



First News

2.6M READERS*

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P4



DIVIDED KINGDOM? BRUTAL KNIFE ATTACK LEADS TO PROTESTS

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

BANNED!

PM SAYS THAT UNDER-16s WILL BE PROTECTED FROM TECH COMPANIES THAT ARE "FAILING OUR KIDS"

Apps you'll not be allowed to use from next year include **TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, X and Snapchat**



25%
75%
VOTE IN OUR POLL!

Overall, do you think the social media ban is good for kids?

Vote at first.news/polls

by Ian Eddy

THE government has said it will ban under-16s from all of the main social media apps, because tech companies have failed to make their products safe for children.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer made the announcement on Monday. The ban doesn't include WhatsApp, but the PM said it would include digital curfews and will cover features such as infinite scrolling and some adult features of chatbots. Children will be banned from livestreaming themselves, but will still be able to play multiplayer games. The new rules will also prevent unknown users contacting children.

"Social media is making children unhappy... exposing them to content that is dangerous," the prime minister said. "It stops children doing their homework, reading, playing with their friends outside, going to bed at a decent hour."

The government says that the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, which became law earlier this year, means that it

already has the powers to set new rules for tech companies. It says this means that "change can happen fast," but also said that the new rules won't come into force until spring 2027.

Officials had earlier said that a ban was backed by more than nine out of ten parents who took part in the Growing Up In An Online World consultation, which ended on 26 May. More than 116,000 people shared their thoughts, including 54,000 parents and 14,000 young people aged 10-21.

The responses showed how many problems within families can be caused by social media, as three-quarters of parents said that a ban would mean fewer arguments in the home.

Australia was the first country to ban young people from social media, but tech-savvy kids have been able to get around it. In April, it was revealed that more than three in five (61%) kids aged 12-15 still had access to at least one of their accounts. However, the government says that it has learned lessons from Australia's ban, and that the UK would "make it harder" for children to get past the new protections.

P3



HOW MUCH DOES MUSK MAKE IN A MINUTE?



P18

BEHIND THE SCENES ON TOY STORY 5!



P28

KEY STATS FROM THE WORLD CUP!



MEET THE TEAM



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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!

TIME TO GET CYCLING!

More than half of short journeys in towns and cities will be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2035 under new targets announced by the Department for Transport. The government says it will spend £4.5 billion on active travel over the next five years, introducing 5,000 new walking, wheeling and cycling routes and 10,000 safer crossings by 2030. The aim is to connect homes with schools, high streets and local services. It's hoped that it will also encourage more people to walk or cycle to public transport hubs, such as train stations.

THEY SAID THAT!

"Cycling and walking to school is a fun way to get active, enjoy the fresh air and help the planet."

Transport Secretary
Heidi Alexander



FUNNIEST CLASS!

A Year 6 class in Whitstable, Kent, has been named the funniest in Britain! Boyce Class at the appropriately named Joy Lane Primary School won *Beano's* 2026 competition with a one-liner about onions. *Beano* says it got hundreds of submissions that were given to a panel of judges. The joke that won the title? "I didn't think food could make calls, but then: boom! Onion rings!" Pupil Jack said he "just thought really hard and then came up with" the joke, but added: "I don't really like onion rings that much."

ROW OVER DEFENCE FUNDING



There was more bad news for Prime Minister Keir Starmer last week, after Defence Secretary John Healey quit in a row over how much money the Armed Forces would get. Mr Healey said that the money for the Defence Investment Plan "falls well short of what is required" to defend the country from potential threats and carry out missions abroad. He blamed Mr Starmer and Chancellor Rachel Reeves for not offering more money. He has since been replaced by Dan Jarvis (left), a former member of the Parachute Regiment.

OCTOPUS SIGHTINGS ON THE RISE



Look out for jellyfish too!

Scientists say that there have been record numbers of octopuses off the coasts of England, Scotland and Wales. Experts say it's likely that warmer waters caused by climate change are the main reason behind the octopus 'bloom'. The Marine Conservation Society has also predicted a huge rise in jellyfish numbers and is asking people to report numbers at mcsuk.org/sightings.



Rafael Chacón

FOX SPECIES SPOTTED FOR FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS

This cute lil' fella is a Cozumel dwarf fox, who's just been released into a nature reserve on the Mexican island of Cozumel. The species is one of the rarest canids (dogs, foxes, wolves etc) in the world, and is so elusive that this is the first confirmed sighting of one in 20 years. He was found staggering about near a motorway in September 2023, but rescuers caught him and treated him until he was back to full health. Although this guy was safely released, experts fear that his species is on the brink of extinction, due to threats from invasive species and human development. However, wildlife expert Travis Bayer is still hopeful. He says that the rediscovery "is not a conservation success story yet, but it does represent a second chance".

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS



iStock

The Department for Education says that this year, 800,000 more pupils in England can get help with their mental health, as support teams are now in almost 11,800 schools and colleges. "No child should be left to deal with poor mental health alone. That's why Barnardo's is proud to provide mental health support in schools across England," said Lynn Perry, the CEO of Barnardo's. "We've seen first-hand that investment in early mental health support can improve school attendance and help support children and young people to live happier and healthier lives."



STRICTLY COME DANCING

Actor Lacey Turner was confirmed as the first contestant for *Strictly Come Dancing* 2026! The *EastEnders* star said: "I can't quite believe I will be taking part and not watching at home this year. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning a new skill!" Dani



Dyer will also be returning, after getting injured ahead of the live shows last year. The third person named is Aussie singer Delta Goodrem, and the BBC says more contestants will be revealed across the summer. The show returns in September.



People's Trust for Endangered Species

RARE DORMICE RELEASED

More than 40 rare hazel dormice have been released into their new home in a Leicestershire woodland that's part of the Bradgate Park Trust estate. More than 20 were released into the same area last year, but this latest release will help to boost numbers further and improve the population's chances of survival. The release was carried out by the People's Trust for Endangered Species, which has been carrying out these reintroductions since 1993.

CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE!

Quickly find the pages linked to each school subject.



HISTORY

Pages 8, 11, 23



SCIENCE

Pages 5, 6, 12



GEOGRAPHY

Pages 8, 10, 14, 15



COMPUTING

Pages 5, 8



CITIZENSHIP

Pages 3, 4, 14



ART & DESIGN

Pages 7, 8, 9



We post daily news throughout the week on the *First News* app. Here's one from the past few days...



Getty

SpaceX boss Elon Musk

ELON Musk makes more than a million dollars every minute of the year, Oxfam claims.

The Tesla boss is selling shares in his SpaceX company, which has made him the world's first trillionaire. Oxfam says this means Musk has more money than almost half (46%) of the world's population, or 3.8 billion people.

Oxfam went on to say that even if Musk gave \$100 (£75) to everyone on Earth, he would still be one of the ten richest billionaires in the world, with more than \$184 billion (£138bn) left in the bank.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

20 JUNE

A United Nations day designed to raise awareness of the millions of people who have had to leave their homes because of conflict or violence.

CALENDAR DATES

Anyone with a home or school subscription can access the *First News* app. Just use your Web ID or *First News* Education ID and you're away!



MORE VIOLENCE ON UK STREETS



Police attend to burnt homes and cars on Lendrick Street the morning after a night of riots in Belfast

THE family of a knife attack victim pleaded for peace after two nights of violent protests in Belfast last week.

Homes, cars and a bus were set on fire by rioters in Northern Ireland's capital city, after a refugee from Sudan attacked Stephen Ogilvie on 8 June.

Hadi Alodid has been charged with attempted murder, possession of a knife in public, and threats to kill an NHS worker. Ogilvie lost an eye in the attack, and is recovering from his injuries in hospital.

Ogilvie's family said they didn't want Alodid's "horrific attack" to be "used to divide people". They said: "We have many migrants who make a deeply valuable contribution to our country, including in our healthcare system... we depend on them to make our country work."

Protests and counter-protests

In the protests, hundreds of rioters, many wearing masks, hurled bricks and bottles at the police.

Officers had to rescue many local residents from their homes, including a 70-year-old man who was injured when a brick smashed through his window. The next day, some businesses were forced to stay shut, while some schools let their pupils go home early to stay safe.

Trouble in England and Scotland

POLICE arrested three men in Glasgow after racist assaults by masked protesters.

Assistant Chief Constable Alan Waddell said: "Members of the public were attacked because of the colour of their skin. Officers were also attacked."

Smaller, peaceful protests were staged in other Scottish towns and cities, with no arrests.

Previously, 11 officers and a police dog were injured in violent protests in Southampton when upsetting details emerged about the murder of Henry Nowak by Vickrum Digwa last December.

On Saturday (13 June), thousands attended a different protest in Belfast, an anti-racism march called Together Against Hate. Some in attendance held signs that read "Refugees welcome" and "Riots don't speak for Belfast".

Badenoch backs stop-and-search

The Conservative leader, Kemi Badenoch, gave a speech last week in which she said that more knife crime could be prevented if police officers didn't fear "being called racist".

Ms Badenoch wants to see police officers stop and search more people of colour, and said: "If more black boys are searched... more black lives will be saved."

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from being singled out for things like their race, religion, age and sex. Labour minister Liz Kendall criticised Ms Badenoch's comments.

US and Iran reach deal to stop fighting



Donald Trump

THE US and Iran had agreed to the main points of a deal designed to stop their fighting in the Middle East as First News went to press this week.

Pakistan, which had helped the two sides to come together for talks, said the deal was due to be signed by officials from both countries today (19 June).

US President Donald Trump said the "great deal will bring peace and security to the whole region", and that the Strait of Hormuz would be fully reopened.

Oil tankers and other ships had been blocked from passing through the strait

after the US and Israel attacked Iran on 28 February. This caused the price of petrol and other important goods around the world to rise. When the peace deal was announced, oil prices began to fall.

Iran's military says the deal represents a "defeat" for the US. However, critics think that doing a deal with the US means "betraying" the country's former Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in airstrikes by the US and Israel on the first day of fighting.

Find updates to this story and further detail on the deal on the *First News* app.

Small rise in reading for pleasure

READING for pleasure has risen among children in the UK for the first time in five years, but it remains very low, the National Literacy Trust (NLT) says.

Between January and March, the NLT spoke to more than 125,000 children aged 5-18 and found that:

- Just over a third (36.1%) of those aged 8-18 enjoy reading in their free time.
- One in five children read in their free time every day.

It's a small improvement from last year, but still well behind the levels recorded ten years ago. The difference between genders has widened too, with girls increasingly more likely to enjoy reading than boys. England's schools boss Bridget Phillipson said: "With progress slower for poorer children, we must make sure every child can find a form of reading that speaks to them."

The NLT has made 2026 the National Year of Reading, with a series of events running throughout the year.

First News says...

THE social media ban (front page) will undoubtedly protect children from harm, and possibly even save some lives as well.

Even if you might not appreciate it now, it will almost certainly mean you can focus better on your education too.

The downside of the ban, as the prime minister admitted, is that many young people get a lot of positives out of social media. Whether that's staying in touch with friends and family or finding new interests, there are gems to be found among the garbage.

As always, we'd love to know what you think, so make sure you vote at first.news/polls. If you have longer thoughts to share, you can also write to our Your News pages on yournews@firstnews.co.uk.



Ian Eddy, acting editor



There were 60 species in the poll

This butterfly

THE peacock has been crowned Britain's favourite butterfly! More than 21,000 votes were cast in a nationwide poll hosted by Butterfly Conservation. The peacock butterfly is described as feisty and tough, while males "fiercely defend their patch in daring aerial chases".



What does the future hold for the Doctor?

Doctor Who

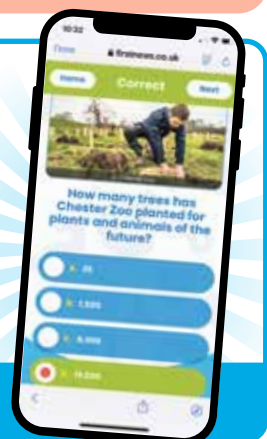
THIS year's *Doctor Who* Christmas special has been cancelled, and the show's long-serving boss Russell T Davies has quit, the BBC has announced. The last series of the iconic sci-fi programme aired in May 2025. The BBC is now taking time to plan the show's next chapter.



CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY QUIZ!

Test yourself on this week's news with the *First News* quiz, included with every subscription. Play it with your family, friends or by yourself. Read this week's issue to get all the answers right!

Ask a grown-up/bill-payer for your **WEB ID** to use the app.





AUSSIES CHART THEIR FARTS!

AUSTRALIANS have been helping human science in a manner that's not to be sniffed at: using an app to record their farts!

The app, *Chart Your Fart*, got users to take note of their trumps over a period of three days. It was made by researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, who wanted to see how many times people parp per day, to understand what a normal, healthy rate is.

