spring and will feature new rides, exhibitions, and even magic shows inspired by the TV bear and his pals Soo and Sweep!



PICS OF THE WEEK



GET ready to head back to the Ice Age with your favourite prehistoric characters in *The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild*.

Sid, Manny, Diego and the gang are back for this brand-new film in the *Ice Age* series. When Crash and Eddie accidentally fall into a lost world, their friends set off on a mission to



find them. What they don't realise is that the pair have been rescued by a mysterious adventurer called Buck Wild. While the rest of the gang search for their lost friends, Crash and Eddie go on the wildest adventure they could have ever imagined. Will the gang be reunited or will this new adventure be their last?

The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild comes to Disney+ from 25 March

GIGANTIC FUN



THE fantastic *Clifford the Big Red Dog* is now available to download at home, so we asked Darby Camp, who plays Emily in the film, some BIG questions.

● What's the biggest animal you've ever seen in person?

That's tough. Maybe when I've gone to the zoo and seen an elephant or something? Yes, it must be an elephant.

● What's the biggest meal you've ever eaten?

My dad and I were in New York City and we found this really cool steak house. And this steak was huge. The asparagus were also bigger than any I've ever seen. It was a ton of food, delicious and enormous.

● Who is the biggest celebrity you've ever met?

Probably Will Smith. I went to watch *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and our friends work there, so we got to go backstage. He stopped and said hi to us and I was speechless. It was the best day ever. I'm a huge fan of *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. He's just such a talented actor that I look up to, and I love that show so much.

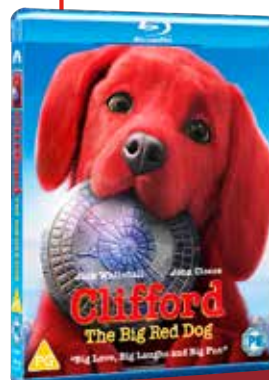
● What's the biggest mistake you've ever made?

When I was little, I had just met my kindergarten teacher. She was my first actual teacher, so I was super excited. I admired her very much and I loved her hair – she had swoop bangs [a fringe]. I was like: "I want to have bangs," so I got some scissors and decided to cut my hair. I just kept going... It was shorter than I've ever seen anyone's hair, like there was none of it hanging off my head. It was horrible. I was sobbing. I was probably about five. Actually, a few days before that, I had got a brush stuck in my hair and my parents worked so hard to get it out of my hair without cutting it. Then a few days later, I decided to cut it all off. My mom thought it was funny, but she was still upset with me.



● What's the biggest movie of this year?

I think *Clifford The Big Red Dog* because everyone loves Clifford. So I think it'll be the biggest movie!



We've got an exclusive behind-the-scenes clip featuring Jack Whitehall, who stars as Casey in *Clifford the Big Red Dog*. Use the camera on your phone to scan this QR code and watch the clip.



Clifford the Big Red Dog is available to download and keep from 7 March and to own on DVD or Blu-ray from 14 March

GIVE YOUR OUTGROWN TOYS THE POWER TO LIVE ON!



Dear families and teachers,

Mattel and the educational experts at Super are delighted to announce the launch of a campaign in partnership with the **Mattel PlayBack** programme.

The Mattel PlayBack programme enables you to recycle your outgrown, unusable, and worn-out **Barbie®**, **Matchbox™** and **MEGA™** toys, helping keep valuable materials in play and out of landfills.

To learn more about Mattel's PlayBack recycling programme simply scan the QR.

How can I register my school for a free PlayBack resource pack?

Alongside this initiative, we are launching a PlayBack schools programme and club. Centred around developing STEM and English writing skills, children will examine environmentally friendly alternatives to landfill. Students can be challenged to turn their ideas into a story to enter the Mattel PlayBack story competition, where they can **win £500 for the school**.

Simply complete our simple online form and we'll send your school a free printed pack and downloadable resources this March.

Register your school for free at:
www.super-ideas.com/playback



Listen up kids! Play your part in protecting the environment!

We need your English and problem-solving skills to help solve our PlayBack word search and spot the difference games.

Word Search.

Do you know your PlayBack from your playtime? See if you can find all the words below!

- PlayBack
- Mattel
- Barbie
- Mega
- Matchbox
- Recycling
- Landfill
- Play
- Toys
- Favourite
- Don't
- Throw
- Away
- Your
- Use

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



Can you spot 10 differences below?



RED NOSE DAY IS NEARLY HERE!



Comic Relief

RED Nose Day returns on Friday 18 March! Money raised will support life-changing work in the UK and around the world, including tackling homelessness, domestic abuse, poverty, mental health problems and supporting children to survive and thrive.

MEET WILLOW

Willow is a lively five-year-old who lives in Kent, southeast England, with her parents and two older siblings. She has a condition known as Kabuki syndrome.

Her parents first found out about it when Willow was eight months old. The low sugar levels in her blood prompted doctors at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, which is famous for looking after sick children, to run some tests. They discovered a gene mutation had caused Kabuki syndrome. Genes are found inside cells and tell the body how to grow.

But despite the condition leading to trouble with Willow's hearing, eyesight, heart and kidneys, she is a bouncy youngster who loves to boss around her siblings and play with her toy kitchen.

She is also a keen singer who loves Christmas carols and serenades her family with *Little Drummer Boy* and *Silent Night* throughout the year.

HER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Willow also has trouble with her hips, meaning she struggles to walk without help so uses a walking frame to help her move around.

When Willow's school encouraged their pupils to fundraise for Red Nose Day 2021, Willow was keen not to miss out.

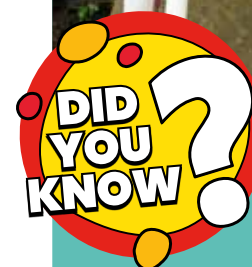
With the encouragement of her parents, she marched about 40 metres around her garden three times.

