

NEWS KIDS CAN **TRUST**

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR*



First News

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READERS*

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PAPER.

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THE NEXT STEP RETURNS!

NEWS **SPORTS** ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES **COMPETITIONS**

SCHOOL FOOD SHAKE-UP!

Big changes on the
menu for school breakfasts
and lunches in England

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...BUT ARE THESE
STILL ON THE MENU?



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**LIONS
VS HYENAS!**

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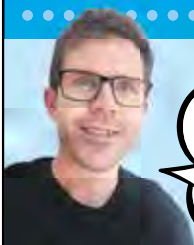


**12-YEAR-OLD
SWIMS THE
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**WHAT IS
VOTING?**

**MEET
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TEAM****Acting
Editor**
Ian Eddy**Editorial
Manager**
Hannah
Timson**News
Editor**
Chris
Towers**Newspaper
and Digital
Reporter**
Charlie
Baker**Sub
Editor**
Steve
Smith**Creative
Director**
Richard
Robson**Founding
Editor**
Nicky
Cox**HAVE
YOU
HEARD?**
Snappy stories to get
you talking!**TOURIST
TAX**

Tourists visiting England will face new fees for overnight stays in hotels and places such as Airbnbs. The government is set to give regional mayors and leaders the power to introduce nightly taxes from March 2028. Each region will get to decide how much to charge. The money raised through the taxes will be used to support local communities and improve things like transport, parks and high streets. Some places like Greater Manchester already have a £1 per room per night visitor charge, but officials will be allowed to charge up to 5% (a 20th) of the cost of the stay. Hospitality businesses have expressed concern as they say holidays in the UK are already too expensive.

**London's Tower Bridge is a
popular spot for tourists****NATIONAL TELEVISION
AWARD WINNERS!**

The biggest names in television gathered for a magical night at the National Television Awards in London last week. Comedian Alan Carr was the star of the show, winning the Special Recognition trophy, which was revealed in a special *Traitors*-themed performance. Other big winners on the night were David Attenborough, *Gogglebox*, *Clarkson's Farm*, *The Celebrity Traitors* and *Strictly Come Dancing*.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS LOWEST SINCE 1977

Fewer babies are being born across England and Wales, say official figures from the Office for National Statistics. In 2025, just 585,396 live births were recorded, which is the lowest number since 1977. The report also revealed that people are waiting until they are older to start families. Today, the average mum is aged 31, while dads are usually aged around 34. Fun fact: the most popular birthday in 2025 was 28 May, while the least common was 26 December.

**CONSERVATIONISTS AWARDED £150,000
TO BRING BACK EXTINCT BUTTERFLY**

Conservationists have been awarded a whopping £150,000 to expand their project to reintroduce the chequered skipper butterfly to England over the next three years. A team from Butterfly Conservation has so far brought back 46 of the butterflies from Belgium, which they have successfully released into the Rockingham Forest in Northamptonshire. It's hoped that with this new funding from Natural England, the numbers will continue to grow. Did you know the chequered skipper was declared extinct in England in 1976, with only small numbers surviving in Scotland?



AUGUST WAS JOINT-HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD

August 2026 was the joint-hottest month ever recorded globally, says the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). It is tied with the record temperature set in July 2023. Scientists say that globally, temperatures are climbing due to climate change. Last month's temperature was boosted by the El Niño weather pattern, which causes the surface waters in the Pacific Ocean to become unusually warm. Dr Samantha Burgess from C3S said the extreme temperatures were "increasingly being felt by communities, economies and ecosystems across the world".

PUBLIC CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE EXTREME WEATHER



Almost two-thirds (62%) of the British public want the government to spend more on restoring nature to help tackle extreme weather events. A new opinion poll, commissioned for Rewilding Britain, also shows that 74% of people (three-quarters) believe the UK government is not preparing well enough for events such as flooding, droughts and heatwaves. Rewilding Britain (rewildingbritain.org.uk) is urging people to sign an open letter to Prime Minister Andy Burnham calling for a Climate Shock Fund. This would be used to invest in nature-based solutions to help communities and landscapes deal with floods, droughts, wildfires and extreme heat.



FIRST EVER ADULT T REX TRAIL



Scientists in North Dakota, US, have discovered a trail of four gigantic, three-toed dinosaur footprints. Experts believe that an adult *Tyrannosaurus rex* made the 7m-long (23ft) trail about 66.5 million years ago.

By measuring the distance between the steps, it's thought that the massive dinosaur was strolling along at roughly 4mph (6.4km/h) and that its feet were around 91cm (3ft) long! Individual *T rex* footprints have been found before, but never a whole sequence of them.



APPLE LAUNCHES ITS FIRST FOLDABLE PHONE

Apple has joined tech giants such as Samsung, Motorola and Google by introducing its first ever foldable phone, the iPhone Duo. The device is scheduled for release on 23 October this year and is priced from £1,999, making it Apple's most expensive phone ever. The new gadget is roughly the size of a passport when closed but opens to reveal a screen that's 16.5cm by 11.8cm.

CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE!

Quickly find the pages linked to each school subject.



HISTORY

Pages 6, 12, 14



SCIENCE

Pages 3, 11, 12



GEOGRAPHY

Pages 8, 10, 14, 15



COMPUTING

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ART & DESIGN

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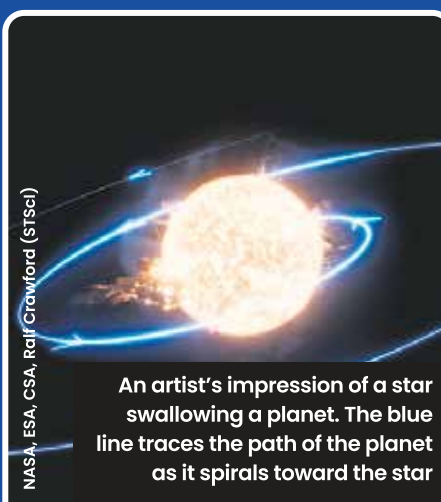
We post daily news throughout the week on the **First News app**, where you can read the full version of this story



SCIENTISTS say our young sun may have swallowed a planet several times more massive than Earth billions of years ago.

A new study suggests the event could have left "fingerprints" deep inside the sun that might still be detectable today.

Researchers modelled what would happen if the young sun swallowed a planet. The scientists cannot prove the event happened, but if the predicted fingerprints are found inside the sun, they could provide strong evidence that it did.



An artist's impression of a star swallowing a planet. The blue line traces the path of the planet as it spirals toward the star

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

21 SEPTEMBER

This year's theme is 'Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.' What one small step for peace could you make today?



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!



BIG CHANGES TO SCHOOL LUNCHES

THE government has announced major changes to the food that schools in England can offer pupils.

Schools will cut down on food that is high in salt and fat, including tomato ketchup, sausage rolls, pizza and desserts. Deep-fried food will be banned (although you can still have oven-baked chips), and all dishes must contain at least one portion of salad, fruit or vegetables.

The government wants to tackle childhood obesity and improve pupils' wellbeing and focus in class. Data shows that one in three children leave primary school overweight or obese, and tooth decay is the top reason for hospital admissions for children between Year 1 and Year 5.

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver said: "It's brilliant to see new school food standards based on the latest science, to make sure the food children get at school is actually supporting their health and helping them thrive."

Breakfast menus are getting guidance for the first time too, with a ban on fried eggs, Coco Pops and chocolate spread. Schools will have to publish their weekly menus online so that parents can feel reassured that their children are enjoying a nutritional diet.

The government says it is "determined" to help schools adapt to the new rules, which will start to come into effect when the next school year starts in September 2027.



25%
75%
VOTE IN OUR POLL!

Do you like the sound of the changes being made to school food?

Vote at first.news/polls

Eat your greens: you'll see more healthy veg on the menu...

What about the rest of the UK?

Wales is freshening up school lunches later this year with more vegetables and a ban on sugary drinks. Scotland updated its guidance on school food in 2020, while Northern Ireland last made school food healthier in 2007.

First News says...



Ian Eddy,
acting editor

THERE are probably a few things I'd change about my life if I had access to a time machine, but eating less sugar is definitely one.

I used to be a very fussy eater with a very sweet tooth, so it took me an awfully long time to learn to love vegetables and eat healthier than I used to. Now I'll eat almost anything, which makes meal times a whole lot easier and more pleasurable (I still wouldn't eat celery if you paid me – even I have my limits). I'm sure some of you won't like the sound of the changes to school food (left), but it's definitely better to learn to love fruit and veg at your age. And you might be sad to see the sugary snacks go, but I promise you that a dentist drilling into your teeth for a filling is definitely something you want to avoid.



Mr Farage's party has a lot of money to play with



Reform UK

NIGEL Farage's political party has had a massive boost with two record-breaking donations of £36 million. They were gifted by two British billionaires, Ben DeLo and Christopher Harborne. They now hold the joint record for gifting the largest political donations in British history.



A shock to the cistern!



Toilets

WHEN we flush a toilet, it releases a plume of particles that can hang in the air for 20 seconds, researchers in Australia say. These particles may contain toilet water, wee, poo or germs that cause viruses. Still – better than not flushing it, right? Experts say keeping the lid down and the bathroom well ventilated can help protect us.

Research reveals 51 ways to help the climate

SCIENTISTS from the University of Exeter have outlined 51 ways that humans can combat the climate crisis.

They include making solar energy cheaper, protecting the oceans and using cleaner methods to cook food.

Researchers add that if these solutions are put into action, they could trigger a 'tipping point'. This means that one change could make the next change easier, creating a cycle that speeds up climate recovery.

For example, if solar power was cheaper, more people would use it, allowing the cost to fall further, allowing even more people to access it, and so on.

Last issue, we told you the United Nations (UN) says that we now can't stop the Earth's average temperature from rising more than 1.5°C above what it was in around

1850. This is expected to have a damaging impact on people and the planet, and some scientists expressed doubt about our ability to turn things around.

However, last week, the UN published another report that could influence world leaders to act faster.

Its researchers found that every £1 that countries spend on tackling climate change and air pollution together could generate £15 in economic benefits. Why? Because people would be healthier. This means people will be able to work better and need fewer days off, and governments would be able to save money on healthcare and treatments.

On the other hand, every year they delay could cost the world more than £1.1 trillion per year.

School pupils swim the Channel!



A TEAM of Year 8 and Year 9 pupils from a school in Cheshire have completed an epic swim from England to France!

Ruby, Will, Georgia, Ben, Ahmad and Noah, from Beech Hall School, started before daybreak and took turns swimming for an hour at a time, finishing in a little over 13 hours.

The team, all aged 12–13, began training for the crossing a year ago to massively improve their swimming speeds.