More than 6,400 people aged 14 or above took part. They passed gas an average of five times per day, and they were more frequent after 6pm, when we tend to eat big meals.

The 14 to 25-year-olds were less windy than all older age groups, so watch out for grown-ups who are 26 and over!

This isn't the only time scientists have tried to see how many times we toot, and results vary. In February, *First News* reported on a US study that put a stink sensor in people's underwear, which showed that adults produce an average of 32 farts per day.

What happens when we fart?

It's important to fart, as it eases pressure on our stomach and intestines. It releases gas from two different sources: the air that enters our bodies when we swallow food or drink, and the gases produced by the billions of bacteria in our gut during digestion. It's that digestive gas that smells!

The study showed men fart 5.2 times per day, while women fart 4.8 times per day!

Australians have been giving a whole new meaning to the phrase pop stars!

PROTECT ANIMALS ON THE MOOVE



...and tackle disease outbreaks

THE conditions in which wild animals are being kept as they're transported across the world could be leading to the spread of diseases.

A new report called *Live Wildlife Trade and Markets* looks at how wild animals are captured, transported and sold, both legally and illegally. It highlights that when these animals are removed from their natural habitats, moved long distances and mixed with other species and humans, there's a big increase in the risk of diseases spreading and the number of large disease outbreaks occurring.

The report by the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade has led to calls for better protection for wild animals and improved welfare, to prevent such events from happening.

TV presenter Chris Packham is among a number of famous people who have called for a global ban on live animal exports. Currently, millions of live animals are forced to travel long distances in very poor conditions.

Workers help teach AI how to do their jobs

INDIAN workers are training AI-powered robots how to do their jobs and household tasks.

People are wearing smart glasses, smartphones or cameras on their head to record their daily actions and what a robot would need to do in different environments.

Some are recording themselves doing household jobs such as chopping vegetables or folding clothes, while others are showing how to work in factories.

Recordings are sent via a special app to the AI data company Objectways.

The developers hope that by giving their robots first-hand experience of a job, known as 'egocentric' data, it will help them to copy humans in future.

Robots on the rise

The bank Morgan Stanley predicts there could be more than a billion humanoid robots in use by 2050.

While India is pressing ahead with its AI technology, some have expressed concerns about what it means for local workers and if they will still be needed to do their jobs in years to come.



Workers wear GoPro cameras on their heads to record their actions

It ain't half rare!



WHAT?!

Students split on using AI for schoolwork

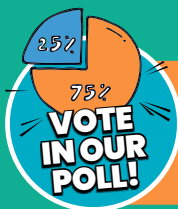
TEENAGERS are unsure about whether using AI for their schoolwork is okay or if it's cheating, an Oxford University Press (OUP) report has found.

Fewer than half (44%) of students say it's cheating to use AI to complete all their homework. However, only a quarter (24%) regularly use AI tools for their homework. Nearly three-quarters (72%) chose not to use AI when given the option, with many saying that they preferred to express their own views.

Just one in seven students said their school had given them clear enough guidance on what AI use is acceptable. In the classroom, three-quarters would like teachers to

use AI to support lessons, but almost three-quarters say that teachers bring things to the school day that AI can't replace, such as understanding and personal connection.

The OUP surveyed 3,100 students aged 13-18, then spoke to 700 pupils from 20 schools to reach their findings.



Do you prefer to use AI to help with schoolwork, or to do it all yourself?

Vote at first.news/polls

A SHOP in New Zealand has seen a huge increase in visitors after discovering a one-in-a-million apple that's half red, half yellow!

It's called a chimera (kai-mee-ra) apple, and staff at the Sunshine Corner Market in the city of Christchurch found it among a delivery of apples last month.

The owner, Heather, told the *New Zealand Herald*: "Lots of people are really excited and have taken photos of it... we've been in the game a long time and never seen one like it."

Some visitors have even asked to touch the apple for good luck. The question is, which half is lucky: the red or the yellow section?!



Houston, USA



Grab a space sticker!

MEET the four astronauts set to blast off on NASA's next Artemis mission. L-R: Randy Bresnik, Luca Parmitano, Frank Rubio and Andre Douglas will be on Artemis III, due to launch in 2027. They will fly around the moon and do tests for future landings, travelling inside the Orion capsule, the same vehicle used during the Artemis II mission in April.

Mexico City, Mexico



COLOMBIAN pop superstar Shakira rocks the World Cup opening ceremony.

Mexico City, Mexico



MEXICO striker Raúl Jiménez brings the house down by putting the host nation 2-0 up against South Africa in the opening match of the World Cup. Jiménez got quite emotional after his first ever World Cup goal, possibly because he thought he might never get the chance to score one. After a sickening clash of heads with Arsenal's David Luiz nearly six years ago, Jiménez was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery, as his broken skull was pushing on his brain. As well as a goal for Jiménez, the match had plenty more drama, including three red cards, which is only one fewer than were shown in the entire 2022 World Cup!


UK


Alistair Heap/PA Media Assignments

THE Royal Mint is celebrating 50 years of Aardman with a special 50p coin. The world-famous animation studio is known for creating characters such as Wallace and Gromit, Morph, Feathers McGraw and Shaun the Sheep, all of whom feature in the coin's design.

Zhengzhou, China


Getty

OPERATORS set up Xiao An, a new humanoid traffic cop. The robot is being tested to see if it can direct traffic and spot people breaking rules, such as running red lights or not wearing helmets.

New York, USA


Getty

THE Patrouille de France, the aerobatic display team of the French air force, flies over the Hudson River as part of the USA's celebrations of 250 years of independence.

Glasgow, UK


Getty

JUST some of the exhibits on show at Barbie: The Exhibition at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. It features more than 250 objects from 1959 to the present day, and runs until 18 October.

FIRTH OF FORTH**Scottish seabirds protected**

Two Scottish islands have been bought to expand a wildlife sanctuary for seabirds. A partnership between the national bird charity RSPB Scotland and the Scottish Seabird Centre has secured nearly £1 million to buy the Bass Rock and Craigleith and pay for any urgent maintenance work. The aim is to restore the seabird population back to its former glory. Currently, more than seven-tenths of Scotland's seabirds are in decline, which includes birds such as puffins and gannets. The birds have faced threats from climate change, invasive species and the impact of human activity. Anne McCall, director of RSPB Scotland, said this comes at a "crucial time".

Holly Paget
Brown/RSPB

A puffin in flight

Greg Macvean

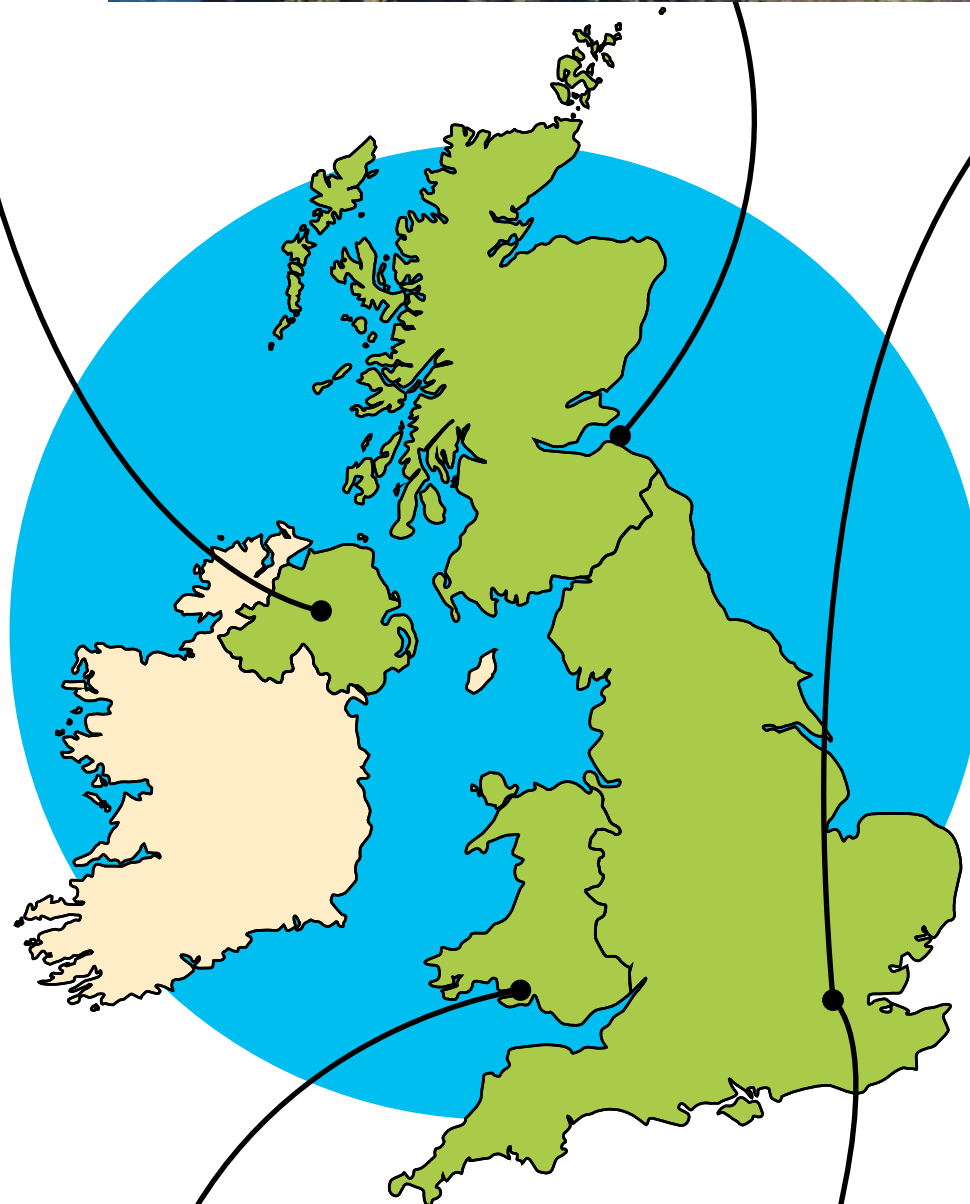
Gannets on the Bass Rock

Sam Udall-Smith
RSPB Scotland**COOKSTOWN****Teen tech stars triumph**

Two students from Northern Ireland have been named UK Young Technologists of the Year 2026 at the Big Bang Competition, a national contest for 11 to 18-year-olds. Daniel Brownlee and Luke Johnston, from Cookstown High School, won for creating *TrailTalk*, an app that uses AI to help travellers find experiences that match how they want to feel. The awards were announced at the Big Bang Fair. Other winners included a team of Year 7 pupils from Hexham Middle School in Northumberland, whose project explored a greener way to grow plants. Scottish student Kanav Jain also won for designing a low-cost aircraft to deliver emergency medical supplies.



Luke and Daniel

**LONDON****Jewish centre marks milestone**

A Jewish community centre in northwest London is inviting people to a special celebration on 28 June as it marks its 13th anniversary. JW3 will host a B'Mitzvah Party featuring live music and performances as part of its 'Bar Mitzvah year', marking the milestone of turning 13. The event will include a performance by the winner of Battle of the Bands 2026, a competition for young musicians. It follows a season of cultural events, including a concert celebrating 100 years of the London Jewish Male Choir, a showcase of Jewish punk music and a wide range of theatre, comedy and family activities.



Jane Hobson

One of the highlights of the past 13 years was the centre's first panto performance in 2023

SWANSEA**Dangerous turtle rescued**

A common snapping turtle has been rescued after being found in a popular woodland in Swansea. The reptile, which has powerful beak-like jaws and is native to North and Central America, was spotted in Penllergare Valley Woods early last week. Residents were warned to stay out of the water and keep their dogs away. The turtle was rescued by the National Centre for Reptile Welfare. Director Chris Newman said it had probably been abandoned by an "irresponsible owner". He warned that snapping turtles can deliver painful bites that would feel like "trapping your hand in a car door".



iStock

The species is also known as the American snapping turtle



ZSL

Visitors can get hands-on with the costumes

LONDON**The Lion King roars in**

Fans of Disney's *The Lion King* musical can get a closer look at the show in a new exhibition at London Zoo. The display features masks, puppets, costumes and props used in the famous West End production. Visitors can see designs for characters including Rafiki, Zazu, Simba, Nala and Mufasa, while learning how skilled workers create the show's striking animal costumes. Included with zoo admission, the exhibition offers a rare chance to see the musical's creations up close, away from the theatre stage. The *Lion King* exhibition at London Zoo runs until 31 August.

WORLD MUSIC DAY

21 June



THIS week (21 June) is your chance to celebrate World Music Day, whether that's listening to your favourite artist, learning about new instruments or exploring different genres from around the world. To mark the day, we teamed up with Decca Classics to discover more about a new symphonic fairy tale written by the world's most famous gaming composer, Nobuo Uematsu.