The family only expected Willow's challenge to raise a couple of hundred pounds, but she raised £8,170 in total for Red Nose Day last year.



Comic Relief

Willow



- Kabuki syndrome is a very rare condition that affects just one in every 32,000 children across the whole world.
- It was first recorded in Japan in 1981 by two doctors called Dr Niikawa and Dr Kuroki.
- Every child is affected differently by the condition, which is caused by a mutation in the DNA found inside the body's cells. Some children might have problems with their heart or other internal organs, while others have difficulties with speech, hearing or their eyesight.
- Children with Kabuki syndrome also often have a distinct facial appearance, mostly shown through large, almond-shaped eyes.

"When you have a child who can struggle with even the most basic things, it makes you so proud to see her achieve a feat like this"
– Willow's mum, Stacey



Comic Relief

"Red Nose Day is such a fun and brilliant charity for families to get behind"
– Stacey

RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day hopes to inspire families across the UK to make a difference, no matter how big or small. This Red Nose Day, we want to celebrate our fantastic fundraisers like Willow who make the day so special. You have the power to change lives.

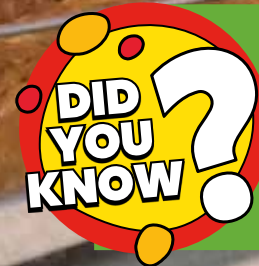
Money raised by Red Nose Day will help people in the UK and around the world live free from poverty, violence and discrimination, and support people with their mental health.

Willow with her mum, Stacey

Red Nose Day is back on 18 March. Visit www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday or follow @ComicRelief on social media for the latest Red Nose Day news.



A LIFE IN A CAGE IS NO LIFE AT ALL



Over 350 million laying hens are farmed in the EU every year. Of those, nearly 50% are caged.

OVER 300 million farmed animals suffer in cages across Europe. In the UK alone 16 million British hens live behind bars, producing more than a third of the UK's eggs. Meanwhile, every year, over 200,000 British mother pigs are forced to give birth in cages and raise their piglets through bars. Astoundingly, this is still legal in the UK. Legal, but not right! How in the 21st century can we still be raising animals in such cruel and outdated systems?

ENDING THE CAGE AGE

Every farm animal should have the chance to feel the sun on their back and the earth under their feet. And science shows us that caging animals is cruel: they are sentient beings [can feel through senses], capable of feeling pain and joy. Yet, millions of farm animals here in the UK are confined and restricted in caged systems, unable to express their natural behaviours.

For many years, we have campaigned for an end to the cruellest forms of farming in order to ensure higher welfare standards for all farm animals. Our 'End the Cage Age' campaign seeks to bring about an end to the use of cages in farming throughout Europe. Over the years, we have seen progress with the EU ban on veal crates, barren battery cages for laying hens and a partial sow stall ban. Hundreds of the EU's biggest retailers and brands – including Danone, Nestlé, Aramark, Lidl and Sodexo – have now committed to using only cage-free eggs throughout the entire region. In the UK, companies that commit to using free-range, organic or barn eggs, instead of cage eggs, can be found on our Food Business website.

And there is more good news – in June 2021, the European Commission made a historic

announcement that it will put forward legislation [laws] to phase out the use of cages for farmed animals, following the End The Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), headed by Compassion. Now we need to keep up the pressure to ensure this ban really is delivered and continue our work to see it replicated [copied] here in the UK too.

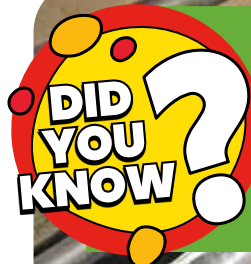
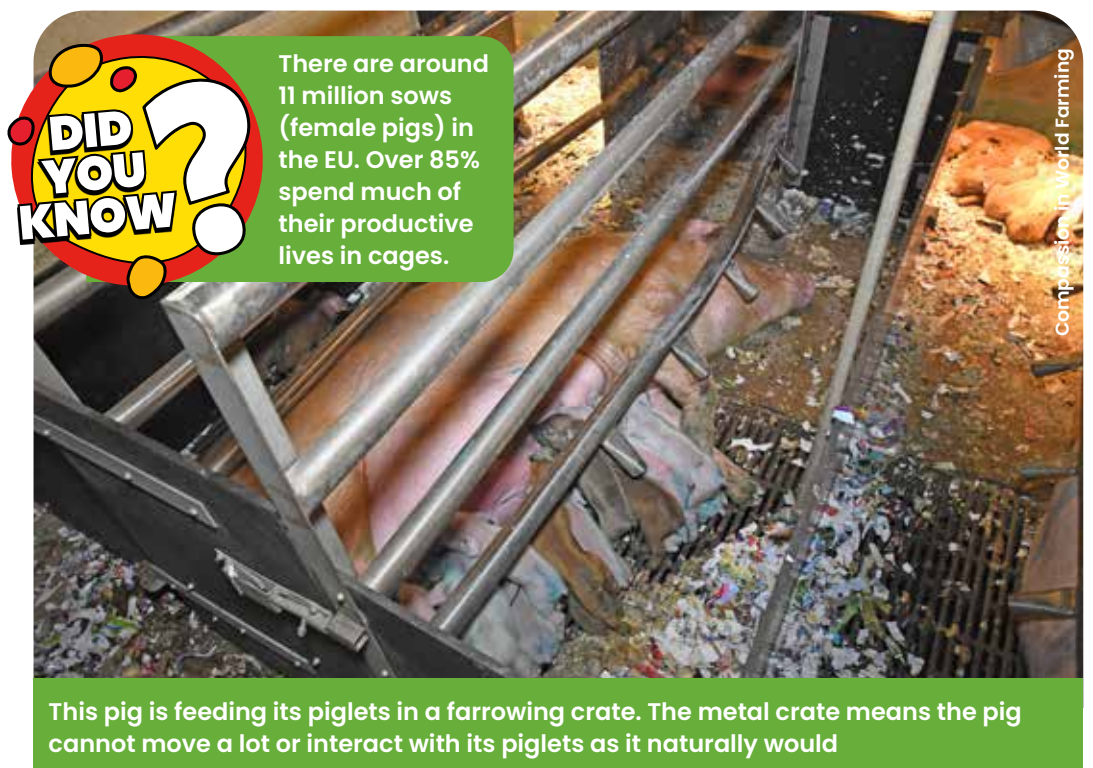
MAKING THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION

In May last year, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) launched a new 'Action Plan for Animal Welfare', setting out the steps the UK Government pledges to take to improve animal welfare. One of these pledges was to examine the use of cages for poultry and farrowing crates for pigs. And just last week, a Compassion-led parliamentary petition closed, calling on the Government to End the Cage Age. The petition, supported by Compassion's

Patron and *Dragons' Den* star Deborah Meaden, gained 109,828 signatures over a six-month period. Now that the petition has passed the 100,000 signature mark, Parliament must, under its own rules, consider allowing time for this issue to be debated. If selected, this debate could be a crucial next step to bringing about the new laws that are needed to End the Cage Age across the UK once and for all.

The British public have made it clear; they want to see a cage-free future for farmed animals. Because after all, a life in a cage is no life at all.

COMPASSION in world farming 



There are around 11 million sows (female pigs) in the EU. Over 85% spend much of their productive lives in cages.

This pig is feeding its piglets in a farrowing crate. The metal crate means the pig cannot move a lot or interact with its piglets as it naturally would

To find out more about Compassion in World Farming and its work, head to www.ciwf.org.uk

#

DINOS WERE WIPE OUT IN SPRING



SCIENTISTS have known for a long time that dinosaurs became extinct when an asteroid struck Earth 66 million years ago.

Now, new research suggests that the strike probably took place in springtime – and the timing may have made more species extinct.

Three-quarters of Earth's species were destroyed after the asteroid smashed into modern-day Mexico. Scientists now reckon the event took place during the northern hemisphere's spring.

They say that made many animals to the north of the equator more vulnerable to the heatwave caused by the impact. Certain mammals, birds and plants might have survived if the asteroid had crashed at a different time of year.

The extreme heatwave caused by the strike affected the whole planet. It wiped out many animals, and temperatures later dropped dramatically, causing even more extinction.

But the timing of the impact might have helped species in the southern hemisphere survive, as they would have been hibernating or sheltering at the time, when it was their autumn.



The fish fossils



When the asteroid hit, molten rock flew up into space, then rained down on Earth the same day

Joschua Knüppe

The study was led by Uppsala University in Sweden. Melanie During, who worked on the research, said: "In spring, you expect animals to be tending to their offspring, which are very fragile, or perhaps they are still tending to eggs, waiting for them to hatch or be looking for food. That puts them in a vulnerable position."

Scientists have worked out that the asteroid hit in spring by studying fish fossils. Those fossils show the growth rates of the fishes' bones, and that points to them dying in the spring. There was also evidence of what the fish were eating at the time of their death, and that also suggested they were eating food that was usually available in the springtime.

The fossils were found in Tanis, North Dakota, in the USA, a site that contains many clues as to what happened when the asteroid struck 66 million years ago.

CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE



Getty

BRITISH Science Week is here again!

The celebration of science – which actually lasts for ten days – returns on Saturday 11 March and runs until 20 March, with thousands of events taking place across the UK. Organisers say it's the largest grassroots celebration of science, with events happening in local libraries, community hubs, museums and schools across the country.

The idea behind British Science Week is to support people who don't typically get involved in science to run their own inspiring activities. The team behind the event offer support, free resources and activities to enable people to try out science in their own way.

This year is about "smashing stereotypes" [fixed ideas about people], as organisers want to change ideas about who scientists are. They ask: "What do you imagine when you're asked what a scientist looks like? Are you picturing lab coats, goggles and conical flasks? How about the person? Are they a white man with grey hair, who resembles [looks like] Albert Einstein?"

The 2022 edition of British Science Week wants to challenge that stereotype and celebrate the diversity of scientists, who come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The event is organised by the British Science Association, which was established in 1831 to engage people in science, particularly those who don't feel represented.

You can find out more about British Science Week, and how to get involved, at www.britishsienceweek.org.

BANKS FAIL ON CLIMATE

THE world's top banks are not doing enough to help tackle climate change.

That's what a new study by experts at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden says.

They found that, in 2020 alone, \$425.92 billion (£318 billion) was spent on fossil fuel projects (oil, coal and gas) by ten of the biggest banks in the world. The group included Britain's Barclays Bank and the USA's JP Morgan Chase. The study says that the wealthy banks are talking more and more about climate change, but not doing enough to stop it.

Most of the banks have recognised that the financial industry has some sort of role to play in tackling climate change.

They are taking steps to reduce their carbon emissions by reducing electricity use in their buildings, for example. But the report says they aren't recognising the effect of their customers' emissions – even though they are lending large amounts of money to them.

The experts have recommended steps to address the situation, including coming up with ways for banks to measure and reduce the climate impact of their customers.



Getty

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum Group

DID you know that lighters were invented before matches?

Döbereiner's lamps were the first ever lighters to be invented. Developed by German chemist Johann Wolfgang Döbereiner in 1823, they used chemical reactions between zinc, sulphuric acid, hydrogen and platinum to create a gentle flame.

After a long time of making fire with steel, flint and tinder, these lighters were innovative and in the 1820s, more than 20,000 lighters were sold in Germany and Britain. One of the buyers was famous German poet Goethe, who went on to fund Döbereiner's research and even wrote him a poem!

Due to the lighters being heavy and dangerous, their popularity was short-lived and largely came to an end when the first phosphorus matches were sold in 1827.