They told *First News* that they encountered "really high" waves, huge jellyfish and even a sea lion as they crept closer to France. Noah was the youngest swimmer, having turned 12 just nine days earlier. He said: "If you had told me I would do this two years ago, I'd have thought you were crazy!"

Beech Hall School organises more junior swims across the English Channel than anyone else in the world, raising thousands for Mencap, the learning disability charity.

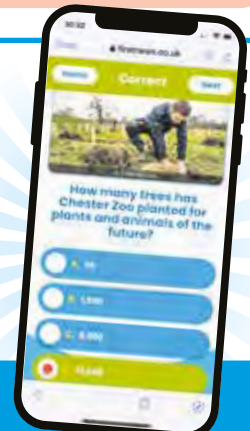
The feat was particularly special for Georgia and Ruby, because 2026 marks 100 years since Trudy Ederle became the first woman to swim solo across the Channel, breaking the men's record by two hours.

The team said they would all do it again and were not done with swimming, adding: "This is just the start!"

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.





TOP CHIP

SCIENTISTS are working on a brain implant that could make it easier for paralysed patients to communicate.

Speech is one important part of human communication, and gestures, such as waving, nodding and shrugging, are another. That's why paralysis – the loss of movement in the body – can become a major barrier for people's ability to express themselves. Some conditions, such as a stroke, can affect speech and movement at the same time.

Now, researchers in San Francisco have developed an implant that understands speech and gestures. The chip

records signals from the brain, and uses them to control a digital version of a person on a monitor (above).

The system was tested on two paralysed people, and they could use it to communicate using speech, gestures or both. The scientists found that training the system using speech and gestures together reduced mistakes.

However, they say more tests, with larger groups and sets of words, are needed to see if the technology truly could help people with paralysis to communicate in everyday life.

The research was published in *Nature Neuroscience*.

It could be a game-changer for people living with paralysis

UK takes action against West Bank settlers

THE UK, France and Canada have stopped trading with Israeli settlers in the West Bank. Settlers are people who leave one country to set up homes in another.

The UK will continue to trade with Israel, but will ban any goods made or grown in Israeli settlements (villages) in the West Bank, including fruit, vegetables, tea and coffee.

This year has seen a rise in violence in the West Bank by Israeli settlers against the Palestinians who live there. Explaining the ban, Prime Minister Andy Burnham said: "Britain has to stand for something... to show leadership. Britain has to stand for fairness against injustice, where people are being bullied out of their homes and intimidated."

Israel accused the UK of spreading an "outrageous lie" and banned 12 British MPs and campaigners from entering Israel.

The UK's Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis, said the trade ban was a "truly dark day for British Jews". He said it would do nothing to achieve peace in the Middle East, and would increase antisemitism (hatred of Jewish people) in the UK.

However, other senior rabbis supported the ban. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg said violent settlers were "terrible for Palestinian people who want to get on with their lives in peace". He added: "We must speak out... out of deep concern for what is human and just, and for the sake of Israel and Judaism."

What is the West Bank?

The West Bank is a piece of land between Israel and Jordan. It is one of two Palestinian territories (Gaza is the other), and 3.5 million Palestinians live there. Since 1967, the West Bank has been occupied and controlled by the Israeli military.

All Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law; a country cannot move its own people into



A Palestinian man looks out over a town in the West Bank

land that it is occupying outside its own borders. Today, more than 700,000 Israelis live in the West Bank illegally.

Israel insists that its 200 settlements are legal because the West Bank is disputed land, not occupied land.

What has happened this year?

The United Nations (UN) says that Israeli settlers' attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank have reached an all-time high.

Homes have been bulldozed, farms have been destroyed and mosques have been set alight. One school surrounded its premises with barbed wire to protect its pupils from attacks by settlers, after three of them were killed this year.

A UN report says settlers have begun targeting children to force Palestinians to leave. Settler councils deny this.

A total of 760,000 students took part worldwide

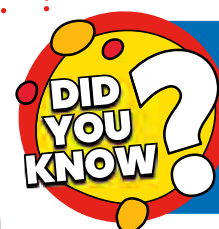
UK PUPILS POWER INTO WORLD TOP 10!

SCHOOLCHILDREN in the UK have climbed into the top ten in the world at reading, maths and science.

Every three years, 15-year-olds from 91 countries across the world take part in tests run by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Then, PISA produces a global league table to rank the performance of every country.

Overall, 15,566 students from 515 UK schools took part in the latest tests. Pupils in England pulled ahead of pupils in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, whose results dipped a bit in reading and maths. Northern Ireland called the results a "wake-up call" and Scotland promised the "largest reform" to its school curriculum to improve next time.

However, they are not alone – PISA found that reading skills are in decline worldwide, and "digital distraction" by phones is thought to play a part.



STUDENTS in Singapore and China topped the rankings in reading, maths and science.

The US midterms are in November



DONALD Trump has promised every adult US citizen \$5,000 (£3,700) if his Republican Party win the US midterm elections.

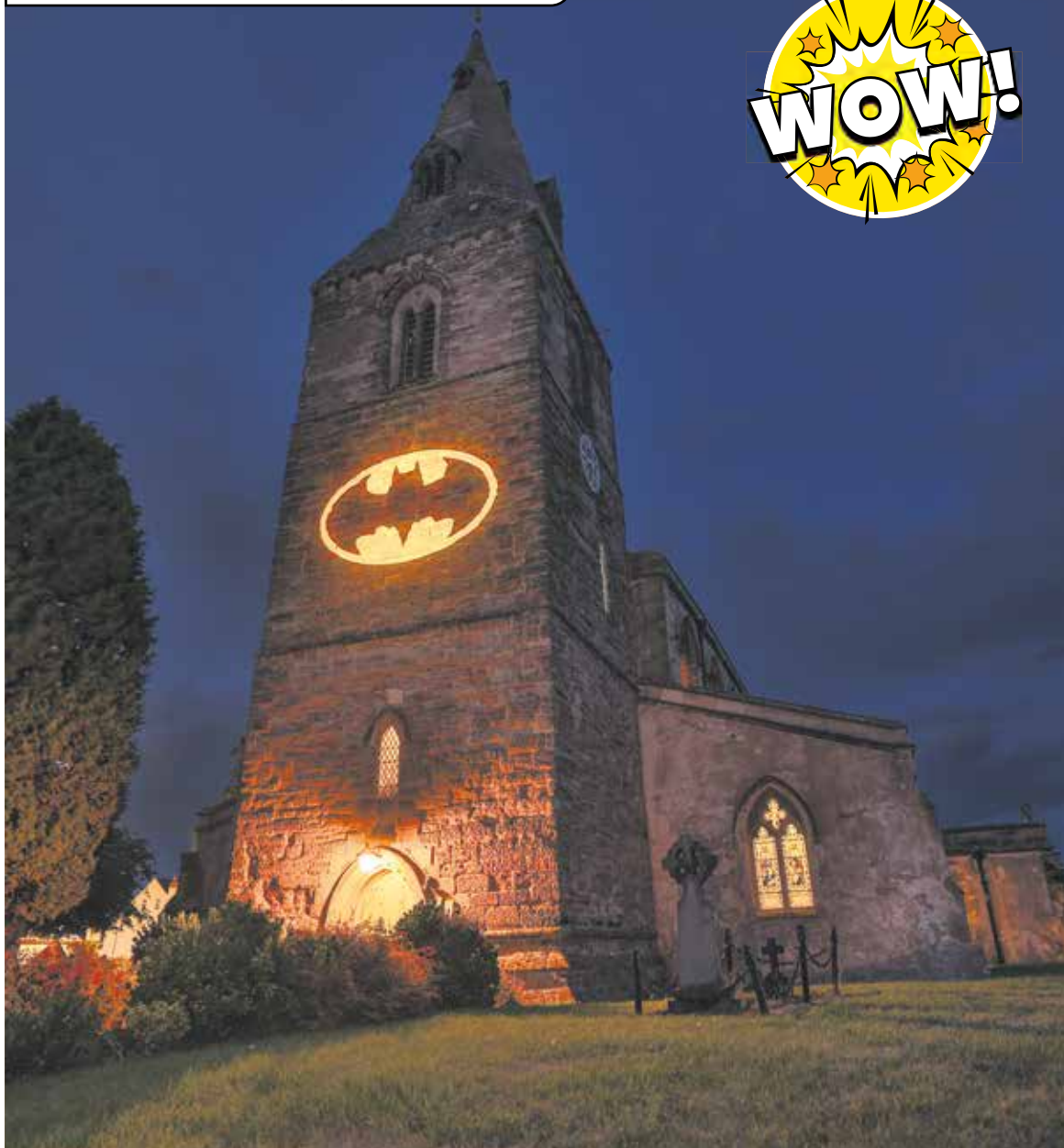
With nearly 270 million American adults, this would cost the US government around \$1.3 trillion (£960 billion). Critics questioned how his promise would work, or if it was even legal.

The US midterm elections decide which politicians sit in the House of Representatives and the Senate, where laws are made. They come halfway through a president's four-year term, and often give an idea of whether voters think the president is doing a good job.

Mr Trump didn't give any further details, except for saying everyone's payout would have to be spent in the US.



Gotham, Nottinghamshire



AHEAD of World Batman Day on Saturday 19 September, the iconic Bat-Signal is lighting up the skies of this real-life village that shares its name with Batman's fictional home. A life-size replica of the iconic 1966 Batmobile is also set to delight fans, families and local residents.

London, UK



A NEW sculpture by artist Tschabalala Self has been unveiled on Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth. The 3m-tall (10ft) painted bronze sculpture is called *Lady in Blue* and aims to represent the modern spirit of London. Self says that the sculpture shows a woman that everyone can relate to, rather than an idol or hero, and that she's striding forward "with ambition and purpose".

Tapestry takeover



TECH company Mastercard has teamed up with children across Europe and artist Mia Hansson to make the Payeux Tapestry. It's a 10m-long (33ft) creation tracing the history and future of money. It's been inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry, which has just arrived in England and illustrates the 1066 Norman Conquest of England.

MEANWHILE, Olympic gold medallist and knitting fan Tom Daley has unveiled a giant 7m-long (23ft) Baa-Ewe Tapestry at London's Natural History Museum, also inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry. It's been created to celebrate the upcoming release of Sky Original film *Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom*. Read more on page 18.



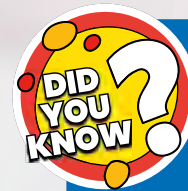


WHAT IS VOTING ANYWAY?



BEFORE we go any further with our new votes at 16 series, maybe we should just rewind a bit, start from the basics and ask: what is voting anyway? Here to answer that question is the Electoral Commission, an independent organisation that makes sure elections in the UK are fair, open and well run. It also helps everyone understand how to vote and feel confident in taking part.