What is a symphonic fairy tale?

It's a story told through the use of different instruments. *Merregnon: Heart of Ice* by Nobuo Uematsu is all about Kjugo, a cheerful wooden robot who embarks on a journey across a frozen landscape in search of his creator, the inventor Nuobi. The land of Merregnon lies trapped in eternal winter under the rule of the bitter Ice Wind Dancer, forcing its people to live hidden beneath the snow. Each of the main characters is represented by their own musical motif (theme) that's played by the orchestra.



Is there a narrator?

Yes! The work features narration by award-winning actor Alicia Vikander, and is based on an original story by German author Frauke Angel. Alicia said: "I play a lot of music to my children, in the car and on the road, and then I tell stories with the music as a soundtrack. Even I get inspired!"



Who is Nobuo Uematsu?

Nobuo is a very famous composer, known for his work on videogames. He has reached audiences across the world with his creative and powerful music. "It is very fulfilling to be able to create melodies for an audience of young people around the world," he says. "This is such a charming story."

Where can I listen to *Merregnon: Heart of Ice*?

An album has been recorded at Abbey Road Studios with the London Symphony Orchestra and is available to buy now. The work is often performed in concert too, with the next one taking place in Paris, France, this month.



MERREGNON: *Heart of Ice* was inspired by *Peter and the Wolf* by composer Sergei Prokofiev. It's a classic symphonic tale for children, about a young boy called Peter trying to capture a wolf so that he can save his other animal friends.



MEET THE CHARACTERS



GOYAKAI
BRASS

Malicious Goyakai used her magical gong to freeze Merregnon in everlasting winter, forcing everyone to hide underground. Flying through the sky on howling winds, Goyakai is known – and feared – as the Ice Wind Dancer.



NUOBI
STRINGS

A mischievous inventor with a spring in his step and eyes that twinkle like a child's, Nuobi's love for Kjugo, and his unflinching hope for a better future, mean he will do anything to protect him.



KJUGO
WOODWIND

A joyful four-legged wooden robot, Kjugo is full of delight and eager to explore his brand-new world. Fearless and determined, Kjugo may only have a wooden heart, but he has a loving soul!



BERU
PERCUSSION

Roaming the icy wastes in search of her lost mistress, Beru, the stubborn and opinionated dog, demands Kjugo's help – but their shared adventures form an unlikely bond of friendship.



THE DREAM TEAM!

AS the FIFA World Cup grips the nation, WWF has unveiled its Wild XI, a dream team made up of some of the UK's most iconic species. Let's check out the team sheet...

- 1 Goalkeeper: hobby**
Small in size but lightning fast in the air, the hobby – a very swift falcon – is a natural shot-stopper.
- 2 Right back: hedgehog**
Prickly, determined and tough, the hedgehog will stand its ground well under pressure.
- 3 Centre back: red deer**
The red deer brings strength, resilience and staying power. As the UK's largest land mammal, it is built for physical contests!
- 4 Centre back: badger**
Low, tough and no-nonsense, the badger is the perfect creature to protect the back line.
- 5 Left back: white-tailed eagle**
Powerful, composed and impossible to ignore, the white-tailed eagle brings control and confidence.
- 6 Holding midfielder: beaver**
Built for teamwork and crucial to squad balance, the beaver holds everything together in midfield.
- 7 Box-to-box midfielder: otter**
Energetic, agile and endlessly adaptable, the otter will thrive in an environment where everything works together.
- 8 Right wing: peregrine falcon**
The fastest animal on Earth, the peregrine falcon attacks at extraordinary speed, spots openings in an instant and delivers with deadly precision.
- 9 Attacking midfield: brown hare**
Explosive and elusive, the brown hare is the team's playmaker. It's capable of reaching 45mph and leaves defenders trailing in its wake.
- 10 Left wing: swift**
The ultimate endurance player, the speedy and agile swift seems perfectly built for the full 90 minutes and more.



1. David Tipling/naturepl.com. 2. Kyle Smith/WWF-UK. 3. Shutterstock/arturasker/WWF. 4. naturepl.com/Paul Hobson/WWF. 5. Angelo Gandolfi/naturepl.com. 6. Jonathan Lewis. 7. David Tipling/naturepl.com/WWF. 8. Robin Chittenden/naturepl.com. 9. Andrew Parkinson. 10. Robin Chittenden/naturepl.com. 11. Andrew Parkinson. 12. Kari Schnellmann

11 Striker: red fox
Adaptable and always alert, the red fox is a born opportunist. With sharp instincts and brilliant awareness, it will read the game brilliantly.

which feels fitting, given the England team's German manager.

12 Manager: eagle owl
A commanding presence on the touchline, the eagle owl's deep, rich call cuts through the noise. Not native to the UK, they are found across Eurasia, including Germany,



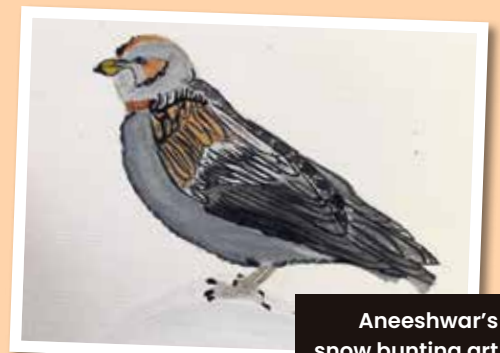
THIS summer, WWF is encouraging everyone to take a 20-minute nature break! You could head out for a walk, read a book under a tree or go for a kickabout in your local park.



ANEESHWAR'S WILDLIFE DIARY

ANEESHWAR Kunchala is an 11-year-old wildlife campaigner and officially the world's youngest newspaper columnist. He shot to fame as a finalist on *Britain's Got Talent* and is now a young documentary presenter. Check out Aneeshwar's column to discover all about his exciting wildlife stories!

A VISITOR ON A MISTY ARCTIC DAY



Aneeshwar's snow bunting art

I woke up on a misty day when the sun was in the sky and the snow peppered the mountains of Svalbard. I looked out of the window to see the polar landscape, when I saw a small white bird on the ground. It was gazing at me. It looked sort of like a finch, but with a bunting-like beak. Then it clicked: this was a snow bunting! It was white with chestnut brown feathers on its wings. It had pale yellow eyes and a fluffy body to insulate it from the cold. Then the little bird flew away and I knew today was going to be a good day. Snow buntings were some of my favourite creatures then, and I was so happy to see one.



THE snow bunting is very used to cold temperatures, as it breeds in locations around the Arctic!



Chester Zoo
Experts think they may find butterflies that can't be found anywhere else in the world!

Big butterfly survey starts

CHESTER Zoo has launched Madagascar's biggest ever butterfly survey.

Researchers have so far found 61 species, some of which could be new to science. Among the others seen are the Madagascan striped swordtail and the teardrop swallowtail. Pierre Razafindraibe, research leader in the island's Mangabe region, said: "Mangabe

is revealing more than we ever imagined... we will return to uncover what else this extraordinary forest is hiding. The real discovery may still be ahead of us."

The project has the aim of producing Madagascar's first official butterfly ID guide and helping to protect lots of beautiful and fragile species for years to come.



WINDRUSH DAY

22 June

THE STORY OF THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED BUILD MODERN BRITAIN



WINDRUSH Day is a chance to celebrate a generation of people who travelled from the Caribbean to Britain to help rebuild the country after World War Two. It's also a chance to reflect on the difficulties that many faced then and now.

■ What does the name Windrush refer to?

On 22 June 1948, HMT Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex. It was carrying thousands of people who had travelled from Caribbean countries including Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad to live and work in Britain. These people answered a call for help from the British government.

■ Why did the British government ask people to come?

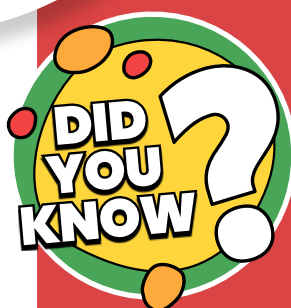
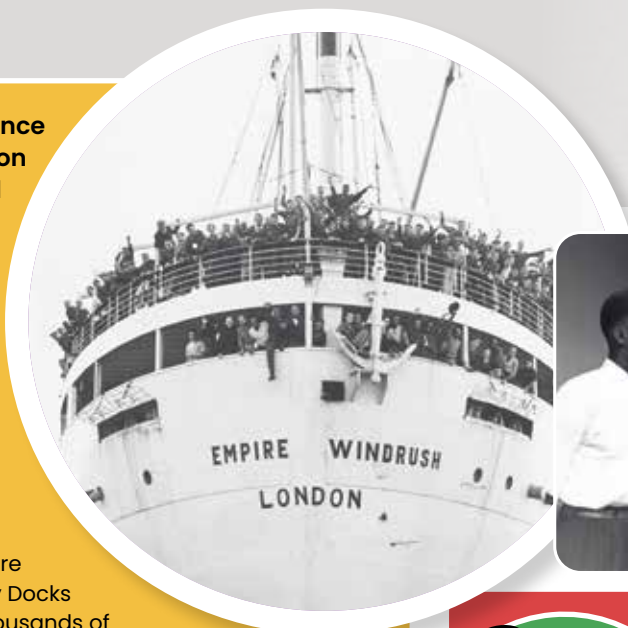
After World War Two, Britain had lots of damage to repair and not enough workers. The British government invited people from Caribbean countries (which were part of the British Empire) to come over and help, in return for a better life and permanent citizenship. They worked in important jobs including construction, manufacturing and public transport, as well as having roles in the National Health Service (NHS).

■ Did these people have a better life?

Unfortunately, many of those who arrived here experienced racist and unfair treatment because of the colour of their skin. They weren't paid well and struggled to find places to live. That was despite them doing so much for the country.

■ Why do we have Windrush Day?

The day was introduced to celebrate the amazing contribution the Windrush generation made to Britain. They helped build the NHS, grew our communities and brought different cultures, music, food and traditions. They also succeeded in sport, politics and television. The day highlights these achievements while also reminding us of the poor treatment some of these people faced and still continue to face today.



● THE HMT Empire Windrush carried around 1,027 passengers and two stowaways on its famous 1948 voyage.

● Caribbean migrants continued to arrive in Britain between 1948 and 1971. They are known as the Windrush generation.

● One passenger, Sam Beaver King, became the first black Mayor of Southwark in London and co-founded the first Caribbean-style carnival (before the Notting Hill Carnival).

● In 2017, the Windrush Scandal happened. Members of the Windrush generation were told they were not British citizens because they didn't have the correct paperwork and could be sent back to the Caribbean. The government later apologised.

● Windrush Day became an official national day in the UK in 2018, after a big campaign by Patrick Vernon, a political activist of Jamaican heritage.

● In 2024, a London Overground line was named the Windrush Line to honour the city's Caribbean community.

HOW CAN YOU CELEBRATE?

THERE are lots of ways you can get involved. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Read a book or watch a video about the Windrush generation to find out more about them.
- Try some Caribbean food, such as jerk chicken, rice and peas or patties.
- Listen to reggae, calypso or soca music, genres that came to the UK with Caribbean culture.
- Draw or write about what the Windrush generation means to you.
- Talk to a grandparent, neighbour or teacher about this time in history.
- Visit a local Windrush Day event if there is one near you.





ZOOM BUT NO BOOM!

NASA/lori Losey

The X-59 on its historic test flight where it broke the sound barrier for the first time



NASA'S experimental X-59 plane has carried out its first supersonic flight (faster than the speed of sound).

The sleek-looking aircraft reached Mach 1.1, which is around 713mph or 1,147km/h. The test pilot was Jim Less, nicknamed 'Clue' (Clue-less, geddit?), and he took the X-59 up to an altitude of 43,400ft (just over eight miles, or 13,228m).

Although military fighter jets can go much faster than the speed of sound, unless it's an emergency they're not supposed to do it over land. That's because hitting the speed of sound creates a 'sonic boom' that can create so much air pressure that it breaks windows in houses.

The aim of NASA's tests is to reduce this sonic boom to a "quiet thump" that would allow planes to go supersonic over land. NASA says this could halve the journey time of a plane crossing the US.

This month, NASA is hoping to take the X-59 to a

cruising speed of Mach 1.4 (925mph). That's the speed that will be used when the plane flies over several communities in the US to see what residents think.

So far, NASA hasn't said much about the X-59's environmental impact. Supersonic jets use more fuel and carry fewer people than standard passenger planes, so supersonic travel is likely to remain something that's only available to the wealthy.

Many within NASA say their concerns have been silenced, and lots of experts think that the organisation should be focusing more attention on projects that reduce emissions from flight. NASA told us in 2023 that it is "directly addressing climate and ozone impacts of future supersonic aircraft". When we asked for more details on that work last week, we were only given vague promises of a test this summer that will "optimise performance at supersonic cruise conditions."