Science Museum Group

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

TURTLES



3D CARDBOARD MODEL KIT

WICKEDUNCLE.CO.UK £8.95



This little sea turtle is made up of 28 layers of sturdy, corrugated cardboard. It's very easy to assemble and very cute! Assemble each piece in numerical order, following the illustrated instructions and fixing them together with the included

eco glue as you go. Each part features fun animal facts for you to discover – did you know that some sea turtles have been known to live to be 150 years old?

ECO NATION TURTLE SOFT TOY

WHSMITH £12.99

This green and brown sea turtle is made from recycled plastics, including the fibre filling. There are no plastic beans and embroidery has been used instead of plastic eyes to make this turtle as eco-friendly as possible. This turtle is extremely soft and is the perfect plush for hugging and cuddling.



ADOPT A SEA TURTLE GIFT TIN

I WANT ONE OF THOSE. COM £11.99

Adopt an endangered species of sea turtle for 12 months and make a real difference to their future survival. This adoption pack has been put together with the People's Trust for Endangered Species charity, which helps protect these gentle giants. Inside the tin you'll find a poster, a postcard, fact sheets and a registration sheet.



*All prices correct at time of printing

WIN! MARVIN'S DELUXE BOX OF TRICKS FROM Marvin's Magic

MARVIN'S MAGIC is recognised as the brand leader and number one for magic worldwide.

It is proud to have won many awards, and has the best-selling magic sets and largest following of young magicians anywhere!

Magic is normally based on dexterity, skill and many years of practice, but with Marvin's Magic, budding magicians can perform similar sensational effects in no time. It's professional magic made easy!



In celebration of its 35th year, Marvin Berglas, award-winning magician and Creator of Marvin's Magic, is giving away Marvin's Deluxe Box of Tricks to three lucky winners.

This special edition set includes a hand-picked selection of Marvin's favourite professional-quality effects and is strictly limited to just 3,000 copies worldwide.

The Deluxe Box of Tricks is a stunning collection of magic, and comes beautifully presented in a unique, double-layered black-and-gold box with red flock-fleeced interior to protect and display each prop.



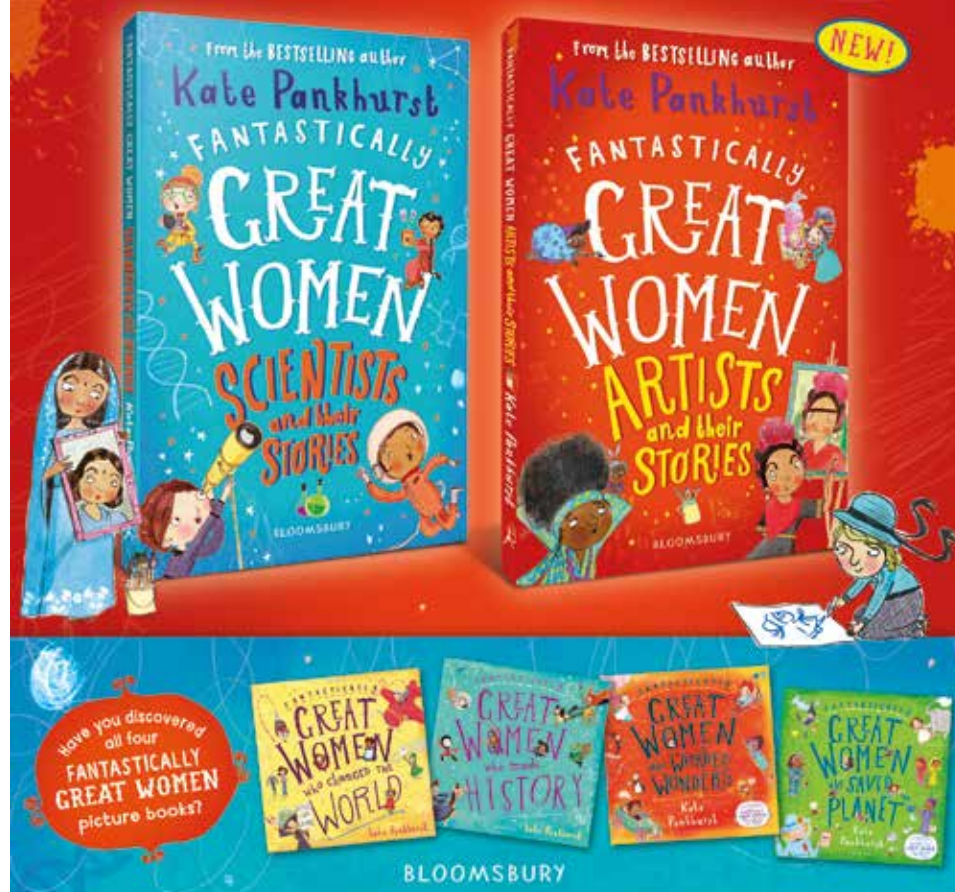
To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which type of hat does a magician use as a prop?
a) Bowler hat b) Top hat c) Bucket hat

For more fun and magic, visit www.marvinsmagic.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TRICK
firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 17 March 2022.

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY with this fantastically great new series from Kate Pankhurst



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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.

We package First News in a mixture of compostable wrapper, paper wrapper, cardboard wraps and boxes, depending on the order size. See www.firstnews.co.uk/about-first-news for more information about our environmental commitments.