The Electoral Commission



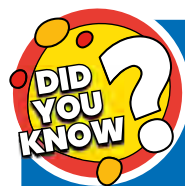
IN UK elections, voters can vote in person, by post or by proxy. A proxy vote means asking someone you trust to vote on your behalf.

■ Your choice

Have you ever had to choose which book to read as a class, or decide who should win a talent show? It's likely that you voted on these things. Voting is a way of choosing an outcome that takes everybody's opinions on board.

In the UK, we live in a **democracy**. Democracy means people can have a say in decisions that affect them, including how the country is run. It works best when people understand how decisions are made, can find reliable information, and feel confident about getting involved. For democracy to work well, people must be free to choose who they vote for, and everyone who is allowed to vote must have a fair chance to make their choice.

Voting in elections is one important way for people to take part in democracy. People can vote for representatives – someone who can speak up for their area and help make decisions on their behalf. These representatives might be members of political parties or independent candidates.



WHEN we asked young people what they thought, 81% (roughly eight in ten) told us that it was important for them to live in a country that is a democracy.

- Then, they cast their vote.
- The votes are counted, and the candidate or party that wins under the election's rules is chosen.

■ But what happens outside of an election? Can people still have a say?

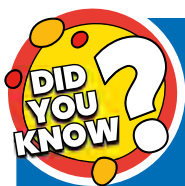
Yes! Voting in elections is just one way to take part in democracy. People can also make their voices heard by writing to representatives, signing petitions, joining school councils, going to local meetings, taking part in debates, or speaking up about issues they care about.

Even if you're not old enough to vote yet, democracy still matters to you. You can get involved by asking questions, learning about issues, checking facts, listening to different views and sharing what matters to you.

If you want to learn more about your vote, the Electoral Commission has resources especially for young people. Scan the QR code or go to tinyurl.com/learnaboutyourvote.



Going to protests like this one against a waste processing plant is a way of taking part in democracy



THE word democracy comes from the Greek *dēmokratia*, which translates as 'rule by the people'.



Lots of children have spoken out in favour of tackling climate change in recent years

Voting gives people the opportunity to express their opinions and priorities. People might vote for a candidate or party based on their views on issues like schools, healthcare, the environment, jobs or transport.

People can have very different opinions on these issues, but in a strong democracy, people listen to each other's views, even if they disagree.

■ How do elections work?

When people vote for a candidate or political party to represent them, it's called an election. There are lots of different types of elections in the UK, but they usually work as follows:

- An election is announced.
- Candidates share their ideas, explain what they would like to change and try to persuade people to vote for them. They might appear on TV or online, hold local meetings or send leaflets to people's homes.
- People who are allowed to vote can learn about the different choices and decide whose ideas they support most.





FISHCROSS

Pine martens get second chance

Six rescued pine martens have been released back into the wild after months of specialist care. Three young kits – Oak, Spruce and Aspen – arrived at the Scottish SPCA's National Wildlife Rescue Centre in Fishcross in May after their mother died. Because they were so young, they needed frequent feeds, including during the night. As they grew stronger, they joined three older pine martens – Hazel, Cedar and Apple – in an outdoor enclosure. The six animals were released together on 8 September, giving them a second chance in the wild. The centre cares for more than 10,000 wild animals each year.



Pine martens are small, cat-sized animals belonging to the weasel family

LOWER LOUGH ERNE



Curlew populations have increased

New island gives wildlife a boost

Another island has been added to a nature reserve in Northern Ireland, creating more protected habitats for birds. The RSPB has bought Carr Island on Lower Lough Erne, expanding its reserve, which covers around 40 islands. The charity hopes the island will provide an important habitat for breeding birds such as curlews, lapwings and snipes. Conservation work will include restoring habitats and using grazing animals to create good conditions for birds to nest. The reserve has already seen success, with breeding curlew pairs rising from 42 in 2024 to 55 in 2025.

CHESTER



The newborns have a surprising family connection

“Chaos potatoes” born

Three tiny rock hyraxes have been born at Chester Zoo and, surprisingly, they are related to elephants. The two boys and one girl, named Russ, Spud and Jackie, were born in late summer and have passed their first vet check. The pups weigh about 350g each, or roughly the same as a jacket potato, while adult hyraxes can weigh up to 4kg. Despite looking very different from elephants, rock hyraxes are their closest living relatives. Their teeth and feet even have some similarities to their enormous cousins. The zoo says the energetic pups are already showing off their climbing skills and acting like “chaos potatoes”!

RUTHIN

Historic school up for sale

A historic school in north Wales has gone up for sale after closing, following years of financial problems. Ruthin School in Denbighshire has a guide price of £5 million. The site includes 12 buildings, sports fields and around ten hectares of land. The school's main building dates from the 1850s and is Grade II listed. Its history can be traced back 742 years to 1284, when Edward I built a castle there.



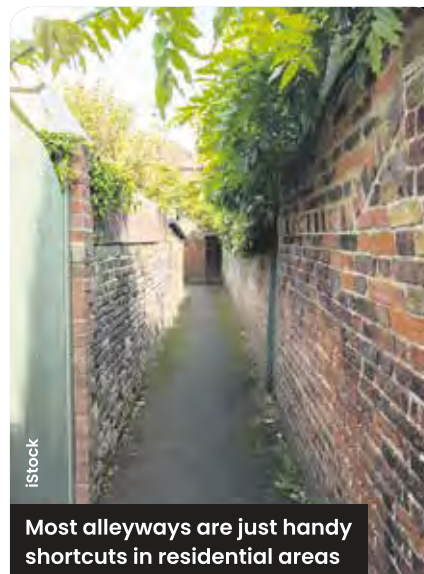
The school in 1927



GRIMSBY

Filthy alley becomes urban paradise

A messy alleyway in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, has been transformed by residents into a buzzing social space. The alley was once filled with mess and dumped rubbish and was almost impossible to walk through. Wanting a change, 22 volunteers teamed up with local councillors to clear the clutter and install a bunch of cool features such as a library, a wildlife pond and boxes for birds and bats. Residents now even host bingo nights in the alley, and patrol the alleyway to make sure it stays clean. One neighbour, Andy Dixon, said: “It’s something to be proud of. Now the kids can come out and play... it’s brought the community together.”



Most alleyways are just handy shortcuts in residential areas

"Magic is the tiny seed deep inside everyone ... but it doesn't always grow into something good."



When Fray's hidden magic is revealed, he is forced back to Hexton – the magical town from which his family were banished.

With no one to trust and nowhere to turn, Fray must face people who see his very name as a curse, and others who believe he might be the solution they've been searching for.

Can Fray live up to his magical legacy?



Magical black-and-white illustrations throughout!

**nosy
crow**



WE'VE all seen the battle between lions and hyenas in *The Lion King*, right? Now, GPS collars have allowed experts to learn more about the real power struggle between these ferocious animals in the wild.

New research, using collars with tracking technology, has found that when the animals encounter each other it's actually the lions that approach the hyenas first. The hyenas are then the ones that generally give way – not the other way round, as many believe!

The study took place in Etosha National Park in Namibia, Chobe National Park and Linyanti Conservancy in Botswana. It looked at data from collars worn by 17 lions and 14 spotted hyenas over the course of four years.

Dr Nancy Barker of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, was the lead author of the study. She said: "For every moment when both a lion and a hyena had a GPS fix at the same time, we asked a simple question: was each animal moving toward the other, away from it, or off to the side?"

She added: "When repeated across thousands of simultaneous locations and many pairs of animals, a clear pattern emerges: hyenas are mostly moving away, whereas lions, especially the males, are mostly moving toward them."

Barker also noticed that male lions would actively track down hyenas, while females reacted differently depending on which other members of their pride were present.



A GROUP of hyenas is called a clan. It can also sometimes be referred to as a cackle because of the animals' laughter-like noises.

Join the autumn leaf watch!

FORESTRY England is inviting everyone to join its autumn leaf watch to discover how the season unfolds across the nation's forests.

The new citizen science project, running from September to November, is encouraging people to record and share their observations of changing leaves. You can do this on Forestry England's new online autumn colour tracker.

The data will help to build a big picture of how autumn colour develops across different regions, habitats and tree species.

This year, Forestry England is particularly keen to find out how the unusually hot and dry summer has impacted our trees.

Chris Sorenson, forest management advisor at Forestry England, said: "If we get some much-needed rainfall, there could still be a spectacular display of gold, amber and red."

See more at forestryengland.uk/autumn-leaf-watch.



Elephants can think before they act



ASIAN elephants have proved they're clever creatures that can think about the best plan of action before completing a task.

Sixteen Asian elephants were tested at the National Elephant Institute in Thailand. They were given a see-through box with small holes in, and they could see and smell fruit inside.

Researchers wanted to see if the elephants could resist the impulse to reach directly into the box to grab the food, and instead choose the most effective way of getting it. Earlier, the animals were shown how to use

an opening on the side of the box to get inside.

The study found that the elephants consistently managed to resist their impulses and use the opening instead, highlighting an important skill known as 'inhibitory control'. This is something that has already been demonstrated in many bird and mammal species.

The researchers say that the elephants' inhibitory control explains more about why they are considered such good problem solvers and social animals.

The study was published in the journal *PLOS One*.



STOPPING FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE THEY START

Natasha's Foundation
A future without food allergy

TANYA Ednan-Laperouse OBE (right) is one of the founders of Natasha's Foundation, the UK's food allergy charity. She writes for us about the scientists working hard to wipe out food allergies, and the new rules about allergies that are designed to keep you safe at school.



More common than you think

Did you know that around two children in every UK classroom have a food allergy? Even if you don't have one yourself, there's a good chance someone in your class, sports club or friendship group does.

A food allergy happens when the body's immune system mistakes a food for something dangerous and overreacts. For some people, even the tiniest amount of the thing they're allergic to, known as an allergen, can cause a serious reaction.

Living with a food allergy means having to check food labels, carry emergency medicine and ask

to the age of two. They'll investigate whether things like a baby's diet or environment could influence the development of food allergies.

We hope that Natasha's Prize will identify ways to stop food allergies before they start.

The response to Natasha's Prize has been extraordinary, with more than 240 scientists from over 50 countries applying to take part.

In October, finalists will attend an event called a Thinkery, where experts from different scientific fields will share ideas and come up with new solutions. The winners will be announced next year.

It will be so exciting to see the most promising ideas that might end food allergy for future generations.



Food allergies happen when your immune system mistakenly treats harmless proteins in foods like celery (above) as dangerous invaders



Many people with food allergies use adrenaline auto-injectors like this, which can deliver potentially life-saving medication in an emergency. They're commonly called EpiPens, the name of one of the most famous brands, which takes its name from epinephrine, the other name for adrenaline

questions about ingredients. Sadly, some children with food allergies are also bullied because of their condition. That's why Natasha's Foundation is working hard to make life safer for people who have food allergies and to support new scientific research that offers real hope for the future.