Yeager with the Bell X-1

THE first person to ever fly a plane faster than the speed of sound was the legendary US test pilot Chuck Yeager. In 1947 he took the rocket-powered Bell X-1 past the sound barrier, but that was just one exciting moment in a life that was full of them. In World War Two, Yeager was a fighter pilot who shot down 13 enemy aircraft, including five on one mission. In 1944 he was shot down over German-occupied France, but managed to escape over the Spanish border.

Mini moon rover

THE moon could soon be covered with rovers that are so small they could fit in the palm of your hand.

Scientists say that the tiny LEV-2 rover that trundled around the moon in January 2024 had a successful test run. Although it only operated for 100 minutes before losing connection to the bigger LEV-1 rover, scientists say that LEV-2 could be really useful for exploring craters, caves or small tunnels that larger rovers can't get into.

The LEV (Lunar Excursion Vehicle) system was designed so that LEV-1 can communicate with Earth, while LEV-2 sends back pictures and other data to LEV-1.

LEV-2 starts off as a sphere just 8cm in diameter, but then cleverly expands into a two-wheeled rover with a 'tail' that helps to keep it stable. The wheels can turn in two different ways depending on the terrain, and by turning in opposite directions the rover can spin round.

Cheap and cheerful

One of the reasons why scientists like the LEV-2 is because of its size and low cost. Since it's really expensive to launch things to the moon, the smaller and lighter something is, the cheaper it is to fire into space.

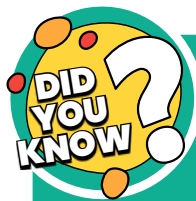
The LEV rovers were launched from a spaceship called SLIM, which was designed to carry out a very accurate landing on the moon's surface. Many previous moon landings have only been able to target an area several kilometres wide, even up to 10km, but SLIM narrowed down its landing zone to just 100m.

The main aim of the LEVs was to take images of SLIM's landing site, so that operators could work out how successful the touchdown was. On future missions, teams of LEV-2s could be pootling around the moon and helping us to see parts of it that we've never seen before.



LEV-2 transforms from a sphere (left) into a two-wheeled rover. Check the *First News* app for a cool video showing how it works!

D Hirano



THE LEV-2 was developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), with help from researchers at Sony and the toy company TOMY!

This report is from the Science Museum in London

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

"HELLO, I am Macintosh. It sure is great to get out of that bag!"

These were the words 'spoken' by the first Apple Macintosh computer when it was demonstrated by Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple, in 1984.

This 42-year-old computer has just 128 kilobytes of memory. That might sound like a lot, but a single photo taken on a modern smartphone is bigger than all of this computer's storage! In fact, today's phones have millions of times more memory than this Macintosh computer.

But, with its sharp graphics and user-friendly design, the computer was still groundbreaking for the time. You can see it in the Information Age gallery at the Science Museum in London.



An Apple Macintosh desktop computer from 1984

Science Museum Group

THE BIG PICTURE



Gunnar Hartmann

AT first glance, you might think this flock of northern bald ibises are being bothered by the two humans in the odd contraption flying behind them.

The reality is quite the opposite, as the woman at the back of the ultralight aircraft is Helena Wehner, an Austrian conservation scientist and the birds' foster parent. She's using the megaphone to call out a "rhythmic German tune" to help guide the birds on their winter migration. As the ibises were hand-raised, they're perfectly happy to follow their human foster mother through the air.

The migration from southeast Germany to southwest Spain is a mammoth 2,800km (1,740-mile) journey that takes 50 days and a lot of planning.

The picture was taken by Gunnar Hartmann, a student at the University of Koblenz in Germany, who helped to plan the trip as part of the Waldrappteam, an Austrian conservation group that is boosting the population of bald ibis in Europe. His snap has just been revealed as the winner of the 2026 Scientist at Work photography competition, which is run by the science journal *Nature*.



CANADA



Pilot flew over 900 flights without a proper licence

A pilot has been charged after it emerged he flew Air Canada passenger jets for 17 years without the correct licence. Geoffrey Wall, aged 59, is said to have flown thousands of passengers on over 900 flights, earning millions of dollars to do so. Air Canada dropped

him last year after discovering he had forged (faked) documents since being promoted to captain in 2009. It says that passenger safety was never at risk, because pilots undergo skill checks every six months. Wall, who joined the airline in 1998, will appear in court on 29 June.

SPAIN

Tourist numbers hit new high

Experts think 100 million tourists could visit Spain this year, after 2025 saw a record 97 million visitors to the country. They think conflict in the Middle East is putting holidaymakers off countries such as Dubai, Turkey and Cyprus. The number of passengers using Dubai International Airport plummeted in March. However, lots of Spanish people worry about the impact that tourist numbers have on their home towns. A 2025 survey found over a quarter of the population have a negative view of foreign tourism, more than any other country in Europe.



Have you been to Spain?

CHILE



Food in schools is now healthier than before

Targeting junk food helps kids be healthier

Laws that restricted the advertising of junk food to kids have had a small but important effect on the health of Chile's children. A new study in medical journal *The Lancet* looked at new rules brought in by the government in 2016. The Food Labelling and Advertising Law forces

companies to put warning labels on the front of packets if the food is high in sugar, saturated fat, salt or calories, and restricts their sale in schools. Researchers found a "modest" reduction in obesity since then, but say that it could have "meaningful long-term health benefits".

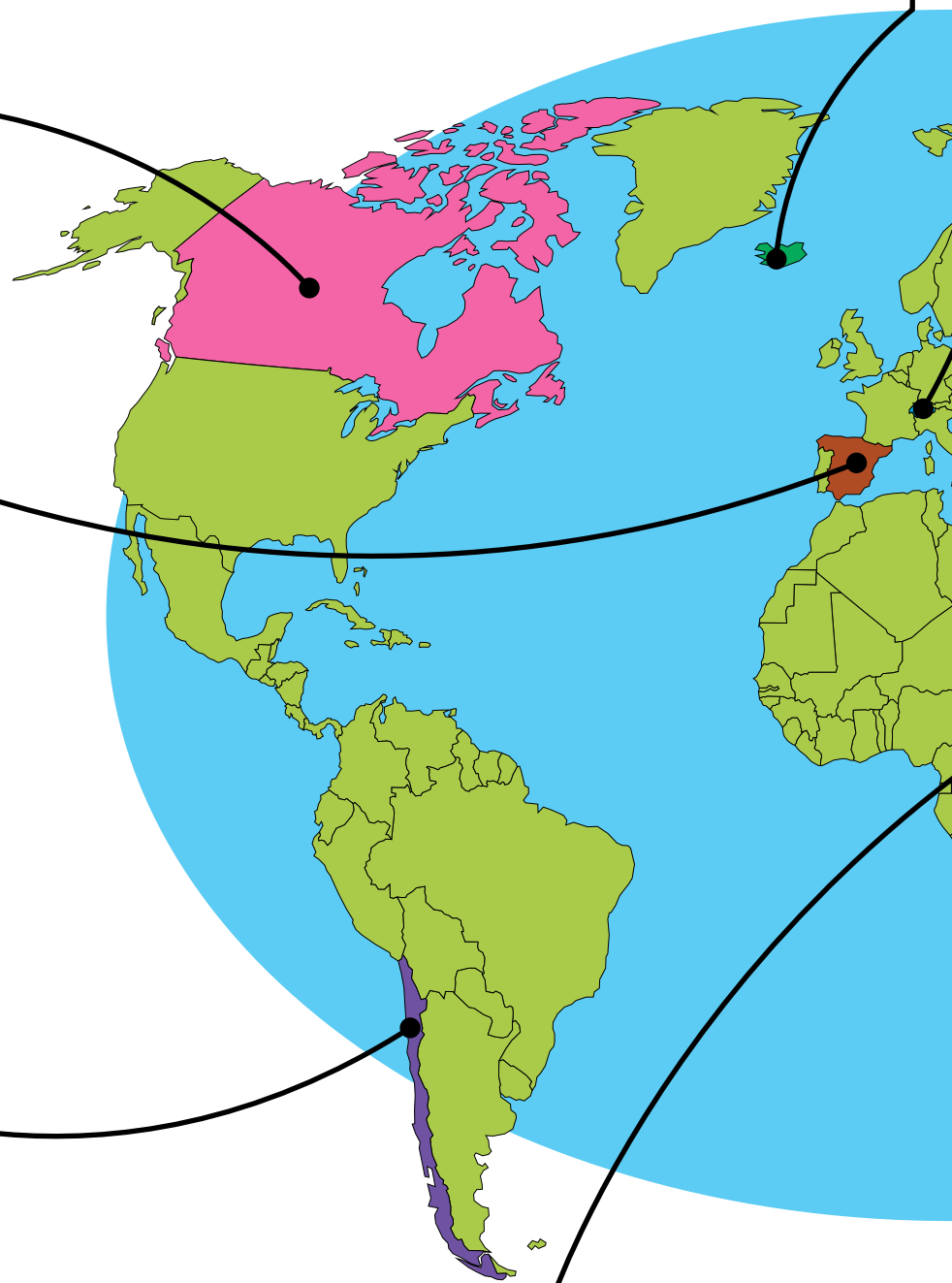
ICELAND

Iceland keeps its crown!

Iceland has been ranked the most peaceful country in the world for the 19th year in a row. The world's leading measure of global peacefulness, the Global Peace Index, ranks countries by their levels of conflict, weapons and crime. It ranks the UK as the 39th most peaceful country in the world, out of 163 territories in total. The other nations in the top five with Iceland are New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia and Ireland. Russia, which is at war with Ukraine, is bottom of the list.



Iceland is a nice land!



OMAN

Another tanker's crew were all saved



Indian crewmen killed after US forces strike tanker

Three members of an all-Indian crew were killed when US forces attacked their tanker in the Gulf of Oman. The other 21 men aboard the MT Settebello were rescued. US officials said the crew had ignored their orders and were "attempting to transport oil from Iran". The US was blocking ships from sailing to and from Iran as part of its war against the country (see p4). Earlier in the week, an entire crew of 24 Indian men was rescued from another sinking tanker that was struck by US forces.

SWITZERLAND

Idea to cap population at ten million is rejected

Switzerland has decided against capping its population at ten million people, after a public vote was held on Sunday (14 June). The cap had been championed by the Swiss People's Party, which said it would protect the country's roads, public transport and housing. Critics said it would prevent Switzerland from importing skilled workers from abroad. The population stands at 9.1 million people, with foreigners making up over a quarter of them.



JAPAN



Officials used drones to find the bear

Black bear caught after four-day hunt

A black bear who was spotted multiple times roaming freely around a city near Tokyo for four days was finally caught last week. Residents of Utsunomiya saw it near homes, swimming in rivers and climbing fences between Saturday 6 June and Tuesday 9 June. All of the city's

94 primary and middle schools shut, and the public were told to keep their doors and windows locked. The bear was finally tranquillised in an area of the city south of the main railway station, Utsunomiya East Police said. Japan has experienced a rise in bear attacks in recent years.

CHINA

BYD bids to become world's top car company

Chinese car maker BYD has set itself the target of becoming the top motor company in the world in the next five years. It's already the world's top electric vehicle company and sold 4.8 million cars in 2025. Now, it's targeting taking overall top spot from Toyota, which sold 11.3m vehicles last year. To help, BYD has said it's going to spend £1.8 billion to install its "flash chargers" across Europe, which can charge its new cars in just five minutes.



BYD has opened a new car plant in Hungary to help sell its vehicles in Europe

AUSTRALIA



It's said to be Australia's largest ever seizure of exotic bugs

100,000 live cockroaches seized

Australian officials confiscated 100,000 live cockroaches from a breeder in the state of New South Wales. They included the dubia cockroach and the Madagascar hissing cockroach, which is one of the largest species in the world and around twice the size of the common Australian cockroach.

The country has strict rules on what animals people are allowed to keep, in order to protect its native plants and wildlife, and both of the large species the breeder had are illegal. Officials suspect he was breeding and selling them as reptile food. He was let off without punishment.



INDONESIA

Rare parrot seen once in 100 years is spotted again



A rare parrot that had only been photographed once in 100 years has been snapped once more by bird experts in Indonesia. The blue-fronted lorikeet, native to Buru, is found nowhere else on the planet. It has a bright green body, orange bill, blue head and a pointed tail. The team also captured recordings of the bird's distinctive calls. It lives in high in mountains that are very hard to climb, but team member James Eaton said: "To actually photograph our holy grail suddenly made all the hardships disappear."



JONO BECOMES **ICON**



All pics: Guinness World Records



JONATHAN the tortoise, believed to be 194 years old, has been named a Guinness World Records **ICON**.

The Seychelles giant tortoise is recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living land animal. He lives on the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean.

Jonathan arrived on St Helena in 1882 and has become one of the island's most famous residents. He has appeared in wedding photographs, met royalty and delighted visitors from around the world.