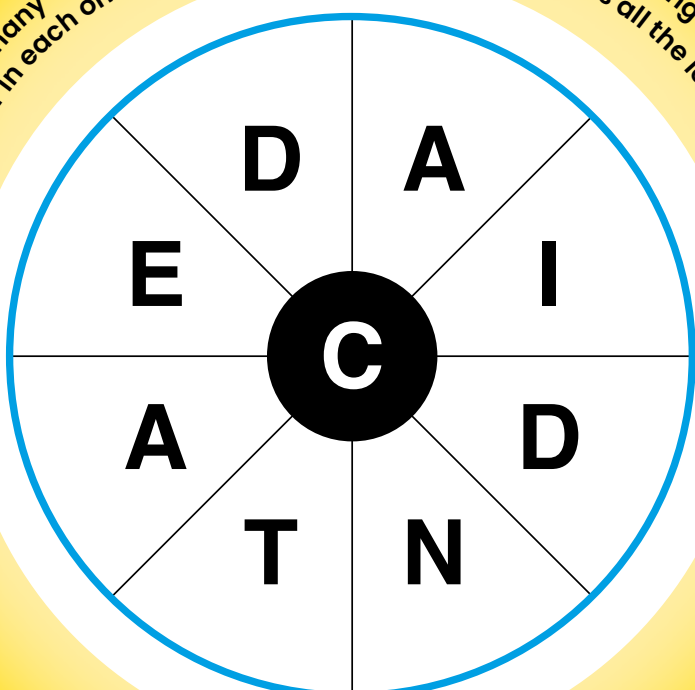
SUDOKU

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

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

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?



READER SURVEY

What's your ideal family day out?

WE want to make *First News* the best it can be, and to do that we're asking you – our readers – to share your views! What do you love? What do you dislike? What would you like to read more about? Let us know and you could be in with a chance of winning £100 worth of Amazon vouchers!

How would you rate *First News*?

Head to first.news/survey22 to take part in our reader survey today!

WIN! THE WILD BEFORE BOOKS

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below? Send in your answers and five winners will win a copy of *The Wild Before* plus a plantable bookmark. *The Wild Before* is a timely tale of climate change, defiance and courage from the extraordinarily inventive storyteller Piers Torday. The perfect adventure story for animal lovers!

Available from Waterstones.



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

ACROSS

- 1 Two times nine (8)
- 6 School test (4)
- 7 Condition that can make it hard to breathe (6)
- 9 A type of fruit (5)
- 11 Priest (5)
- 12 Feel with your hand (5)
- 13 Able to move quickly and easily (5)
- 16 Sneaky (6)
- 18 Area of land surrounded by the sea (4)
- 19 Shape of a new moon (8)

DOWN

- 1 Full of life; very active (9)
- 2 A tropical fruit (5)
- 3 Type of Dutch cheese (4)
- 4 Not anything (7)
- 5 Female parent (3)
- 8 Consensus; having the same opinion (9)
- 10 The largest ocean (7)
- 14 Supply or distribute something (5)
- 15 Computer memory unit (4)
- 17 Primary colour (3)

23. PUZZLE FUN

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 820** in the subject box and include your contact details. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 10 March 2022**.

WIN! CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG GOODIES

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Clifford the Big Red Dog*? Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a copy of *Clifford the Big Red Dog* on Blu-ray™, Posh Paws Clifford plush and a graphic novel of the film. When Emily discovers Clifford has grown enormously tall overnight, she turns to her eccentric uncle for help. But when an evil scientist tries to capture Clifford, it takes the entire neighbourhood's help to hide him.

Clifford the Big Red Dog is available now to Download & Keep and on DVD & Blu-ray™ from 14 March.



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WIN! A HOVERBOARD THANKS TO THE ADAM PROJECT ON NETFLIX

TO celebrate the release of *The Adam Project*, the hotly anticipated time travel adventure hitting Netflix today, we are giving away two high-tech hoverboards to two lucky readers, so you can fly around on these futuristic machines!

Strap yourselves in for a wild ride as you watch a time-travelling pilot team up with his wise-cracking younger self and dad to bring



The Adam Project hits Netflix today

his family back together and save the future.

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

How many years are there in a millennium?
a) 1,000 b) 100 c) 10

Always wear a safety helmet. Currently, electric hoverboards can only be ridden on private property with the owner's permission.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ADAM

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 17 March 2022.

WIN! A SCHOOL EVENT WITH THE AUTHORS OF THE ADVENTURES ON TRAINS SERIES

TO celebrate the launch of *Sabotage on the Solar Express*, the fifth book in the bestselling and award-winning *Adventures on Trains* series by MG Leonard and Sam Sedgman, one lucky winner can win an event for their school from both authors!

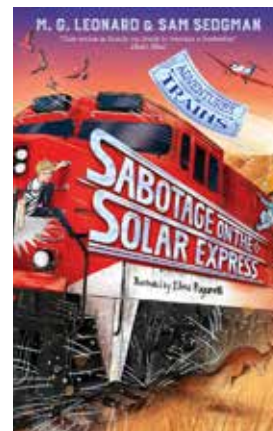
Hear how they create their mystery stories, how they write together as a team and how they come up with their ideas and locations for each brilliant book.

Follow 11-year-old hero Harrison Beck and his travel journalist uncle Nat as they go off on their next amazing adventures in *Sabotage on the Solar Express*.

Five runners-up will win an *Adventures on Trains* book bundle.

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

***Sabotage on the Solar Express* is set in which country?**
a) Brazil b) China c) Australia



Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, the event will either be in person or via video.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY TRAIN

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 17 March 2022.

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: T-shirt is a different colour, moon added to sky, arm of glasses is missing, necklace has been added, eyebrow is different.

Word Wheel: vegetable.

W	A	L	L	P	A	P	E	R		7	9	6	4	5	2	8	3	1
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		8	3	2	9	6	1	7	5	4
T	I	R	E	S	A	L	T	E	N		1	4	5	8	7	3	6	2
O	K	T	A	N	S	E	T				4	6	3	2	8	9	5	1
D	A	D	O	R	I	N	G				5	1	8	7	4	6	3	9
L	E	A	F	L	E	T					9	2	7	1	3	5	4	6
E	L	I	E	O	I						6	7	9	3	2	8	1	4
R	E	L	I	C							2	5	4	6	1	7	9	8
T	R	A	N	S	L	A	T	E			3	8	1	5	9	4	2	7

DEBATE OVER QUEEN BOOK

LAST year, the Government announced that it was spending £12 million on sending a book about the Queen's life to every primary school student in Britain. Labour MP Dawn Butler has suggested the money would be better spent elsewhere.