A £10 million research challenge

Babies aren't born with food allergies, but they can develop at any time. Scientists still don't fully understand why this happens, although they believe the answer may lie in the earliest stages of life.

To help find answers, Natasha's Foundation has launched Natasha's Prize, a £10m global research challenge. Scientists are being asked to study the first 1,000 days, from conception (when a pregnancy starts)

Making schools safer today

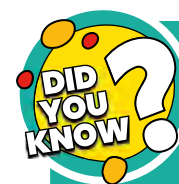
WHILE scientists search for ways to prevent food allergies, millions of children are living with them now. That's why making schools safer is just as important as scientific research.

A new law called Benedict's Law will help improve allergy safety in schools across England by requiring:

- Allergy awareness training for all school staff.
- Schools to stock spare adrenaline auto-injectors for emergencies.
- Clearer plans to keep pupils with allergies safe and included.

Although Benedict's Law currently applies only in England, campaigners are working hard to ensure children in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland receive the same protections too.

To help schools, Natasha's Foundation has created Allergy School, a fun and free education programme for staff and pupils. It gives schools all the resources they need to comply with Benedict's Law, and helps pupils understand food allergies and how they can support their classmates. We believe that everyone should feel safe and included at school.



TANYA and her husband Nadim set up Natasha's Foundation in memory of their daughter Natasha, who died at the age of 15 after eating a baguette containing sesame seeds. She was allergic to them but they weren't listed in the ingredients.

Food allergy facts

- Around **1 in 13 children** in the UK has a food allergy.
- Every day, **14 people** are taken to hospital with anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction requiring urgent attention) triggered by food.
- Around **6% of UK adults** (six in a hundred) have a food allergy.
- **1 in 5 children** with food allergies has experienced an allergic reaction at school.

You can find out more about the great work that Natasha's Foundation does at natashasfoundation.org.uk



A MYSTERIOUS TAIL

IF you're scared of spiders and snakes, the spider-tailed horned viper might be your worst nightmare.

As you probably already guessed from the name, this odd animal from Iran has a strange growth on the end of its tail that looks like a spider. The crafty critter twitches it to attract insect-eating birds, then when a bird is in range, the snake pounces on it.

Now, for the first time, scientists have scanned the inside of this fake spider to learn more about it... and it's surprisingly normal. The vertebrae are the bones that make up the spine in all kinds of animals, from snakes to humans. The researchers were expecting this viper's vertebrae to look really different, but found that they just looked like a regular snake's.

"In some other snakes, like sand boas and rubber boas, the vertebrae at the tip of the tail have extreme shapes that look really alien," says Georgios Georgalis, the lead author of a new study in *The Anatomical Record*. "There was nothing in the snake's skeleton that would suggest how extreme its tail looks on the outside."

He says it's a reminder that fossils only tell part of the story of ancient creatures that we only know from their bones.

"Most of the time, we're trying to put together puzzles with some of the pieces missing," he says. "And in the end, we can't be 100% sure of what the animal actually looked like."



SCIENTISTS first spotted the species in 1968, but they assumed the weird growth on its tail was some kind of cancer. It was only when a similar snake was found in 2003 that experts realised it was meant to look like that.



Omid Mozaafari

The snake is perfectly camouflaged against desert rocks, so its moving 'spider' is the only thing that birds see

Preserved in poop

SCIENTISTS say that a piece of fossilised poo contains the best example of feathers that we've ever seen from the age of the dinosaurs.

The feathers are from a group of early birds called Hesperornithes. These died out, along with almost all of the dinosaurs, 66 million years ago. Since bird fossils and especially feathers are pretty rare, this lucky find could give us more clues about why only birds called Neornithes survived the aftermath of the asteroid that hit Earth and wiped out most species.

When David DeMar Jr found the coprolite (piece of fossilised poop), it was already split, revealing one feather.

"Since no-one has studied feathers in coprolites before, this opens up a whole new avenue for investigation," says Jingmai O'Connor, the lead author of the report in *Current Biology*. "I hope more scientists start scanning coprolites and taking a closer look at them to see what might be inside."



Andrey Atuchin

A tyrannosaurus preying on an ancient diving bird like the one the feathers came from

The fossilised poop with the feather inside

This report is from the Science Museum in London

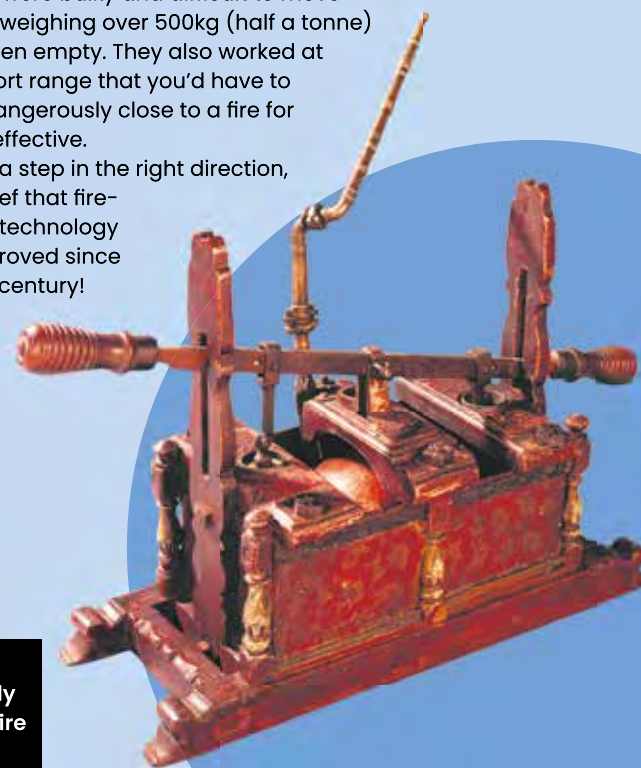
**SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP**

BELIEVE it or not, back in the 17th century this is what fire engines looked like!

This model dates from 1680 and was used to demonstrate how these early engines worked. Instead of a hose, users would pull on levers to pump a stream of water out of the machine's central cistern (water tank) to dull the flames.

Made popular in London after the Great Fire of 1666, these early fire engines were bulky and difficult to move around, weighing over 500kg (half a tonne) even when empty. They also worked at such short range that you'd have to stand dangerously close to a fire for it to be effective.

While a step in the right direction, it's a relief that fire-fighting technology has improved since the 17th century!



A model of an early manual fire engine

Science Museum Group

WIN! POKÉMON 30TH CELEBRATION ELITE TRAINER BOX!

TO celebrate 30 years of Pokémon this year, a brand-new Trading Card Game (TCG): *30th Celebration* expansion is now available to buy.

The commemorative *30th Celebration* expansion contains all foil cards and introduces a brand-new rarity, *Futuristic rare*! These cards feature bright, colourful artwork created by famous Japanese artist YOSHIROTTEN.

And that's not all! Fans can look forward to discovering one of 30 Pikachu rare cards in each *30th Celebration* booster pack. You'll find Pokémon enjoying different moments throughout the day and night, and discover 30 classic Pokémon cards making a return to the Pokémon TCG.

Cards from the *30th Celebration* expansion are also

available in the following products: *30th Celebration* Elite Trainer Box, *30th Celebration* Poster Collection, *30th Celebration* Tech Sticker Collection, *30th Celebration* Pokémon ex Box and *30th Celebration* ex Tin. Look out for more products coming later this year!

To learn more about the Pokémon TCG and the *30th Celebration* expansion, check out tcg.pokemon.com.

Ten lucky *First News* readers will win a *30th Celebration* Elite Trainer Box! It includes nine *30th Celebration* booster packs, one illustration rare-style promo card featuring Nidorina and various gameplay accessories!

For a chance to win this amazing prize, just answer this question:

What type of Pokémon is Pikachu?

- a) Water
- b) Electric
- c) Fire



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY POKÉMON

first.news/comps or see page 20. The closing date is 2 October.



9+ • 9781839940811 • PB • £7.99
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“When things feel difficult here on Earth, I imagine I’m in a rocket breaking through gravity and leaving the world behind...”

When Luna’s dad disappears in the middle of the night, she is determined to uncover what’s happened, but how far will she go to find him?



Read the first chapter!

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nosy crow



USA



Trump triggers more map controversy

Iceland asked its US ambassador for an explanation after Donald Trump posted an image of a map that labelled Iceland as a US territory. The stars and stripes of the US flag also covered Greenland, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. Mr Trump uses his Truth Social platform to post long streaks of AI-generated memes that boast about his presidency and mock people he dislikes. He also posted at least nine maps labelling the state of New Mexico as 'New America'.

In one of his AI-generated videos, the president slaps an 'America' label over a road sign and dances to the song YMCA. In response, New Mexico's governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, said: "New Mexico's name isn't up for debate – it's been ours since before the United States existed." Since returning to the White House in January 2025, Mr Trump has signed orders to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Ontario to the 'Gulf of America' and 'Lake America'.



USA

Sinkhole swallows movie star's driveway

A large sinkhole has opened outside a beachfront mansion in Malibu belonging to Hollywood star Nicolas Cage. Sinkholes occur when soil or rock, weakened by water, collapses and creates holes in the ground. A tropical storm had brought high waves and rain to Malibu days before the sinkhole appeared. Cage is a legendary action star who has also voiced characters in films like *The Croods*, *Teen Titans Go!* and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*.