His exact age is unknown, but experts believe he was born around 1832. Guinness World Records says that is an estimate and that he could be even older.

'Jono' was chosen as one of the latest Guinness World Records **ICONS**, a title given to record-breakers whose achievements have inspired people around the world. Check out another new icon below!

We doubt that Jonathan will celebrate too hard. At 194, he might prefer an early night!

YOU don't get more iconic than **Hari Budha Magar!**

The Nepalese double amputee holds the Guinness World Records title for the first double above-knee amputee to climb the Seven Summits (with Mont Blanc as one).

He lost both his legs above the knee in 2010 while serving for the British Army.

Hari said that receiving **ICON** recognition "is a chance to help make people more aware of disability and what people can achieve."



Hari reaches new heights

JOKE OF THE WEEK

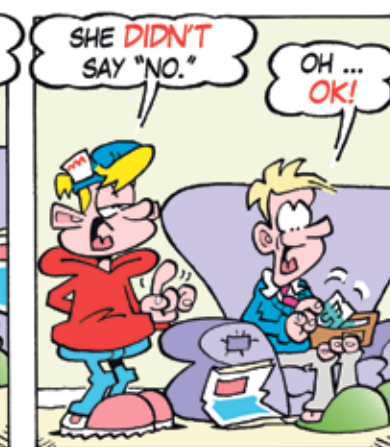
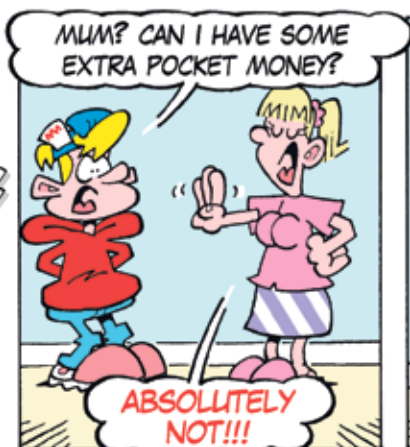
haha ha



My friend and I went to a turtle pun class yesterday. It tortoise nothing!

PAPER BOY!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





IS IT FAKE OR FACT?

CAN you tell if a story is the real deal or made up? Every week, we'll be challenging you to see if you can sniff out the news from the nonsense! See what you think of this story, then turn the page upside down to see if you were right.

SURF'S UP FOR PUPS!



IT may be International Surfing Day on 20 June but did you know that there's a World Dog Surfing Championships in August? Pet dogs and their human pals are invited to take to the seas to show off their most impressive surfboard skills. The competition is based in California and there are categories for dogs from 'small' to 'very large'.

Get yourself a free copy of our updated 28-page special edition, all about making sense of the news, how to spot bias, fake news and much more! Go to first.news/fake-news



This story is **FACT**. On 1 August, surfer dogs will head to the California coast for these unusual championships. It's all just for fun though, with some of the money raised going to local charities.

IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



CHARLIE MACKESY



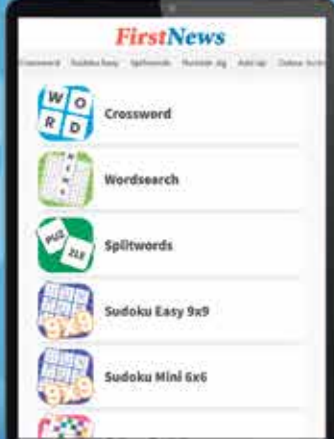
MINIONS & MONSTERS



CARNEGIES BOOK WINNERS

FirstNews

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THE TOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!



All pics: © 2025 Disney/Pixar. All Rights Reserved.
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PREPARE for madness, mayhem and movie magic! Adam Tanswell heads behind the camera to bring you the lowdown on the new Pixar blockbuster *Toy Story 5*.

TOYS VS TECHNOLOGY

All of your favourite Pixar characters are back for more animated adventures, but this time, there are some nifty new gadgets on the block. In the story, Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie, Hamm and Rex come face-to-face with modern tech toys, including a tablet called Lilypad and a toilet-training device called Potty.

BUZZ OFF

Actors Tom Hanks and Tim Allen return to the big screen to voice Woody and Buzz, but did you know that the duo never stepped into the recording studio together for the film? "Their schedules were so hard that we couldn't make it work," explains the movie's director, Andrew Stanton. "We did it once in the first movie, but never again."



CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Many of the actors visited Pixar's headquarters near San Francisco, California, to record their lines for the fifth movie. "We have a great recording studio at Pixar," reveals producer Lindsey Collins. "A lot of actors love to come and spend the day there. It's super fun."

POTTY MOUTH

One of the new characters in the film is a toilet-training tech toy called Potty. "This idea cracked me up," admits Stanton. "It made me laugh so much. I thought: 'What a useless device.' I love the design of Potty and the fact that it only has two buttons: number one and number two. Think about it!"

KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Eagle-eyed film fans know to keep their eyes peeled for Easter eggs in every Pixar film. "All of the old favourites are there," confirms Stanton. This includes the Pizza Planet truck and a reference to A113, which is the number of a classroom where lots of the Pixar team studied. There's also a hidden reference to the next Pixar movie, *Gatto*.

SCREEN TIME

If you're interested in spotting secret Easter eggs, keep an eye on the screen of the new tablet character called Lilypad. "There are a lot of scenes where she's sifting through apps," reveals co-director Kenna Harris. "Watch closely because there are references to *Gatto*, as well as a lot of past *Toy Story* films there."



TO THE RESCUE

"I also knew I wanted to see 50 Buzz Lightyears in the movie," giggles Stanton. "Or at least a horde of them. I thought it would be fun if all 50 of them wake up after a crash or a shipwreck, not knowing where they were or what's going on. That idea cracked me up." Calamity and chaos ensues in the story – to infinity and beyond!



Catch *Toy Story 5* in cinemas now!

BITE-SIZED NEWS



● **Myles Smith releases first album**
Myles Smith is officially releasing his first album, called *My Mess, My Heart, My Life*. The album will feature some of the singer's hit tracks, including *Stargazing*, *Nice To Meet You* and *Gold*. Myles is currently on a huge tour, heading to the US and Canada this week before returning to the UK in October.

● **Major Disney live arena tour to hit the UK next year**
A huge new Disney live event – the *Disney Worlds Collide Concert Tour* – is coming to the UK and Europe for the first time in 2027! The concert brings together three of Disney's biggest live-action music shows, *Descendants*, *ZOMBIES* and *Camp Rock*, with hit songs, choreography, special effects and appearances from stars of the films! Find out more at WorldsCollideTourEurope.com.



● **The Cat in the Hat is coming to cinemas on 6 November!**

A new trailer and poster have been unveiled for the hotly anticipated *The Cat in the Hat* movie! In the film, our hero takes on his toughest assignment yet for the I.I.I.I. (Institute for the Institution of Imagination and Inspiration, LLC): to cheer up Gabby and Sebastian, a pair of siblings struggling with their move to a new town. Wait for the craziness to unfold!



THE BIG PICTURE



Getty

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Lviv, Ukraine, take part in a tag rugby competition at Yunist Stadium.

Although schools in the country are trying hard to carry on as normal, the war in Ukraine has now dragged on for longer than the First World War.

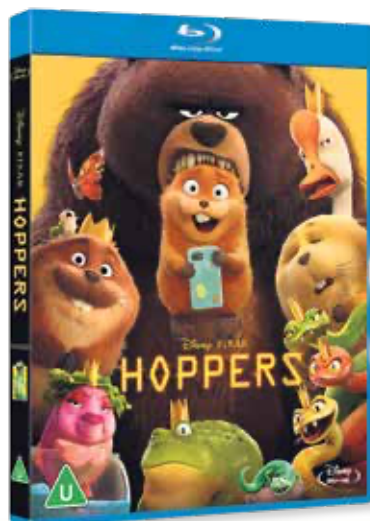
Military strategy expert Frank Ledwidge said last week that the deciding factor in the war could be manpower. Although much of the focus of the war has been on how drones have changed the modern battlefield, Ledwidge says that "drones, missiles and aircraft can destroy, disrupt and delay, but ground can only be taken and held by troops".

WIN! DISNEY AND PIXAR'S HOPPERS GOODIES!

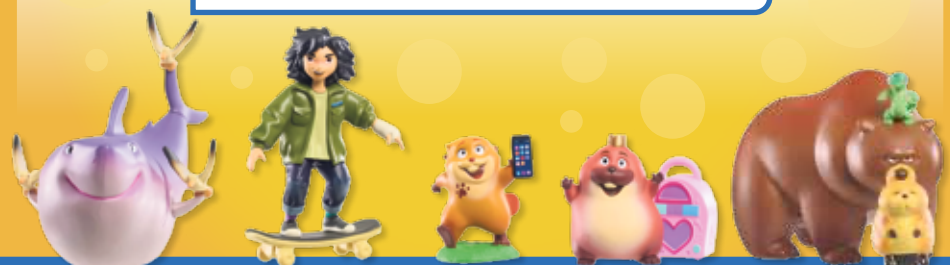
TO celebrate the release of Disney and Pixar's *HOPPERS*, out now on 4K Ultra HD™ SteelBook, Blu-ray™ and DVD, we're giving three lucky *First News* readers the chance to win a copy of the movie on Blu-ray™ and a Just Play Hoppers figurine set.

The movie sees animal lover Mabel Tanaka seize an opportunity to use a new technology to 'hop' her consciousness into a lifelike robotic beaver and communicate directly with animals. As she uncovers mysteries in the animal world beyond anything she could have imagined, Mabel must rally the entire animal kingdom to face a major human threat that's on the way.

To win these amazing prizes, just answer this question:



What is the king beaver in *Hoppers* called?
 a) King Mabel b) King George c) King Kong



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY HOPPERS

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 3 July.

WIN! A COPY OF ROBOTS STOLE MY MUM!

COULD your mum secretly be a robot? Sandy thinks so!

Something very strange is happening in the town of Cleeby. The grown-ups are acting weird, people are disappearing, and Sandy is convinced there's only one explanation: evil robots have taken over! With his best friend Arjan and a friendly cyborg called Colin, Sandy sets out on a hilarious mission to save his mum, stop a robot army and uncover the sinister secrets of Tony's Toasters.

Packed with laugh-out-loud moments, jet boots, lasers, robot whales and even mountains of puffin poo, *Robots Stole My Mum!* by Alex Kirk is a brilliantly funny adventure that races along from start to finish. Written by a member of the creative team behind *Wonka* and *Paddington 2*, it's the perfect read for fans of Pamela Butchart and anyone who loves silly, action-packed stories.

We're giving away ten books, so just answer this question for your chance to win one:



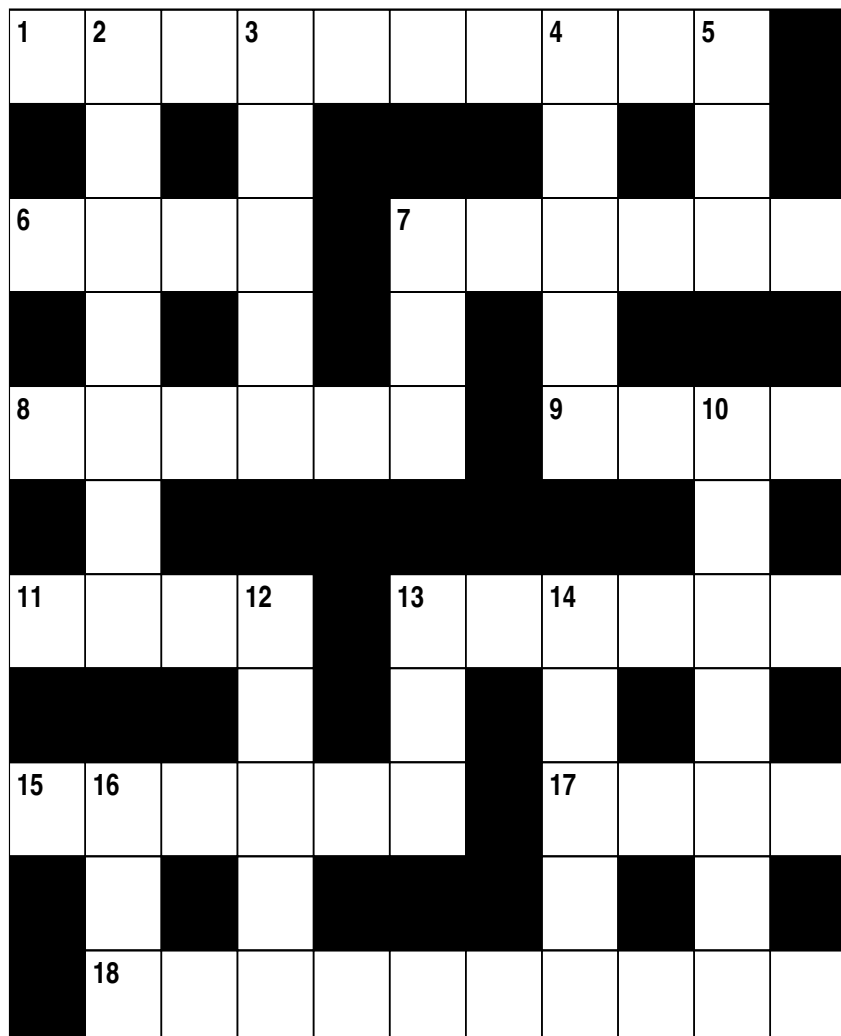
What town features in *Robots Stole My Mum!*?
 a) Clever b) Clover c) Cleeby

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ROBOT

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 3 July.

CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

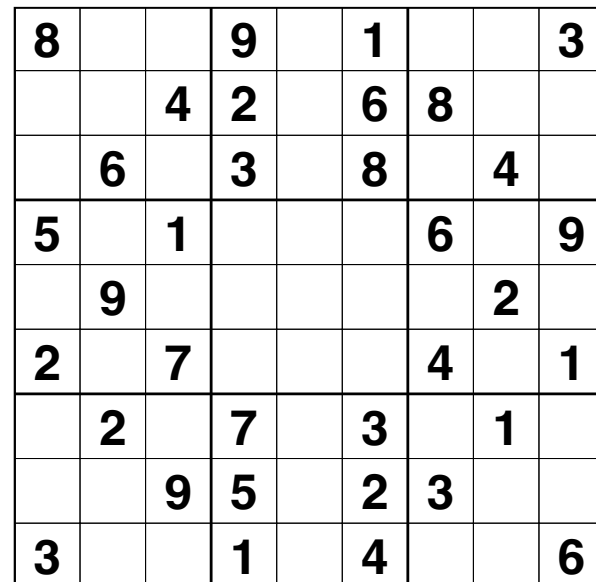
- 1) Instrument that makes things look bigger (10)
- 6) Facts and statistics (4)
- 7) Type of cake (6)
- 8) Hear (6)
- 9) Depend on (4)
- 11) Animals that are kept at home (4)
- 13) Feeling the need for food (6)
- 15) E.g. Mars or Jupiter (6)
- 17) People who work on a boat (4)
- 18) Overstate (10)

DOWN

- 2) Picture something in your mind (7)
- 3) A traditional type of Sunday dinner (5)
- 4) A distinctive smell (5)
- 5) Food item laid by a hen (3)
- 7) Our star (3)
- 10) Biggest (7)
- 12) _____ Claus: Christmas visitor (5)
- 13) Very warm (3)
- 14) More pleasant (5)
- 16) A false statement (3)

Sudoku

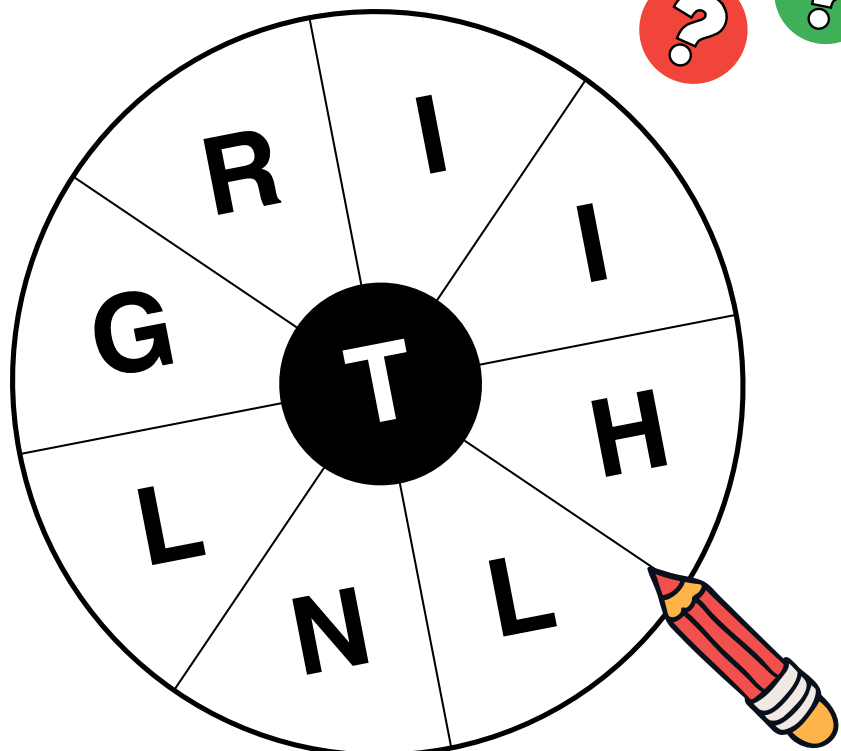
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?



COMPETITIONS: To enter, email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box or visit first.news/comps. *First News* competitions are only open to those aged 15 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 selected at random from all those with the correct answer. No purchase necessary. *First News* will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be securely passed on to the person who is providing the prize so they can post it out to you. If you are contacted but don't reply within 28 days, we may offer the prize to another entrant. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition. Your personal data will be held for a maximum of 12 months after the competition and then destroyed. It will not be used for any other purpose unless you have given us permission. If you would like your data deleted before this, please do get in touch with us. You have the right to complain to the ICO if you believe there is a problem with the way your data has been handled.

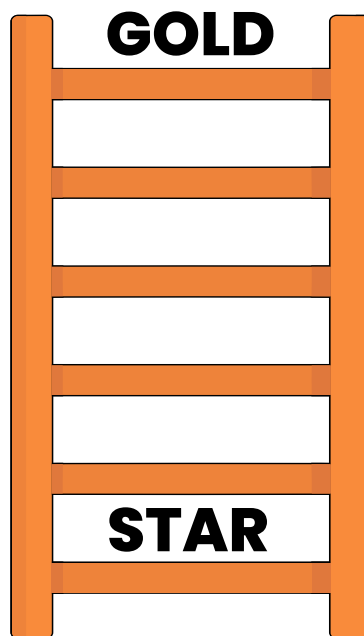
Word wheel

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



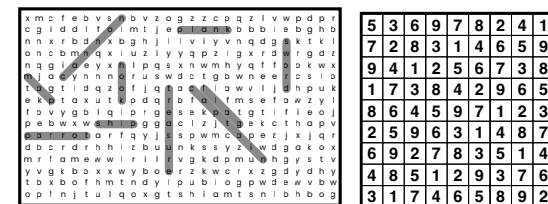
Word ladder

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



ISSUE 1,043 ANSWERS:

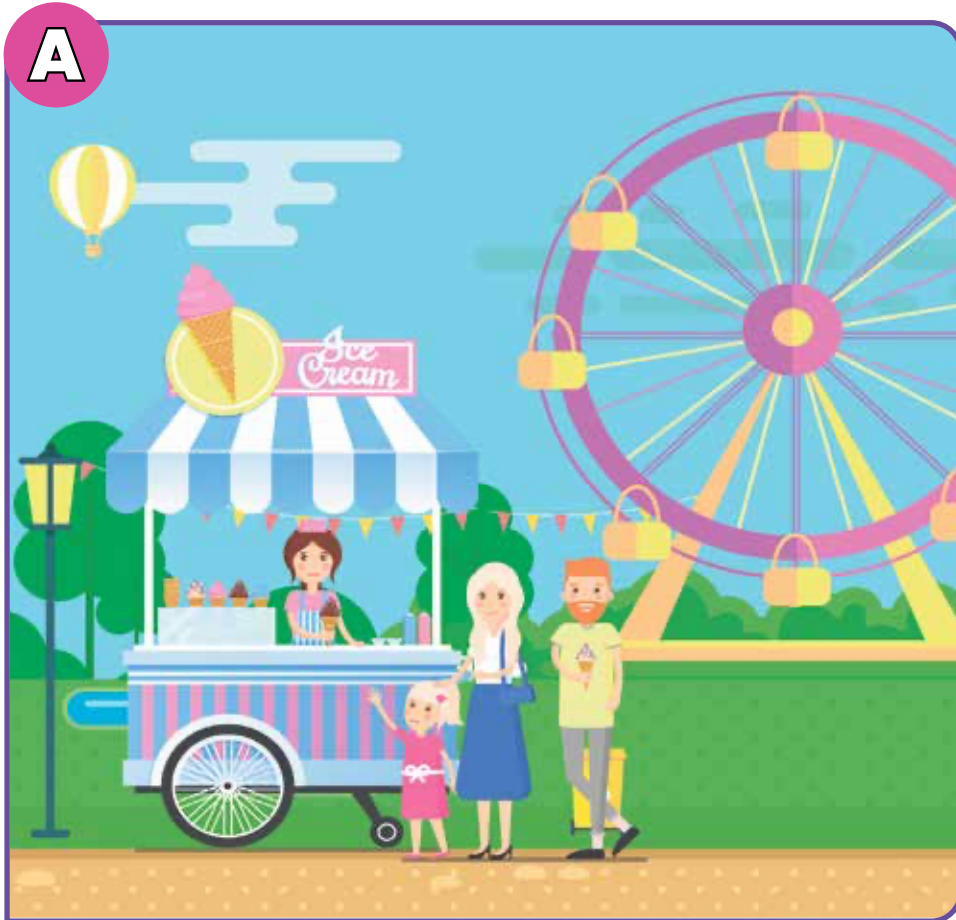
- Word wheel:** effective.
- Word ladder:** make, fake, fame, fume, fuse, fuss.
- Spot the difference:**
 - 1) Yellow flower missing on water
 - 2) Bird missing
 - 3) Frog missing
 - 4) Dragonfly's wing spot is a different colour
 - 5) Extra seagull
 - 6) Extra tree on the left
 - 7) Duck is facing the other way in the bottom left corner
 - 8) New frog at the top above the black duck
 - 9) Bush at the top is darker
 - 10) Seagull missing its tail.



Enjoying the puzzles? See the *First News* app for more fun, quizzes and games! This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you find the ten changes we've made to this summery scene?



Wordsearch

CAN you find all of these ice cream flavours? Tick them off as you go!



- Mint
- Strawberry
- Bubblegum
- Vanilla
- Chocolate
- Pistachio
- Brownie
- Raspberry
- Lemon
- Mango



v	b	i	b	x	m	c	p	k	p	v	v	a	l	c	j	x	o	x	p	v	q	b	b	u	v	r	g
i	k	g	x	r	v	f	v	o	s	a	a	l	s	f	u	m	l	d	l	s	o	x	d	l	w	i	o
r	g	r	h	s	o	o	n	v	b	n	b	h	e	n	n	o	b	b	f	r	k	f	m	g	n	r	w
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a	k	m	r	o	s	m	n	u	k	l	t	f	i	k	a	j	n	d	c	m	k	o	a	b	a	o	i
k	a	i	b	a	k	t	n	i	v	l	m	n	u	a	k	t	y	e	f	g	i	l	b	a	u	w	u
r	f	a	u	f	r	o	r	c	e	a	w	n	u	b	a	o	f	j	r	o	y	n	z	f	x	v	l
t	z	q	b	b	j	l	h	a	h	z	i	c	o	y	s	f	s	h	p	q	p	d	t	r	z	t	e
c	x	j	b	v	l	s	m	s	w	q	u	x	s	d	i	k	x	o	q	t	u	j	j	a	p	l	m
x	w	o	l	h	j	m	x	j	o	b	l	f	f	o	r	u	l	f	t	y	k	u	l	s	u	d	o
y	d	g	e	h	j	p	p	z	g	n	e	c	w	k	q	b	h	s	i	c	c	k	a	p	j	i	n
t	e	z	g	h	l	m	a	n	g	o	z	r	j	o	i	a	n	b	w	i	l	v	y	b	w	g	q
x	d	c	u	b	t	z	o	i	w	h	z	b	r	i	j	a	r	z	d	b	z	f	y	e	w	j	g
m	b	z	m	h	a	g	n	e	l	t	c	z	c	y	p	i	s	t	a	h	i	o	r	c	k	w	
r	w	s	c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	i	x	r	q	q	a	u	y	w	b	f	p	r	j	t	f
m	i	z	v	z	v	s	g	z	y	t	g	j	c	v	g	c	l	r	y	v	z	t	g	y	l	k	v



STEP INTO THE UNDERWORLD!

MEET Demise! No, not your demise... **this** Demise, the ambitious and accident-prone star of Jamie Gregory's ghoulishly good book, *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld!*



DRAW DEMISE

FIVE MINUTES WITH...



● Hi, Jamie. This story is such an original idea! How did it come to you?

It started with me doodling the main character, Demise. I thought he was super appealing and that kids would love him. I thought of the title, *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld*, very quickly and worked back from there, asking questions like: what exactly is he guarding? The world really took shape from that.