In a letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the MP said that the Department for Education hasn't been able to make sure that schools are properly ventilated "and that £12 million would go a long way to improving the situation" and helping schools to be better protected against the spread of Covid-19.

She suggested making the book an online resource instead.

A Government spokesperson said that the book was an "opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth over the last 70 years," and that it had been designed to "be inclusive and speak to all children across the UK."

Do you think that all British kids should get the book about the Queen, or would the money be better spent somewhere else?

Vote at first.news/polls

WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

Read a book recently that you want to tell us about? Send us your review! We'll need around 125 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.

We get loads of reviews sent in, and sometimes that might mean it's months before yours is published. We're sorry about that, but we'll always do our best to tell you when we're featuring your review!

YOUR READS!

FING DAVID WALLIAMS

Reviewed by Lee-Anne Foo

THIS book is intriguing and will grab the attention of the reader immediately.

It is filled with laughs and I would rate it a nine out of ten for the humour and all the detail included.

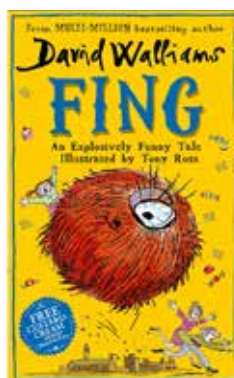
It's about the Meek family, Mr and Mrs Meek, who get married and have a child called Myrtle Meek.

She was the rudest and meanest child ever, she would whine and whine and whine. Her first word was: "More!" Over the years, she had grown to be more and more greedy; every toy, thing and food her parents gave her, she would still be ungrateful, no matter what.

One day, the Meeks were eating breakfast and Myrtle asked for a "Fing". Her parents knew she would whine and tantrum continuously if the Fing was not given to her!

After a long time, Mr Meek finds a Fing and gives it to Myrtle, and the Fing grows to be gargantuan! The two cause chaos everywhere they go – but the ending is something that you've got to find out for yourself!

This book was extremely interesting and I hope you read it as well.



CAN ONE HARE ALONE SAVE THE WORLD?

Join Little-Hare on an unforgettable journey to protect the legendary Mooncalf!

A captivating animal adventure filled with friendship and hope, from the author of *The Last Wild* trilogy.

OUT NOW



SCAN TO LISTEN
TO AN
AUDIO CLIP



SIGNED COPIES AVAILABLE IN STORE OR ONLINE AT [WATERSTONES.COM](https://www.waterstones.com)

WHO'S APPY NOW?



Lorna Goldstrand Klefsaas

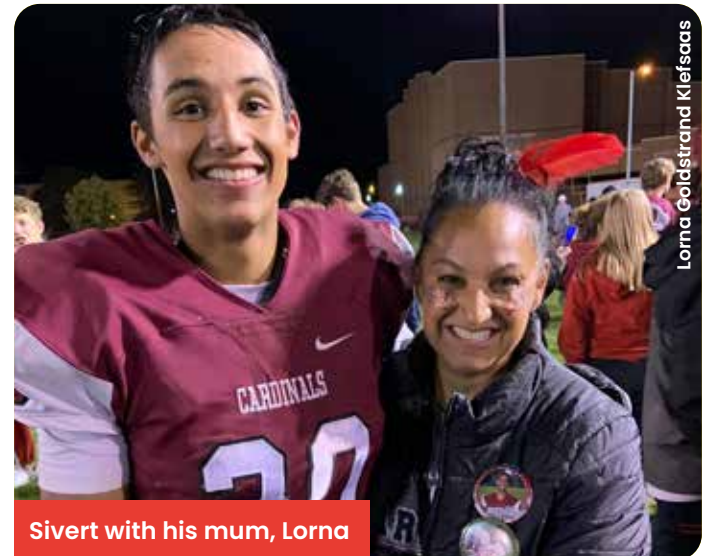
Sivert managed to stay off social media apps for six years!

AN 18-year-old has scooped \$1,800 (£1,350) from his mum, by staying off social media for six years.

Sivert Klefsaas from America was set the challenge by his mum Lorna back in 2016 when he was 12 years old. She said that if he could stop using social media until his 18th birthday she would reward him with the huge cash prize.

Little did she realise how determined her son really was, and on 19 February this year, Sivert collected his winnings! Funnily enough, Sivert's mum Lorna announced the news on Facebook! Sivert said the challenge wasn't as hard as people might expect and he didn't actually miss social media that much. He told CNN news: "I wouldn't say there was ever a time where I thought I was about to break. As it went on, it was more of a pride thing."

Sivert says he'll spend money on something for his room at university. In the meantime he says he is spending his time learning how to use his first social media app, Instagram.



Lorna Goldstrand Klefsaas

Sivert with his mum, Lorna

SILLY SPORT OR OLYMPIC CONTENDER?



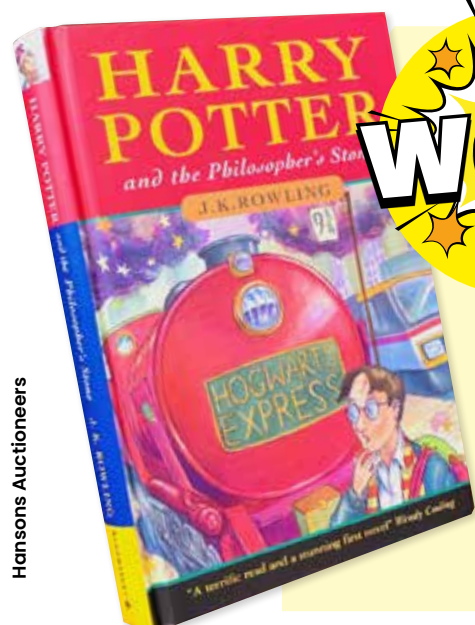
FANCY trying a new winter sport called Assledding?