Cage also starred in *Gone in 60 Seconds...*



ICELAND



Whale watchers in Iceland spot a tail fin

New law could ban whale-hunting

Iceland is preparing to permanently ban commercial whaling (the hunting of whales for their meat, oil and blubber). The new law is set to be introduced to its parliament in February 2027, which will leave Norway and Japan as the last remaining countries that still allow

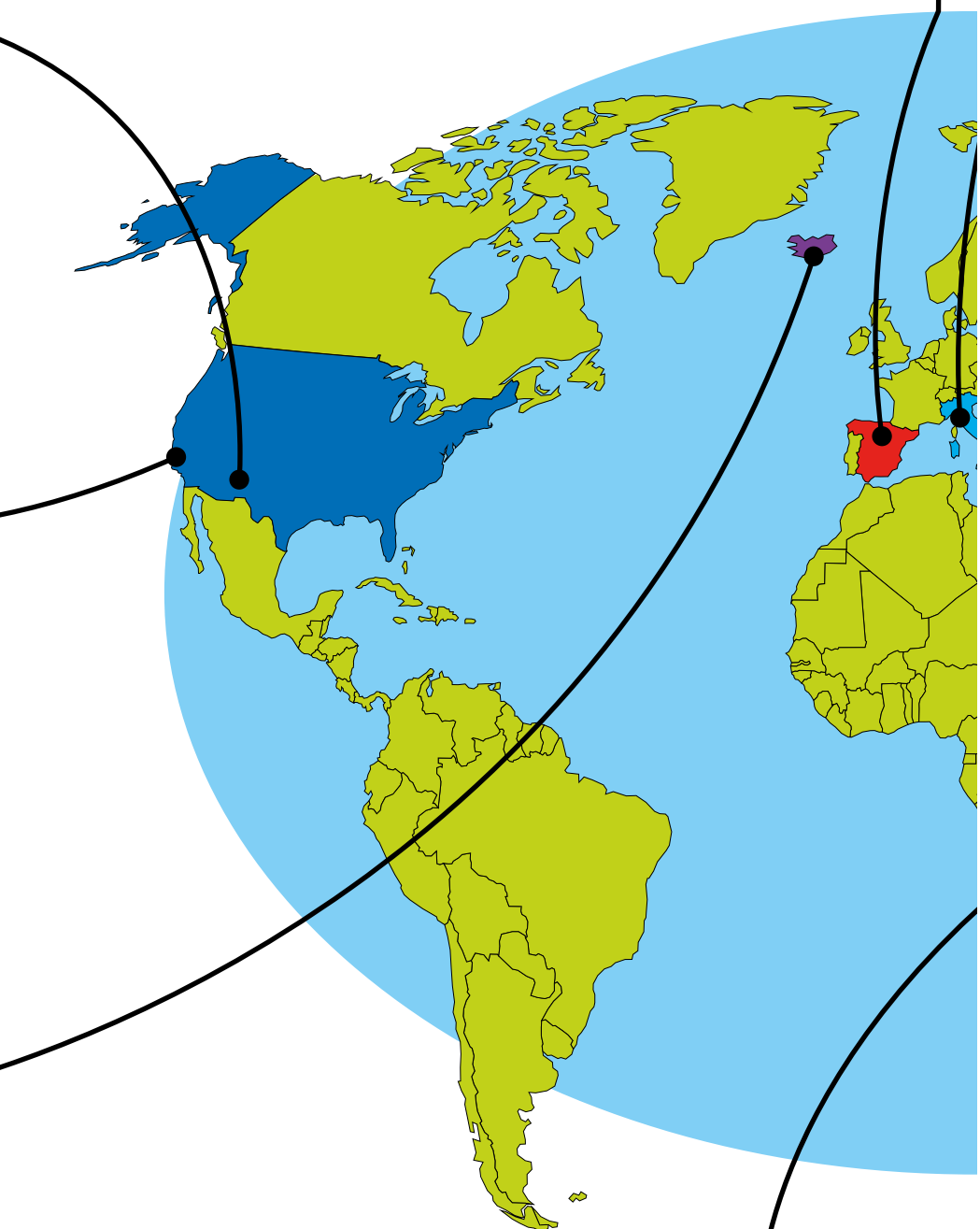
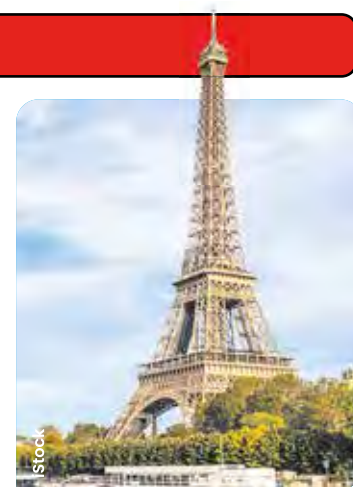
whale-hunting. The historic decision has been praised by the animal welfare group Humane World for Animals as a "significant milestone" for totally ending whaling across the world. At the moment, Iceland permits the hunting of 150 whales a year in its waters.



FRANCE

Staff protest shuts Eiffel Tower

Staff at the Eiffel Tower in Paris joined together in protest after female colleagues were "humiliated" during a visit by a religious group. Diane Davoine, who represents staff at the landmark, said bosses asked women to leave, and replaced them with men, during a visit of 100 Hindu monks. The visitors were linked to a Hindu movement that believes men and women should be separated in certain spaces. The staff protest forced the Eiffel Tower to shut on Monday 7 September. It re-opened the next day, and an investigation has been launched so that a similar situation never happens again.



KENYA

Traffic light troupes turn jams into jamborees!



Bossing the crossings!

Super-skilled acrobats are raking in the tips by entertaining motorists stuck in traffic jams in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Groups of dancers began appearing at street junctions in 2020 and their spectacular routines are now a familiar sight across the city. On a good day, they can earn \$6 (£4.45) – as much as an average farmer or construction worker, and enough to cover their basic living costs. Not all drivers enjoy their shows, but one told the *Independent*: "They are young people... they entertain us and we feel good!"



ITALY

Festival celebrates town's Scottish links

A small town in Italy welcomed thousands of visitors for its annual Scottish weekend. The streets of Barga, Tuscany, were filled with pipe bands, dancers and its very own Highland Games. Lots of people in Barga have relatives whose parents moved to Scotland for a new life in the early 1900s. Many settled in Glasgow and made a living selling ice cream and fish and chips. This year, a record number of people – between 5,000 and 6,000 – enjoyed the festivities and planning has already begun for next year.



Getty

Barga is a colourful mountain town



RUSSIA AND NORTH KOREA



New bridge links Russia and North Korea

A new road bridge has opened across the border of Russia and North Korea to strengthen the friendship between the two countries. It is one kilometre (0.6 miles) long and crosses the Tumen River. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said its opening will boost

tourism between the two countries. The pair have grown closer since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, with North Korea sending thousands of troops to help Russia. In return, Russia has shared military equipment and technology.

The two nations were already linked by rail and regular flights



INDIA

Baby orangutan surprise

Five baby orangutans have been saved after being found in a forest in Odisha. The discovery was a surprise, because orangutans are only usually found on the Indonesian islands of Borneo and Sumatra, thousands of miles away. Wildlife teams were called to move them to Nandankanan Zoological Park for medicine and care. Investigators believe they might have been trafficked (illegally traded) to someone in India, then abandoned. Authorities in Indonesia are in contact with officials in India and are working to bring them home soon.



Istock

Wild orangutans are only found in tropical Southeast Asia



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Getty



Harry Potter and the thrilling theme park

Harry Potter fans in the United Arab Emirates will get the chance to step into the wizarding world, with the construction of three brand-new lands at the Warner Bros World theme park on Yas Island. Diagon Alley, Hogwarts Castle and the Forbidden Forest will each be brought to life and feature "world-exclusive" rides

when they open in 2029. Yas Island is a major leisure destination filled with various theme parks, water parks and entertainment venues. The Warner Bros World park opened in 2018 and already has lands dedicated to Superman, Batman and cartoon characters Bugs Bunny, Scooby-Doo and The Flintstones.



SINGAPORE



LawrenceWongst/x

Singapore is a rich country

Prime minister's big pay rise

Singapore's prime minister has received a pay rise of \$1 million (£818,000). Lawrence Wong (left) was already the highest-paid leader in the world, but after this rise, he will bag £2.8 million a year – a salary more than 1,500 times higher than the £174,039 paid to UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham! Mr Wong says he will donate all of the raise to "good causes". Singapore's ministers have received a big pay rise, too. Mr Wong said this is necessary to attract the "quality of political leadership we need to take our country forward".

SCARE US SILLY WITH YOUR SPOOKY STORY!



TM and © 2007–2026, Wimpy Kid, Inc. Photo by Filip Wolak

LOOKING for an exciting project to kick-start your school year and get those creative juices flowing? Well, look no further!

First News has teamed up with the one and only Jeff Kinney to launch a splendidly spooky writing competition!

You know Jeff; he's the creator of the world-famous Diary of a Wimpy Kid books. He's just released a new book called *Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories 2* – a new collection of spooky stories involving Greg Heffley's best friend, Rowley.

Now, though, he wants to read **YOURS!**

Here's what you need to do:

Jeff has sent us four spooky story starters (below) to get you going. **Choose one** – either A, B, C or D – to use as the opening to your story. Then, take it from there!

Complete a spine-tingling tale in 400 words, and email it to us at win@firstnews.co.uk, with **Spooky Story** as the subject, by 2 October. We'll select a shortlist of our favourites, and send them to Jeff. He will then pick his favourite.

The author of the winning story will bag a signed copy of *Spooky Stories 1* and *2*, AND we'll print their story for all to see in the 30 October issue of *First News*!



FROM THE
HILARIOUS
WORLD OF
Wimpy Kid



Choose one of Jeff's story starters, then complete your 400-word story and send it to us by 2 October!

A. The cemetery was full of gravestones, as most cemeteries are. But no-one could've imagined what had been buried under the unmarked gravestone in the overgrown corner of the lot...

B. The scarecrow in the overgrown cornfield always seemed to be pointed in the same direction: towards me...



C. In an old house at the top of the hill that no-one had lived in for years and years, a light came on in the attic...



D. For a ghost, Harlow wasn't very scary. In fact, if he saw himself in the mirror, he'd go as white as... well, you know...

To enter, email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'Spooky Story', in the subject box or visit firstnews.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. No purchase necessary. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly. If you are a winner, your details 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, First News will still print the winning story, but we may offer the books 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.



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.

TOM FELTON TO RETURN TO HOGWARTS

ACTOR Tom Felton is set to star as Lucius Malfoy – Draco's father – in HBO's new *Harry Potter* TV series. Felton played Draco in the original *Harry Potter* movies and has been playing a grown-up version of the character in Broadway's *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. Tom is said to be very excited about returning to the Wizarding World.

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 FAKE. There have been no announcements about Tom Felton joining HBO's *Harry Potter*. Lots of posts have been going around on social media, including one about Daniel Radcliffe returning. However, they've all been fake news so far.



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IT'S TIME TO CHEER!



IT'S cheerleading competition season for the Comets and things are heating up! We spoke to Emmerly Tinglin (Kenzie), Carter Musselman (Heath), Hattie Kragten (Olive), Chiara DiBerto (Ruby) and Elya Wardini (Melody) from *The Next Step: Cheer* ahead of the series one finale.

■ **Hi guys! You're returning to our TV screens for new episodes. Are you excited for fans to see what's coming up?**

Hattie: If you guys thought that the drama was crazy in the first episodes, it's like amped up by 100%. You guys are not going to expect anything like it.

■ **What are your favourite memories from filming the episodes?**

Chiara: Every day was like one big party. We're all so

close – most of us even lived together during filming!
Elya: Yeah, there's nothing better than working with your best friends.

Carter: Melody has a cardboard cut-out, and it's my favourite thing on Planet Earth. I took so many photos with it and now it just floats around our set!

Elya: I think my favourite part was Melody's fight with Layla, who is her rival to be cheer captain. Being able to get that angry was super fun!