● How much fun was it creating your own weird version of the underworld?

So much fun! I've included Hades and Cerberus [a three-headed dog] from Greek mythology, but also added dragons, golems and a totally made up creature called a blogg. It means I can have a lot of creative fun and there's no risk of running out of ideas.

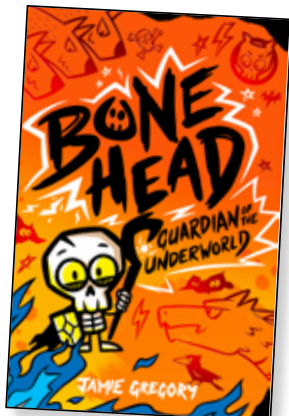
● Tell us about the style you used to illustrate it...

I like to illustrate with thick bold lines and simplify the lines or features as much as possible. I think the simpler the character, the easier it is for others to draw and the more memorable it's likely to be.

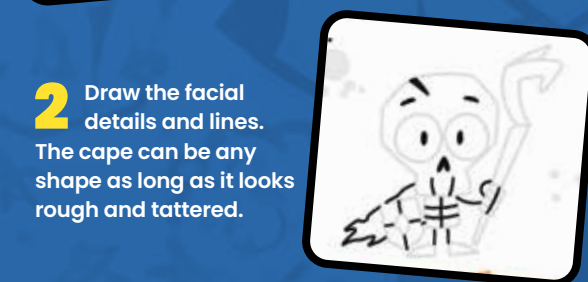
● What's your top tip for surviving in the underworld?

Get a job within the relative safety of Hades' fortress. Not looking after Cerberus though. Avoid him at all costs!

Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld by Jamie Gregory is out now.



1 Begin with two circles for the eyes, then draw the head around them. The other shapes can then be drawn in any order.



2 Draw the facial details and lines. The cape can be any shape as long as it looks rough and tattered.



3 Colour the cape and staff in black. This will hide the shapes you used to construct the staff.



4 Finally, thicken some lines to make him bolder – try just his outlines and eyes but leave the other details. Then add some colour!

WOULD YOU RATHER...

DEMISE is one of the minions who guards the gates to the fortress of Hades, the lord of the Underworld, but he's got his big yellow eyes on a bigger prize.

He'll do anything to move up in the underworld and get the fame and favour he thinks he deserves, even if it risks the fury of his grumpy boss, Mort.

His journey involves tasks that are either dull or dreadfully deadly. Imagine spending a day in Demise's bones – which jobs would you rather do?

1

Polish the fortress gates



OR

Duel with a blogg (a frog that vomits red-hot goo)



2

Study the *Bestiary* (book of beasts)



OR

Shovel the poo of the three-headed dog Cerberus



3

Shoo away 'air vermin' (crows)



OR

Battle an enormous dragon



Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



Father figures

THERE'S lots on this Sunday (21 June) – it's the longest day of the year, there's World Cup action on the telly, plus it's Fathers' Day, too! That's why all the books in this week's list feature dads and male carers.



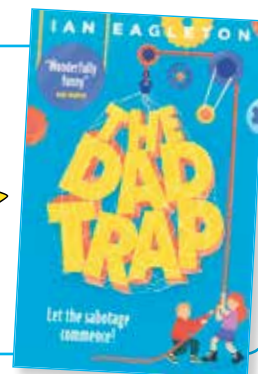
Honey, I Ate The Kids: Weird And Wonderful Animal Families by Mike Hills, illustrated by Kerry Hyndman

Explore this insider's guide to nature's weirdest families, from fiercely protective frog parents to Komodo dragons that... ahem... eat their own babies.



The Dad Trap by Ian Eagleton

William and Florence must put their differences aside and work together to split up their dads and avoid becoming step-siblings!



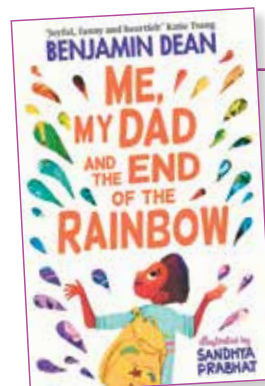
Maisie vs Antarctica by Jack Jackman

Maisie and her "boring" dad crash-land into Antarctica and must survive the frozen lands. But her dad has an impossible secret that proves he's anything but "boring"...



Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boykind and pretends to be a father in order to join a space mission.



Me, My Dad and the End of The Rainbow by Benjamin Dean

When he overhears his dad's big secret, Archie sets off on a joyful, rainbow-filled journey to support his old man.



EPIC ADVENTURES IN WARTIME LONDON!

SET in 1941, Tony Bradman's new series features the action-packed adventures of Jimmy and his East End pals, who embark on top-secret missions to help London's war effort and save their city. *First News* asked Tony all about it!

● **Hi, Tony! Introduce us to Jimmy and your new series.**

Jimmy is desperate to help fight the war. No-one's interested in kids, but he does it anyway. He's got a heart of gold, he's creative, but he's incredibly disobedient; he takes it for granted that he can just leave school during the day! There are three stories in each book, and two more books coming.

● **Like Jimmy, your parents were kids in London during World War Two. That must have been helpful for writing the book?**

They were both born in 1925, so would have been 13 or 14 at the start of the war. My mum spoke about when London was bombed every night, and sheltering in the Tube. She was

evacuated to Kent and hated it. Later, they joined the forces. My mum joined the Wrens (Women's Royal Naval Service), and my dad joined the Navy and was on HMS Belfast!

● **How would you have handled living in wartime London?**

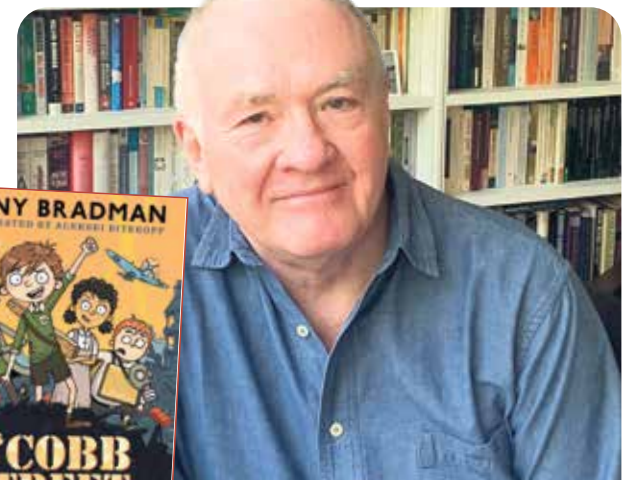
I'd have done my best, you know? One of the things about that period was it was drama every day. People would go out and come back later, not knowing whether their house is still going to be there after an air raid. I'm always amazed by the courage and good humour and strength of all those people. I hope I could live up to their standards.

● **You've been writing children's books for more than 40 years! How have books changed in that time? Have you changed your writing style over the years?**

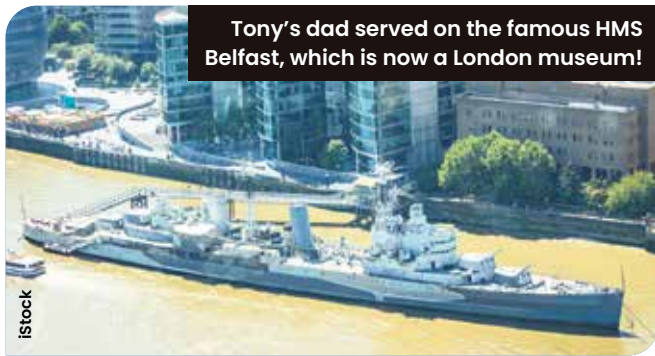
I started off writing poetry and picture books because I was reading a lot of it to my kids. I crept up the age range as my kids got older! I wrote a book called *Viking Boy*, which was really successful in schools and that's how I've ended up the last 15 years focusing on history. It's interesting, people talk a lot now about literacy problems because of screens, short-form video, TikTok... I think it might pass. I go into schools just full of books, and full of kids interested in books. We all love stories and there are so many great books out there.



Getty



Tales of The Cobb Street Commandos by Tony Bradman (above) is out now



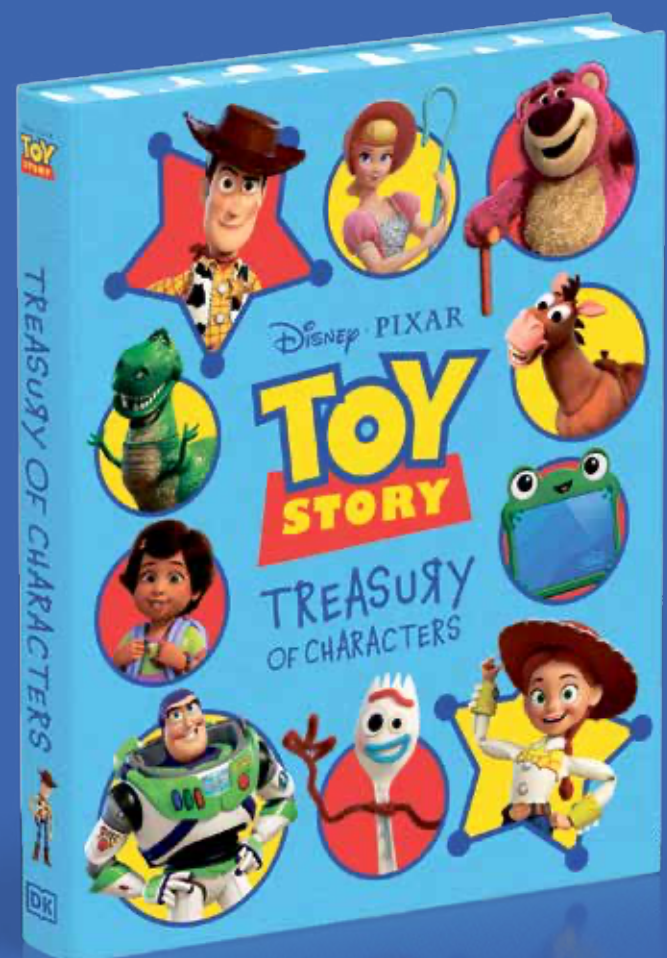
Tony's dad served on the famous HMS Belfast, which is now a London museum!

Istock



EXPLORE THE WORLD OF DISNEY PIXAR TOY STORY

Step into the excitement of Andy's toybox and discover fascinating facts about your favourite toys, old and new!





HELLO! I'm Charlie, the leader of the *First News Your News* pages.

This week, Lyam tells us about his school's awesome fundraiser and Kian hops on his broomstick for a magical weekend away.

On the opposite page, Thomas talks about his love of basketball, Rahul meets Tweedy at his circus and Muneeba joins the launch of an exciting new UK music programme.

If you want to be a junior journalist for *First News* and go to cool press events or write about something that you're passionate about, get in touch by asking a trusted adult to email us at yournews@firstnews.co.uk.

We can't wait to hear from you!

BIKES, TRIKES AND SCOOTERS

GREENVALE in London is a school for children with a range of disabilities. Now, staff and pupils are fundraising for new bikes, trikes and scooters to give them the same opportunities as others. Two pupils tell us more.

by Lyam and Chloe

To help raise money, we've been taking part in physical challenges and activities. I took part in 30 minutes of football and 30 minutes of a circuits class. I had lots of fun, and it felt good to challenge my body and stay active.

We are raising money because we need more specialist equipment, so that students who use wheelchairs can ride alongside everyone else. We want everyone to have the same opportunities and experiences together.

I really enjoyed trying out the trikes because they made me feel happy and confident. I'm looking forward to being able to use them more at school!

We want to raise money so that all of our students can enjoy riding together. You can find out more about the fundraiser by going to tinyurl.com/greenvalefundraiser.

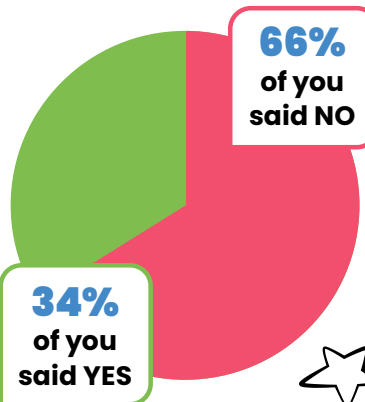


Lyam using an adapted trike

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

The World Cup is in full swing, but before the tournament, we asked 4,780 of you:

Is Haaland on the same level as Messi and Ronaldo?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Cast your vote in our polls at

first.news/polls

Magical Harry Potter trip

KIAN went on a Harry Potter-themed trip with his Scout group. He tells us what he got up to on the enchanting weekend.

by Kian, aged ten



Having fun at Gilwell Park

We arrived at Scout Adventures Gilwell Park, which is a beautiful woodland location just outside of London. Perfect for a Harry Potter-themed weekend!