The sport involves an Assled, a foldable sled you wear on your bottom that effectively turns you into a human slide! It can be carried like a backpack, which means you can use it whenever there's snow about, and it's lightweight so you won't have to lug anything big and heavy around.

The makers of the Assled say it's "just like a plastic bag" and can be used on slopes, hiking trails and sledding hills. They even hope that Assledding might one day become an Olympic sport!



Snowfeet



Hansons Auctioneers



COULD this be the most valuable Harry Potter book ever?!

A first edition copy of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* that is unread, unopened and has been kept in a protective sleeve for 25 years could fetch up to £100,000 when it goes to auction on 9 March. Amazingly, the owner nearly took the book back when he first bought it as it didn't have a dust jacket (a detachable outer cover) on it!

A DELIVERY driver has been caught on CCTV eating a family's doughballs! The family ordered a Pizza Express takeaway to their home but were baffled when they discovered they'd only got four doughballs instead of 16 – and most of their garlic butter was missing too!

When dad Stuart checked his CCTV camera, he couldn't believe his eyes. The Just Eat driver delivering the meal was seen scoffing the doughballs in her car.

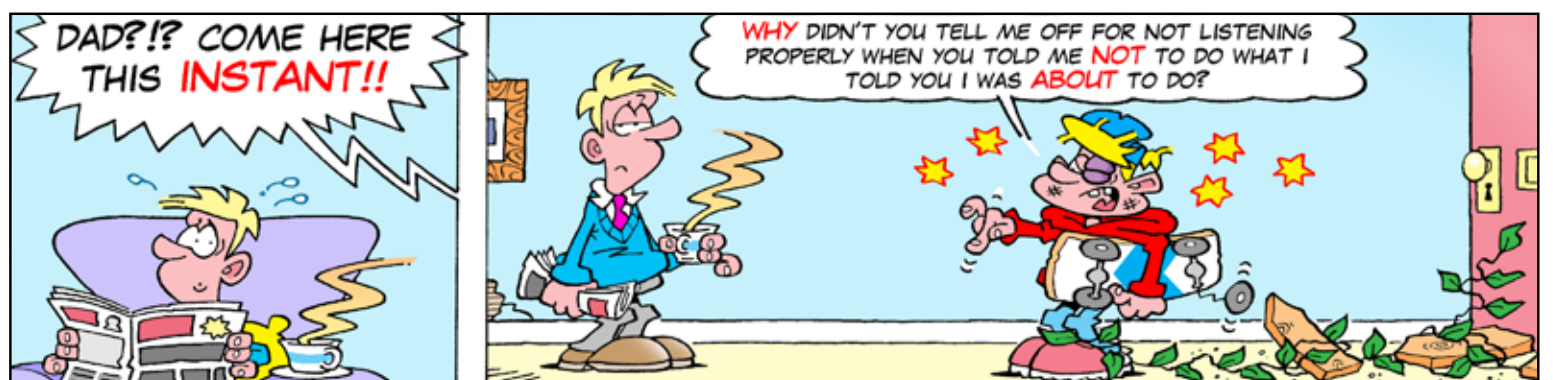
The family has since complained and Just Eat has given them their money back.



Getty



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



A FIFA-LESS FIFA GAME?

SINCE 1993, Electronic Arts (EA) has worked with football organisation FIFA to create its annual series of football games. That could be set to change.

In October last year, EA said it was negotiating a new deal for the football series with FIFA, but that FIFA was asking for \$2.5 billion (£1.8bn), more than double the current agreement.

Now, the website *Video Games Chronicle* has reported that EA boss Andrew Wilson told staff last November that, other than access to the World Cup, all FIFA provides are the “four letters on the front of the box”. He added that “most people don’t even see the box” any more, because most people download games instead.

Wilson said that those playing the FIFA games want new brands such as Nike in the game, but “because FIFA has a relationship with Adidas, we are not able to do that.”

He also says that the FIFA football



organisation doesn’t want to let EA include different game modes, other than 11 v 11 matches.

He said: “At the end of the day, I think that might even be better for our gamers than continuing with those four letters on the box.”

If the negotiations with FIFA do fall through, then FIFA 23 will be the last game with the FIFA name.

We’re already thinking up new names for the game here. Do you have any ideas?



A NEW kart racer has drifted on to the scene, and it’s set in the magical world of *Final Fantasy*!

If you’ve played and enjoyed a *Mario Kart* game, you’ll have no problem picking up *Chocobo GP*, as it shares a lot with that series.

There are races between a colourful cast of characters with all sorts of different methods of transport. Items can be picked up mid-race to give you a much-needed boost, and drifting around corners can speed you up.

Unlike *Mario Kart*, the characters in *Chocobo GP* have their own special powers, which can give you a serious advantage. It’s fun trying them all out to find which suits you best.

To unlock new characters, you’ve got to beat the story mode. The story is funny, and very strange – especially if you’re not familiar with the *Final Fantasy* series.

The most important thing is that it’s a lot of fun to play!

FIRST CAREERS

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

DID you know it’s National Careers Week from 7–12 March? The week is all about helping young people to learn about different careers and what you might like to do when you leave education. *First News* has been lucky enough to chat to loads of interesting people about their jobs and how they got into them, so check out our First Careers website at firstcareers.co.uk and be inspired!



What does a theme park designer do?



What does it take to become a journalist?

How can I become a zookeeper?



What’s it really like to be a YouTuber?



What qualifications do I need to be a doctor?

What career would you like to learn more about?
Let us know at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

DISCOVER LOADS OF AMAZING JOBS AT FIRSTCAREERS.CO.UK

SKATEBOARDING STAR

by Poppy

I STARTED skateboarding because I saw Sky Brown in the Tokyo Olympics and I was inspired!

I asked my parents for a skateboard when I was four years old, and it was only when they saw how excited I was during the Games in August 2021 that they finally let me have one.