■ **How much cheerleading practice did you have to do?**

Carter: A lot! Everyone else but me came in knowing how to cheerlead, so I had to put a lot of work in. It has to be taken seriously because it can be dangerous if not done properly, but everyone was really helpful and patient with me.

Chiara: You learnt incredibly fast, Carter! Me and Elya had done cheerleading in the past, but we still had a lot to learn based on the different plot lines.

Elya: It helps that the entire cast is so talented that it's so easy to work with everybody and to be able to trust each other.

■ **Who do you think would be the best to have as your team-mate in a real competition?**

Carter: Definitely not me!

Chiara: I think Melody would be a good real-life team-mate. She's very dependable and talented. She can be a bit of a loose cannon, but her cheer skills are great.



■ **It's been announced you're coming back for a second series! How did you all find out?**

Emmerly: It just got dropped in the group chat! Amy, our executive producer and choreographer, sent a green circle emoji with a thumbs up, so we knew season two had been given the green light! We were jumping for joy, it was so exciting.

■ **What's your top tip for getting into cheerleading?**

Emmerly: Practice makes perfect! You're not just going to wake up one day and be able to do everything. But if you keep trying, you'll definitely be able to get better. I always say hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.

Chiara: Yeah, it's normal to be bad at something when you first start it, and cheerleading can be scary with all those moves, but just take it day by day.

The Next Step: Cheer returns to CBBC and BBC iPlayer on 21 September.



● **I'm A Celebrity announces new spin-off show!**

I'm A Celebrity is getting its very own spin-off show next year, called *I'm A Celebrity... The Wild Frontier*. The new reality show will be set in Canada with Ant and Dec on hosting duties, but there'll be a big twist! Celebrity contestants will take part in pairs rather than on their own. In a teaser trailer, Dec shares: "It's a brand-new show with an exciting new format, loads of new trials and challenges, and we cannot wait to bring it to you." Bring on 2027!

● **Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom hits cinemas!**

A monstrously fun family adventure has arrived just in time for Halloween! *Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom* sees the residents of Mossy Bottom Farm looking forward to the spooky holidays, until the clumsy Farmer trashes the flock's treasured pumpkin patch! When Shaun turns mad scientist to fix the problem, things rapidly spiral out of control... eek!

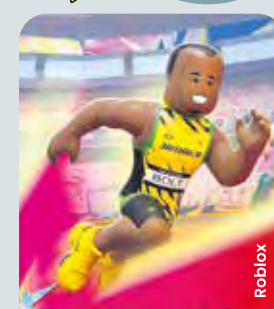


USAIN Bolt, the world's fastest man, is making an appearance in a new athletics takeover on Roblox.

Players of *Track & Field: Infinite* can race, jump and hurdle while trying to climb the global leaderboard. They can also take on challenges inspired by the sprinting legend.

The takeover launched alongside the first World Athletics Ultimate Championship, which took place in Tokyo, Japan, from 11–13 September.

The real-life event brought some of the world's top athletes together to compete for a share of a \$10 million (£7.4m) prize pot.





WHO STEALS KIDS' SWEETS?

DID you know that richer people are more likely to steal children's sweets?!

The researchers who made the discovery have been honoured in a wacky annual awards show, the Ig Nobels.

You may have heard of the famous Nobel Prizes, which reward important contributions to mankind. Well, the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony is a funny spoof of it, rewarding slightly stranger accomplishments!

Scientists from the University of California found that the upper classes are more sly than others, from lying at work, to taking treats meant for children.

Other bits of bonkers research to bag an award this year included a study that found cockroach milk contains three times as much energy as cows' milk.

There was also an award for the researchers who made varied designs for the urinals you see in male toilets, to try to find one that was totally splash-free and more hygienic.



All pics: iStock

Crocodile head found in luggage

AN Italian traveller is in big trouble after an endangered crocodile's head was found in his luggage.

Customs officers at Turin Airport searched the passenger's bags and found the dried head of the crocodile hidden in his luggage! The man had wrapped it in paper to try to hide it when he flew home from Miami in the US. He didn't have the correct documents to be carrying the crocodile head, so it has now been taken away from him.

Crocodile heads are sold as souvenirs in Florida without proper licensing, which means tourists buy them without realising they could get in trouble. As these crocodiles are protected animals, the man is being investigated for smuggling wildlife without a licence.



**JOKE
OF THE
WEEK**

haha
haha

What do you call a
bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear!

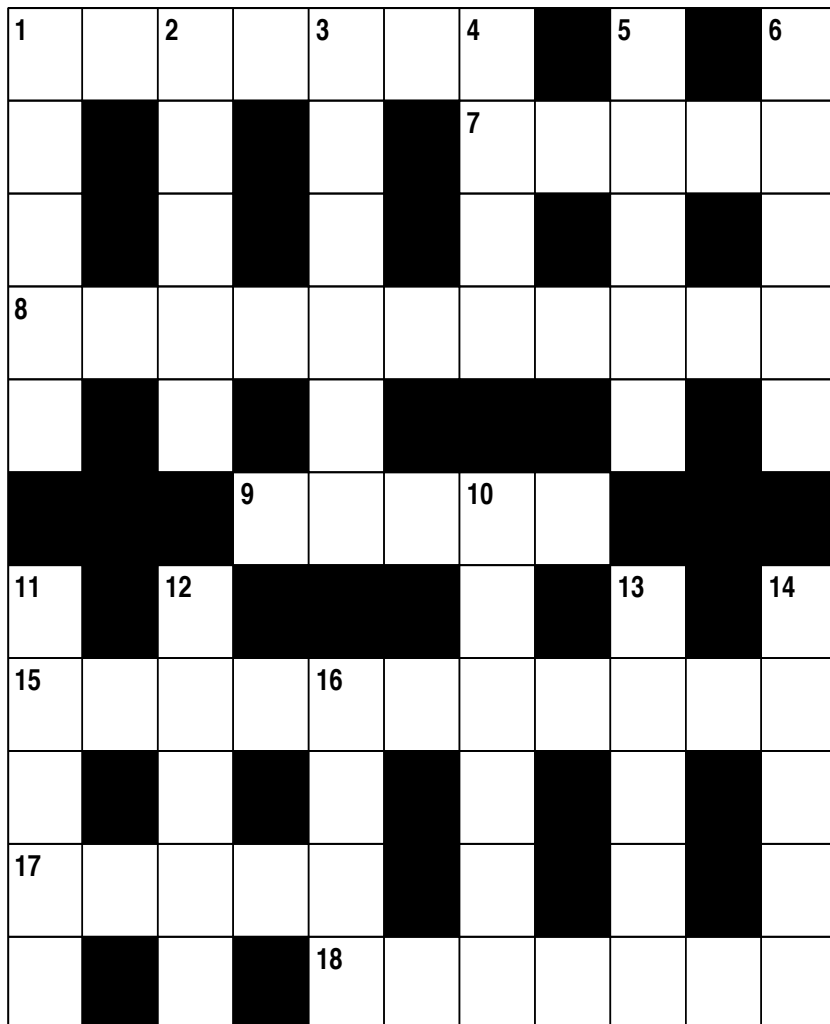
Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



ACROSS

- 1) World Cup semi-finalists in 2026 (7)
- 7) All (5)
- 8) Device used for making calls (6,5)
- 9) Regular; ordinary (5)
- 15) Relaxed and at ease (11)
- 17) A person who possesses something (5)
- 18) Heartfelt and honest (7)

DOWN

- 1) Foe; opposing military force (5)
- 2) Snatches (5)
- 3) Joints that connect feet and legs (6)
- 4) Opposite of shallow (4)
- 5) Large round fruit (5)
- 6) Sorts; kinds (5)
- 10) Season when leaves fall from trees (6)
- 11) Someone who performs in a play or film (5)
- 12) Change or alter (5)
- 13) Opposite of below (5)
- 14) Freedom from disturbance (5)
- 16) These are used to row a boat (4)

Sudoku

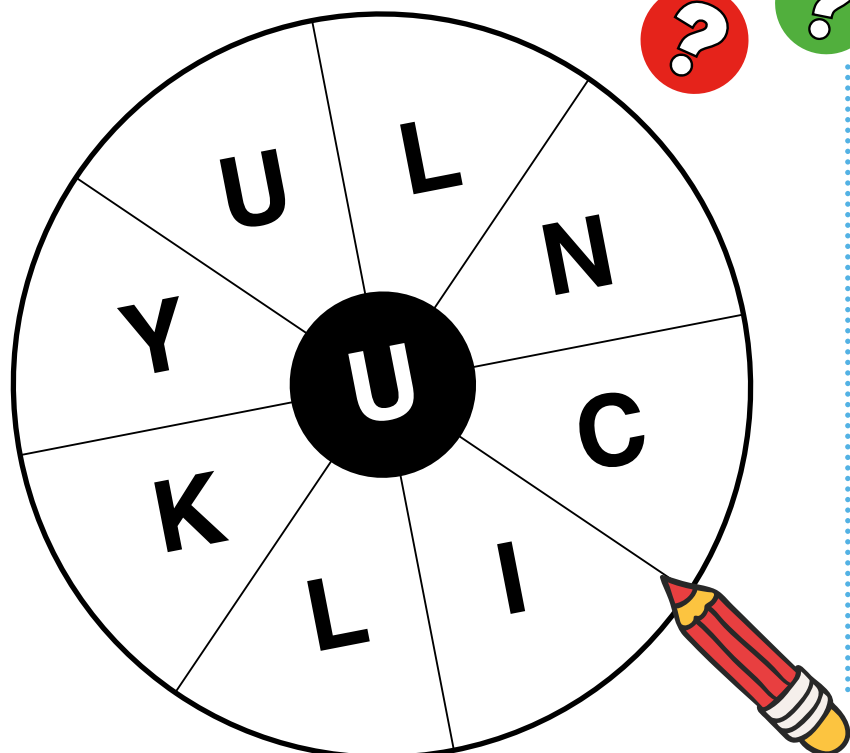
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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 notified accordingly. If you are a winner, your details 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.

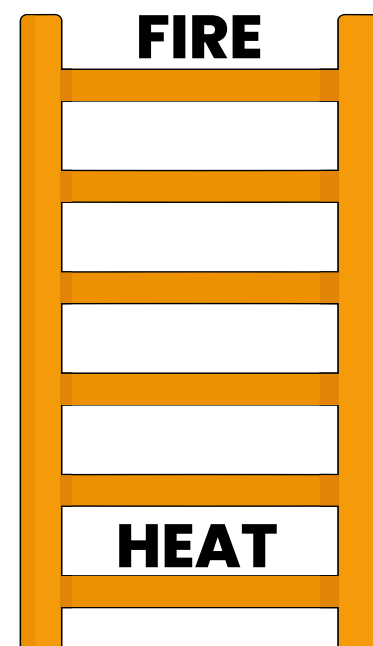
Word wheel

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.