I stayed in a wooden cabin with my 19th Epping Forest South Scout group and our Cub leaders. As this was a wizarding camp, we were divided into the famous houses of Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin. We played some indoor games such as Quidditch, catch the bean bags and broomball to compete for house points. We also did some outdoor activities like crate stacking, where you got to fly off the crates, and bouldering, which was similar to rock climbing.

We watched Harry Potter movies until midnight. I have never

stayed up that late before and it was super fun and special to do this along with my friends.

On the last night of the trip, we had a great candlelit feast just like the ones in the Harry Potter movies. Everybody dressed up as a character. I chose to be Harry, of course! Some of the Cub leaders dressed up as Professors Quirrell, Dumbledore and Snape. The meal was prepared by my parents and other volunteers. They cooked for all 50 of us – thanks guys! After the feast, we sang campfire songs.

Overall, I really enjoyed the experience and went home with lots of cupcakes we made at the camp and a T-shirt that says: "I've had a magical weekend!"



Playing games



Slam dunk

THOMAS talks to us about his biggest passion: basketball!

by Thomas

I enjoy playing basketball because it is fun, exciting and fast-paced.

I play for my school basketball team and train with the local club (Portsmouth Force) every week. It's an excellent local club with very skilled coaches and players. I've really improved my footwork, shooting and ball-handling.

Playing basketball involves lots of teamwork because players must co-operate with each other to win a game. It makes people fitter, stronger and able to cope better with pressure.

My favourite team is the Los Angeles Lakers because they are one of the most successful teams in NBA history, with 17 championships. They have also had many superstars including Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, Magic Johnson and LeBron James.

My favourite players are Yao Ming and Victor Wembanyama. They are both incredible in playing centre with exceptional strength and speed.



Thomas on court



Terrific Tweedy

THE circus is calling for Rahul and his family! He tells us about going to see Tweedy the clown.

by Rahul Desai

Tweedy's Circus was amazing! The show was a bit like a comedy, panto and circus mixed into one.

Tweedy and Sam were the main characters, but Lady Crinklebottom wanted to be the star of the show.

It started with juggling, which Sam had to do. He was brilliant at it! He started off with three balls but then moved on to five and a biscuit! Some of the best bits were when Sam (who was dressed as Tracy the tightrope walker) had to walk across a very unstable duct tape tightrope, and the only safe thing he had was a duct tape harness!

I also thought it was amazing when Lady Crinklebottom did a superb display on the trapeze. I definitely thought it was funny when Tweedy dressed up as their pet hamster, Hammy, and went in a huge hamster wheel. He also travelled back in time in a portaloo! It was a fabulous show.

Meeting Tweedy!



Libraries hit the right note

DIGITAL pianos are being put into UK libraries as part of a nationwide programme supported by famous Chinese pianist Lang Lang. Muneeba went to the launch in Manchester to see another talented musician.

by Muneeba, a pupil at Crumpsall Lane Primary School

As part of the Summer Reading Challenge, we were invited to Manchester Central Library. It was so inspiring to see that a student from the academy had donated a piano to the library. It made me realise what I could achieve one day.

We were introduced to a fantastic musician called Victor Ray. He entertained us with two songs. One was a song composed by himself called *You and I*. The other was a cover of *Man I Need* by the talented icon Olivia Dean!

He was clearly extremely passionate about music. His performance showed that anyone can achieve anything with dedication and a dream.

Having this new piano in the library is so exciting. I am sure it will make future generations more eager to take time to visit.

Regarding the Summer Reading Challenge, called Read To The Beat, I will certainly be encouraging others to take part in it. It's a fantastic opportunity to not only read books, but to learn the piano too. It's great to learn something new!



Victor Ray performs for pupils



FirstNews Quiz

THE answers to all these questions can be found in the pages of this issue. Why not set yourself, or your friends and family, a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? See how well you did by checking the answers at the bottom.

1 Who was the first celebrity confirmed for *Strictly Come Dancing 2026*?

2 Who voices Woody in *Toy Story 5*?

3 Chester Zoo has launched the biggest butterfly survey ever carried out in which country?



4 A Year 6 class in Whitstable, Kent, has been named the funniest in Britain. What was their joke about?

5 Who was the first person to ever fly a plane faster than the speed of sound?



6 In 2024, what was a London Overground line named to honour the Caribbean community?

7 Switzerland has rejected capping its population to how many people?



8 In which country was this unusual apple found?



9 How old is Aardman Animations this year?

10 When is NASA's Artemis III mission due to launch?



11 When is World Music Day celebrated?

12 What has been rescued after being found in a popular woodland in Swansea?

13 How old is Jonathan the tortoise believed to be?



14 England footballer Reece James plays for which Premier League club?

15 Australian officials confiscated how many live cockroaches from a breeder in the state of New South Wales?

If you enjoyed this, why not check out our Quiz that you can play online as an individual or with your family? You can find it at [firstnews.co.uk/quiz](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/quiz) and on the **First News app!**

Head online for more quiz questions!

At home? Ask a grown-up for your Web ID to use the app.

At school? Teachers can access the quiz at [first.news/school-quiz](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/school-quiz).

Answers:
1) Lacey Turner 2) Tom Hanks 3) Madagascar
4) Onions 5) Chuck Yeager 6) Windrush Line 7) Ten million 8) New Zealand 9) 50 10) 2027 11) 21 June 12) A common snapping turtle 13) 194 14) Chelsea 15) 100,000.

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Getty Images for Play Their Way

MY FOOTBALL FAMILY

DAD to not one, but two England internationals, Nigel James has had a front-row seat for the rise of Reece and Lauren James. As Reece takes on the World Cup this summer, Nigel told *First News* about their love of football, first kits and what it takes to succeed.



Getty

PLAY THEIR WAY

NIGEL'S academy is part of Play Their Way, a coaching campaign to give young players more of a voice on the pitch.

The campaign sees children working with their coaches to create and shape the activities they take part in.

At a session at Goals in Wimbledon, where Nigel James Elite Coaching is based, young stars had the chance to play under the new coaching style.

One of them, Chris, said: "It's great because we can coach ourselves and communicate more on the pitch. Plus, as a Chelsea fan, it's amazing to learn from Nigel!"

Research by Sport England reveals that less than half of kids in England get enough exercise. For those who do, less than half of them say that they're having fun while they're doing it.

Pete Sturgess, a former FA coach who worked with England teams, said: "These kids come alive when we give them control over their sessions. They all want to show their skills and follow in the footsteps of their idols, like Reece and Lauren James. We need to give them the platform to do that!"



Former FA coach Pete Sturgess with a young player

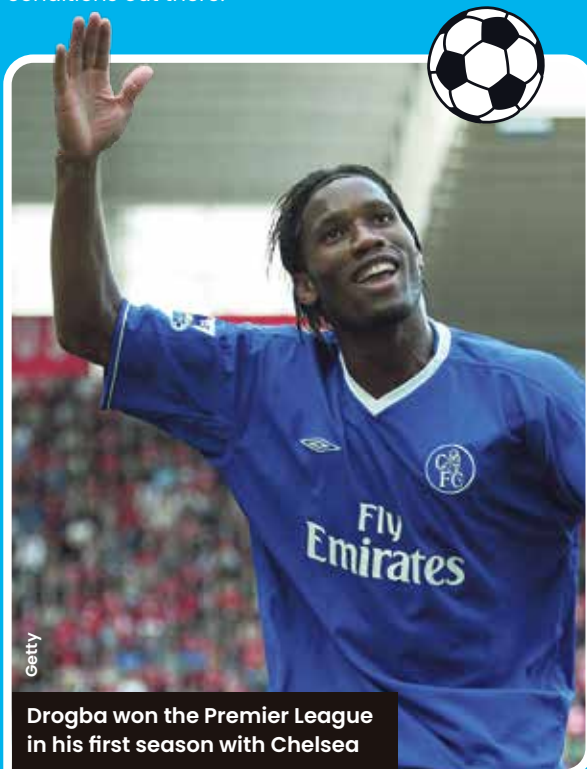


Nigel James Elite Coaching works with players aged 5 to 21

A WORLD CUP DREAM

Hi Nigel! How excited are you to see Reece playing at the World Cup?

It's incredible. For him, it's an absolute dream to represent England at a World Cup. He's done extremely well to get himself back and fit for it. The squad's looking good. Let's just hope they can get used to the hotter conditions out there.



Getty

Drogba won the Premier League in his first season with Chelsea

What were Reece and Lauren like as kids when it came to football?

They've loved it from a very young age. I've always been involved in football, so I'd play with them in the garden. They'd also go out on the field to play with friends and neighbours, which was nice. You don't see that as much today, so if we can get kids back out there playing, I'm sure we'll get more who stay in the game for longer.

What were their first kits?

Chelsea, of course! I think it was in 2004, with Didier Drogba's name on the back after he signed for the Blues [left]. He went on to become the club's fourth all-time top scorer, so not a bad choice! Reece [above] is Chelsea captain now and I'm so proud.

Did they ever argue?

They were very competitive, but in a healthy and supportive way. My eldest son Joshua also gave them massive support as a big brother.

What's your best advice for young people who dream of a football career?

Firstly, enjoy yourself. You also need to have good discipline. When you combine that with having a love for football, and working hard on your technique, you'll grow as a player and also as a person. That's what we say to the players in my academy [right].

How are Reece James and his England team-mates getting on at the World Cup? Head to the *First News* app to find out.



John McGinn celebrates his historic winning goal



All pics: Getty



RECORDS TUMBLE AT THE **WORLD CUP!**

THE World Cup has barely begun, but it's already one for the record books after a host of breakthrough wins!

The home nations' campaigns are underway, with John McGinn's goal securing a 1-0 win for Scotland over Haiti, the country's first victory at a World Cup since 1990.

"I scuffed it a wee bit," McGinn told BBC Sport. "It wasn't my best of goals, but who cares? It's been a long time coming... I'm absolutely over the moon."



England's campaign began against Croatia on Wednesday night. Head over to the *First News* app to read our report on the Three Lions' result!

The tournament is being hosted by Mexico, Canada and the USA. Mexico and the USA both won their opening games, with the USA's 4-1 win over Paraguay marking the country's joint-biggest margin of victory at a World Cup.

Qatar hosted the last tournament in 2022 and became the first host nation to lose all three of their group games. This time, they've notched their first-ever World Cup point thanks to a 94th-minute equaliser against Switzerland.

Four-time world champions Germany were given a brief scare when Curaçao, the smallest nation ever to compete at a World Cup, scored against them. However, Germany went on to crush their rivals 7-1 and overtake Brazil as all-time top scoring nation at the World Cup.



Curaçao's moment of magic, as Livano Comenencia scores against Germany!



Nestory Irankunda became Australia's youngest World Cup goalscorer, aged 20

TENNIS



Raducanu is a runner-up again

EMMA Raducanu is feeling positive ahead of Wimbledon, after reaching the final of the Queen's tournament.

The British number one fell 6-0, 7-6 to Croatia's Donna Vekic in the final of the WTA Tour competition in West London on Sunday (14 June).

Raducanu, aged 23, had been trying to win her first trophy since she burst onto the scene with her shock US Open victory in 2021. She also lost the final of the Transylvania Open in February, but said: "I have made two finals so far, which I haven't done in years, it has to be celebrated. It's a good achievement for me and I'm proud of it."

FORMULA 1

A huge day for Hamilton!



LEWIS Hamilton has won his first Grand Prix with Ferrari.

The seven-time world champion hasn't had much success since he joined the Italian team, but got to stand on top of the podium at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix. He said that his heart was "exploding with joy".

Mercedes' George Russell and McLaren's Lando Norris came second and third, making it the first all-British podium since 1968.

Championship leader Kimi Antonelli was in second place with four laps to go, but an electrical problem forced him out of the race.

DARTS



The deftest duo in darts!

DARTS rivals Luke Littler and Luke Humphries joined forces as England won the World Cup of Darts for a record sixth time.

The pair beat the Netherlands, who were represented by Michael van Gerwen and Gian van Veen, 10-5 in the best-of-19 final in Frankfurt, Germany, on Sunday (14 June).

It was the first World Cup triumph for Littler, aged 19, and the second for Humphries. They had reached the final after defeating Wales and Scotland earlier in the day.

Littler told Sky Sports: "That's the best we have played all tournament. I'm proud of us; we won together."



Knicks star Jalen Brunson takes aim

THE World Cup isn't the only party happening in New York – on Sunday (14 June), the New York Knicks won their first NBA championship since 1973!

The basketball team's 4-1 victory in their best-of-seven series against the San Antonio Spurs prompted jubilant scenes to spill out across the Big Apple.

The Knicks' Jalen Brunson was named MVP (most valuable player) of the finals, scoring 45 points in the last game.

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