Just three months later I was offered a scholarship by Tic Tac Skate School, because they said I am a natural! Once I found out I was pumped and ready to skate!

I have now been skateboarding for six months and have learned lots of tricks such as ollies, shuvits and frontside and backside kick turns. I can drop in from 2-8ft [0.6-2.4m] ramps and hope to tackle the 12ft [3.7m] vert ramp at Skaterham Skatepark before the end of the year!

I've met lots of brilliant skateboarders, including Bombette Martin, who competed for GB in the Tokyo Olympics, and her brother Kayo Martin, an up-and-coming skateboarder. I've also skated with Pete Dossett, a legend in UK vert.

I love that when you skate you can show people who you are and express yourself. You push yourself to get tricks and it helps you to be happy.



JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Poppy in action

I WROTE A BOOK

by Charlie

Hi, I am Charlie and I am 12 years old. Back in 2019 I was suffering with anxiety and I was getting bullied at school. I had no confidence.

This put me off a lot of things I liked to do, like singing and dancing; I didn't even want to go on holiday any more. That's when I discovered BEAM, a service run by The Children's Society, where children who are struggling like me are helped by playing games, doing group activities, drawing and so much more.

This really helped me get back into things that I love. After getting support, I started to talk and write about how I was feeling and what was worrying me. I even wrote to David Walliams and got a letter in reply and a signed picture.

Today I am doing home schooling and

I recently went to a home-schooling art class where the teacher said: "It is okay to be different." I really enjoy playing basketball with my brother, Henri, and walking with my mum.

I am also trying to get my book published, which I have been writing on and off since I was seven. It is about a boy who is always busy but never manages to get anything done.

My advice for anyone else struggling with anxiety is to not give up on what you enjoy.

My dream is for David Walliams to read my book.



Charlie (left) and his brother Henri

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



Write in to let us know what you've been up to! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? Raised money for charity? Whatever it is, we love hearing about your adventures, so why not share your experiences with *First News* readers?

Email your report (and any pictures you want to share) 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.

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CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: [SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:schools@firstnews.co.uk)



Getty
Rafael Nadal celebrates another 2022 success

HIGH AND LOW IN ACAPULCO



Getty
Alexander Zverev on court before his disqualification

FOUR of the five top ranked male players in the world were in action at this year's Mexican Open. Records were broken and spectators were treated to some thrilling tennis – and a temper tantrum!

Only Novak Djokovic, who was playing in the Dubai Tennis Championships, was absent from the impressive line-up, with Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Rafael Nadal forming the Open's top four seeds. Defending champion Zverev was one of the favourites, until he was thrown out of the competition! After losing a doubles match with his partner Marcelo Melo, the German smashed his racket into the umpire's chair. As punishment, he was banned from the singles event and fined \$40,000 (£29,800), as well as having to forfeit his prize money.

Zverev did set one record before his unexpected departure, though. His first-round singles match with Jenson Brooksby ended at 4:55am, making it the latest ever finish in an ATP tour match. It is also the longest ever match played at any Mexican Open, lasting three hours and 20 minutes!

Both Tsitsipas and Medvedev were eliminated in the semi-finals, leaving Rafael Nadal to contest the final against British number one Cameron Norrie. Nadal was hampered by a foot injury at the end of 2021, but nothing stopped him from breaking Norrie's serve to win the first set 6-4. In the second set, Nadal raced to a 5-2 lead, before Norrie broke back to recover and reach a tantalising 5-4 scoreline. However, the Spaniard proved too strong and won the final game to end the set 6-4. It was Nadal's fourth Mexican Open success – and his third straight title of 2022! Although he wasn't successful in Acapulco, Medvedev did have something to cheer after the tournament finished. Novak Djokovic lost in the quarter-finals in Dubai, which resulted in Medvedev overtaking him to reach number one in the ATP rankings. Djokovic has held the top spot for a record 361 weeks and this is the first time Medvedev has been ranked highest. "I am happy to reach number one," he said. "It was my goal since I was young and especially my goal in the latest times."



Getty
Daniil Medvedev

WARNING! ROAD MAY BE ICY...

WINTRY conditions usually require motorists to take extra care. But for competitors in Rally Sweden, driving slowly isn't really an option!

First held in 1950, this year saw the 69th race in the competition's history, which is now part of the World Rally Championship. Belgium's Thierry Neuville had the best of the opening day, finishing in first place in his Hyundai. Neuville fell behind on the second day, allowing Finland's Kalle Rovanperä to take the lead. On the final day, the Finn was chased by his Toyota teammate Elfyn Evans, until the Welsh driver lost control and hit a snow-bank, leaving his car too badly damaged to continue.

Rovanperä was victorious in six stages of the rally, making him a worthy winner. It's not the first time his family name has appeared on the trophy – Kalle's father, Harri, won Rally Sweden in 2001, when the 2022 champion was only four months old!



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Kalle Rovanperä races in his Toyota GR Yaris Rally1



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Thierry Neuville

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million dollars (£17,900,000) has been awarded to the US women's national football team, who have been campaigning for equal pay with the men's team. "It's a great day," said Megan Rapinoe, who has been capped 187 times. With four World Cup wins, the United States is the most successful women's team.



Getty
Megan Rapinoe

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minutes and 14 seconds was all Yalemzerf Yehualaw needed to complete the Castellón road race in Spain, breaking the world 10km record. It was a deserved victory for the Ethiopian athlete, who thought she'd broken the world record for the half-marathon in 2021, only to discover the course was 54 metres too short!



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goals were scored in the 2022 Carabao Cup final between Chelsea and Liverpool. Penalties were needed to settle the match... which went to sudden death at 5-5! At 10-10, the goalkeepers had to take their turns. Liverpool's Caoimhin Kelleher scored his, but Kepa Arrizabalaga blazed his shot high, giving the Reds victory.



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