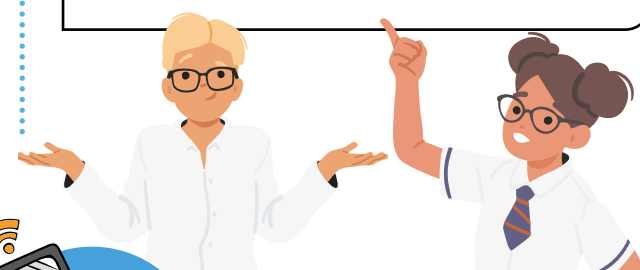
ISSUE 1,056 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: embracing.

Word ladder: fish, fist, fast, past, pass, pals.

M	A	T	H	E	M	A	T	I	C	S
E	R		E		D		P			
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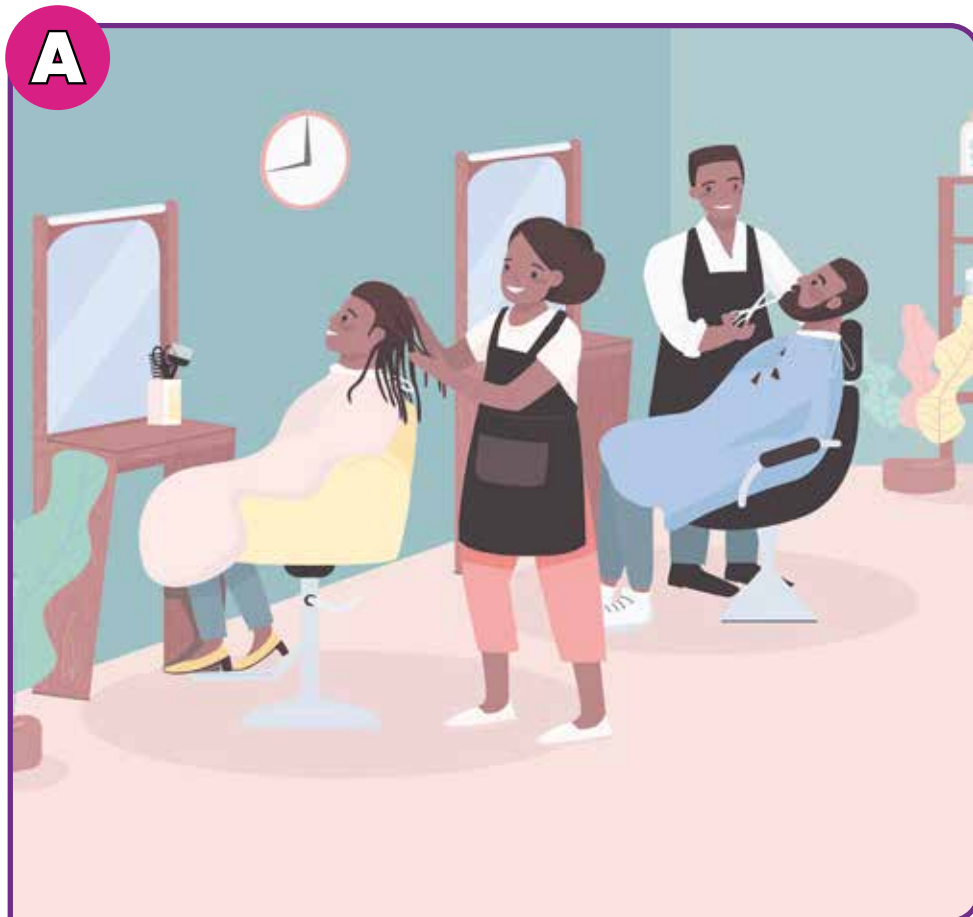
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1	6	3	5	9	4	2	8	7
8	7	4	6	1	2	9	3	5
9	2	5	8	7	3	1	4	6



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 hairdresser's?

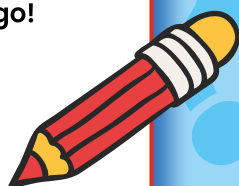


Wordsearch

CAN you find all of these different job roles? Tick them off as you go!



- ☐ Chef
- ☐ Hairdresser
- ☐ Builder
- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Firefighter
- ☐ Journalist
- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Pilot
- ☐ Scientist



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



Welcome to pound-land, authors!

WORLD BOOK DAY DAY LOADING!

HERE'S a sneak peek at what World Book Day is going to look like in 2027!

The awesome authors above gathered to show off the 18 books selected for the event's 30th year.

They include exciting reads from the likes of *Greenwild* author Pari Thomson, *Rap Kid* writer MC Grammar and *Astrosaurs* creator Steve Cole. There's also a collection of amazing feats from Guinness World Records, plus an all-new adventure for Disney favourites Lilo and Stitch that sees them travel to London!

Just as it does each and every year, World Book Day will see the release of £1 book tokens that schoolchildren can trade in for any of the books on offer.

New research has revealed that children's enjoyment of reading has risen for the first time since 2021. However, World Book Day boss Fiona Hickley said: "There is still much more to do. While reading enjoyment has improved in recent years, the fight for children's attention is tougher than ever. That's why our mission remains so important."

The World Book Day 2027 £1 books include:

- *The New Adventures of Disney Agent Stitch*
- *Kid Potato: Chip-tastic Tales* by Neil Coslett
- *Astrosaurs: Turbo Time Twist* by Steve Cole
- *The Adventures of Rap Kid: Story Slam!* by MC Grammar
- *Guinness World Records: How to be a Record Breaker*
- *Greenwild: The Castle Under the Mountain* by Pari Thomson
- *Jamaal Target: Mission DNA* by Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie

...and more, including, for the first time, titles in Scottish Gaelic, alongside books in Irish and Welsh.

Recommended reads

in partnership
with Peters



Fab friendships

IN an old episode of *The Simpsons*, even Mr Burns, the moody old boss of the nuclear power plant, admits: "The only ship that matters is friendship!" It's a pretty catchy line, so hoist the sails and hop on board with these stories about fast friends!



Diplo Dinosaur Wants A Roar-some Friend
by Swapna Haddow



Diplo and his best pals Spike and Mina navigate dinosaur-sized firsts, and all the big emotions and questions that come along their way.

Grimwood: The Fast and the Furiest
by Nadia Shireen



It's time for the Treebonk World Cup! Can Nancy, Ted and the rest of the crew bring the trophy home to Grimwood?



Peng and Spanners: Doctor Biscuits!
by Steve Webb



Best pals Peng and Spanners enter an invention contest, but chaos erupts when evil cat Magnificent and his sidekick Doctor Biscuits steal the entries.

How Not To Be A Pirate
by Jenny Pearson



Set sail on a hilarious swashbuckling adventure in which Wilbur and his shipmates race to find the greatest treasure of all – one of the legendary Jewels of the Sea.



The Boy at the Back of the Class
by Onjali Q Raúf



A nine-year-old boy befriends a refugee who has joined his class at school, and helps him settle into his new life in the UK.



Axel Scheffler

Gruffalo artist "worried" by AI

THE illustrator of beloved children's tale *The Gruffalo* says he is "worried" by pictures created by AI.

Axel Scheffler told the BBC that he had been ignoring the rise of AI-generated images, until one day a friend from Germany sent him some showing the Gruffalo in different places and costumes.

He said AI-generated images were a breach of copyright (a law that prevents

people from using or copying someone else's work). He also said they are noticeably different, and don't have the same "charm" as more traditional, hand-drawn illustrations.

Scheffler, who also illustrated *Zog*, *Room On The Broom* and *The Snail and the Whale* – was speaking with author Julia Donaldson for the launch of their new book, *Gruffalo Granny*.

READER REVIEW

City Spies by James Ponti

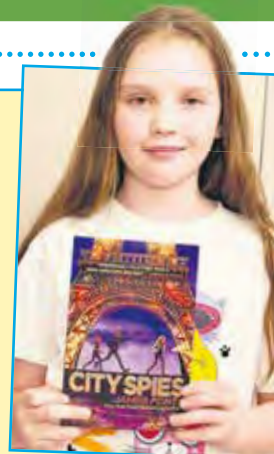
THIS book – the first of the *City Spies* series – follows Sara Martinez, a brilliant hacker and coder from New York.

She joins a team of under-age spies after her amazing computing skills are discovered.

The book launches readers into a thrilling world of secret codes and

espionage (spying), with adventures at every turn. After being recruited by the team's mysterious leader, Mother, Sara gets the codename Brooklyn. She then travels to a global youth summit that is supposed to help the environment, but it's actually the target of a band of criminals. Can Brooklyn use her hacking skills to try to defeat them?

Review
by Elina,
aged nine



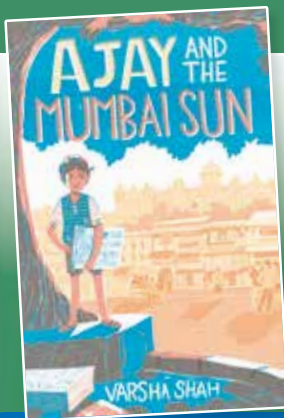
★ WRITE US A BOOK REVIEW!

WHETHER it's fiction, non-fiction, a comic book or an audiobook, we'd love to hear about it! Simply send a review of 100–120 words, along with your name, age and, if you like, your photo (with your parents' permission) to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk – and it could be printed in the paper!



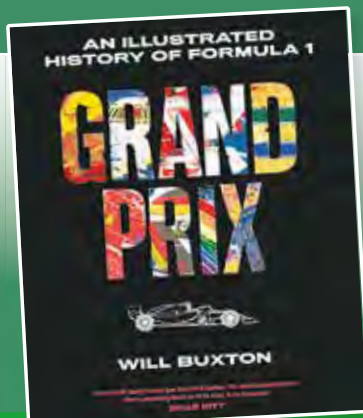
GO ALL IN!

THROUGHOUT the summer, we celebrated the National Year of Reading by bringing you a series of columns from 'Team Captains' – heroes from the world of sport. They shared their love of reading and explained how it's helped them get more out of the things they enjoy. They wanted to encourage you to 'Go All In' and enjoy reading yourself, so, if you've been inspired, here are ten great reads from the world of sport.



Ajay and the Mumbai Sun
by Varsha Shah

With a huge cricket match on the horizon, Ajay starts a newspaper.



Grand Prix: An Illustrated History of Formula 1
by Will Buxton

An epic, illustrated guide to the sport's iconic legends, circuits and stories.



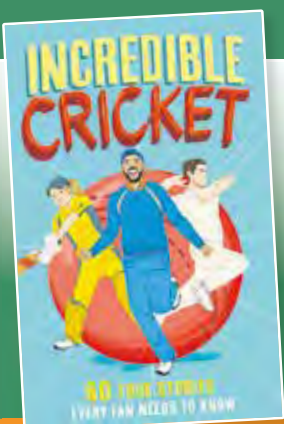
Jaz Santos vs The World
by Priscilla Mante

Jaz starts a new girls' football team to try to prove herself to her mum.



Blowing the Whistle: A Rugby Adventure
by Gerard Siggins

Kevin and his rugby team-mates try to solve a mystery in their town.



Incredible Cricket by Clive Gifford,
illustrated by Lu Andrade

Get bowled over with this fun-filled book of cricket stories, facts and stats.



Jamie Johnson: The Kick Off by Dan Freedman,
illustrated by Nick Ward

Follow Jamie as he sets off on his quest to become a footy superstar!



Knowing The Score by Ros Roberts

Gemma spends her summer holidays with her Uncle Joe, joins a tennis camp and uncovers old family secrets.



Rugby: Be On The Ball With The Greatest Game On Earth

A full introduction to rugby, filled with rules, skills and astonishing records.



Drive to Victory by Karun Chandhok,
illustrated by Max Rambaldi

A tell-all book packed with insights from a real Formula One driver.



Last Girl In
by Cheryl Diane Parkinson

Cricket-mad Kerry-Ann fights for her right to play the game she loves.

What is the National Year of Reading?

IT'S a campaign to inspire people from all across the UK to discover the joy of reading and make it a regular part of their lives.

Books, newspapers, magazines, comic books, audiobooks and any other type of reading has the power to expand our worlds, sharpen our minds and fuel our creativity, so we're all being encouraged to 'Go All In'!

And – good news – data from the first half of the year suggests the campaign has already made an impact. Three-quarters of schools and libraries have increased their activities that celebrate reading, and reading for pleasure among children has risen for the first time in five years.





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

This week, Luella steps inside an immersive version of the world's most famous buildings.

Also, Noah's love of stories inspires a real book, Hannah visits Harry Potter filming locations and Moksha interviews an inspirational tech product designer.

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.

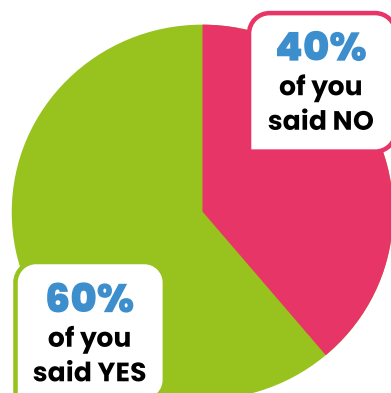
Also, make sure to check out the latest opportunities online at first.news/junior-journalists.

We can't wait to hear from you!

THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 1,763 of you:

Should we stop using real animals to make movies?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Cast your vote in our polls at

first.news/polls

SISTINE CHAPEL COMES TO CAPITAL



Famous Renaissance artist Michelangelo painted the real chapel walls

THE famous Sistine Chapel has landed in London thanks to immersive art gallery Frameless. Luella went to explore it and gives her take below.

by Luella Scarlett Buckle

I had the honour of visiting the incredible new Frameless London experience, The World Around Us. From the second I stepped inside the gallery, I was transported from the bustling streets of London into different worlds, all filled with lights, colour, glitter and music.

Their newest work, The Sistine Chapel, was incredible. They really captured the spirituality of Michelangelo's 15th century creation – the original is in Vatican City, where the Pope lives. With its high marble arches, smooth tiled floors, and gold that shimmers in the light, it really felt like walking through the chapel itself, as the story unfolded around me.

If you don't already know, Frameless London is an experience where you get to see not only the finished product, but the creation of the artwork itself. Everywhere you look, there are pieces of each painting slotting into place to create rooms that not only showcase the artwork, but become it.

The spaces at Frameless are being constantly transformed from one work to the next, creating an ever-evolving cycle of worlds nothing like our own.

Frameless London's experiences are loved by all audiences, but one room was set up specifically with schoolchildren in mind.

Luella checked out the special room created this summer to help children going back to school for the new term.

The Colour Monster Goes To School in Frameless' Blank Canvas Gallery helped children illustrate how they felt, not with words, but through colour and shapes.

Young visitors were encouraged to draw how they felt about heading back to school, and could watch as their finished artworks appeared on the gallery walls.

Inspired by the book of author and illustrator Anna Llenas, the gallery becomes home to polka dots, stripes, claws and feathers, allowing children to express how they feel, even without the words. The exhibit is quietly comforting, a reminder that we don't always need to understand everything that's going on in our lives, whether that's at work, school or home.



SCARLETT TALKS POLITICS

HELLO! I am a junior journalist and A Level student, studying politics, English and psychology. I write a fortnightly column for *Your News* about major politics issues in the UK, with a focus on stories that affect young people.



Scarlett

BRITAIN is changing its approach to Israel and Palestine (see page 5), but why?

Prime Minister Andy Burnham's government has announced new measures, alongside Canada and France, aimed at putting pressure on Israel over settlements in the occupied West Bank.

These settlements are areas where Israel has illegally built communities on land that Palestinians also claim as part of a future Palestinian state. Britain says it still supports Israel's right to be safe, but wants to put more pressure on its government over what is happening in the West Bank.

Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband announced the measures on 8 September. The government says it wants to protect the chance of a two-state solution. This means an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Britain has supported this idea for years. However, the government says that building settlements is making it harder to achieve. It has announced a ban on imports from Israeli settlements in the West Bank, as well as sanctions, which are penalties or restrictions designed to put pressure on people and companies to change their actions. These sanctions will target people and companies involved in settlement activity.

Israel has criticised Britain's decision and responded with measures including ordering the closure of the British consulate in East Jerusalem.

Not everyone in Britain agrees with the new policy. Some critics say it could damage Britain's relationship with Israel. I think the big question is whether this will change anything. Britain cannot end the conflict on its own. It can choose to do more than just say it wants peace.

Whether these new measures help Palestinians, Israelis or the chance of a two-state solution is something we will have to watch.



PM Andy Burnham is making big calls



How stories helped me shine

NOAH (right) hardly ever spoke at school, until he fell in love with Chip Colquhoun's bedtime stories. Noah's mum shared the story with Chip, who took it as inspiration for his new book, *The Bestest Story In The World... Ever!* Noah tells us more.

by Noah Shaw, aged 11

Chip's stories have been really important to me since I was very little.

I was very shy and quiet when I was younger, but hearing his amazing stories and learning so much history and cool stuff about the world really helped me come out of my shell. It made me want to explore more about everything, and I've since taken a liking to reading aloud and performing.

My favourite type of character to voice would have to be some type of supervillain or monster! They are always super fun to play around with and have fun with, and you always get to do really funny things like massive roars.

It's been so cool to see myself in Chip's book and I'm so happy to have inspired it! I think it's an incredible story and will really connect with all sorts of people.

My advice for people who want to tell their own stories is to just go for it. You never know what might happen and putting your stories out into the world can really inspire people and continue the cycle of creativity and happiness.

My dreams going forward are to keep gaining confidence and to hopefully help other young people come out of their shells like I did. Also, I want to be a programmer one day, just like in this book!

The Bestest Story In The World... Ever! is available now in bookstores.



The book was illustrated by 15-year-old Bethany D'Arcy (inset), who also found her confidence after Chip shared stories at her school



Real-life Hogwarts!

HARRY Potter fans, listen up! Superfan Hannah tells us about her visit to some of the films' famous locations. Have you been to any of them?

by Hannah Pacheco, aged ten

Visiting all the iconic filming locations for the Harry Potter movies was an excellent experience!

In Oxford, there were lots of Potter shops and filming spots, including Christ Church College, the Bodleian Library and New College.

The tour started near Blackwell's bookshop (which holds 160,000 books) and ended in New College. In Christ Church College, we got to see the staircase on which Professor McGonagall greets the students when they first arrive at Hogwarts, and the hall that inspired the Great Hall in the movies.

Next, we headed to the Bodleian Library. We learnt that the hospital wing scenes were filmed in the Divinity School, and in Duke Humfrey's Library – the *Philosopher's Stone* scene when Harry enters the restricted section.

Finally, we visited New College, where they filmed the Hogwarts corridors and courtyard scenes (pictured), and we got to see the tree where Professor Moody turns Draco into a ferret!

I really enjoyed going to Oxford, and I would really recommend it for a family trip.



In the iconic courtyard

MOKSHA'S ECOWAVES

MOKSHA Roy is a ten-year-old sustainability champion who has been advocating for the planet and its people since she was just three years old! She has influenced climate change policies both in the UK and globally.

You can find out more about her by going to moksharoy.com.

This week, Moksha meets a tech project designer who shows us what's possible with STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).



I HAD a fantastic day at the Octopus Energy Innovation Centre exploring Cosy heat pumps in action, stepping into the anechoic chamber (silent enough to hear a blink!), and meeting Derya Robinson, Director of Product Engineering.

Derya started building push-to-talk police radios in Turkey. She then moved to Nokia UK, where her mobile internet designs pushed the industry to add Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and payments to phones. After working on Hive's smart thermostats, she joined Octopus to redesign home energy, creating the Home Mini and Cosy heat pumps.

We had an amazing discussion, from girls in STEM to the newest sci-fi tech:

● **Moksha:** You've put internet on phones and created smart thermostats. What does it feel like to create technology that helps people in their everyday lives?

● **Derya:** Oh, I love that! I love making people's lives easier. Everything I've built so far just makes lives easier!

● **Moksha:** Many kids think engineering is just roads and bridges, but you're coding the future of energy. How can we help more kids, especially girls, see how awesome STEM careers are?

● **Derya:** When I started my engineering degree I was asked a lot: "Are you going to go and fix cars?" I loved maths and problem-solving, that's why I chose engineering – to innovate. Girl or boy, it doesn't matter – innovation and design are about brain power.

● **Moksha:** You're developing heat pumps. Why does it matter how we heat our homes?

● **Derya:** We want to move away from fossil fuels that are making our planet too hot. The boilers we know use gas. Home heating drives three-tenths of global warming, so eliminating fossil fuels will help massively.

● **Moksha:** So how do these heat pumps actually work to reduce our use of gas boilers?

● **Derya:** It's magic! The fan sucks in air and transfers the heat. Inside, a component works like a bike pump warming up, heating water, which warms radiators.

● **Moksha:** So almost like an inside-out fridge!

● **Derya:** Exactly!

● **Moksha:** What is the coolest, most sci-fi piece of energy tech you've seen that most people don't even know exists yet?

● **Derya:** Vehicle-to-grid... using car batteries to power your home. That's the bit of tech coming that I do like a lot!

Derya's inspiring journey shows us how STEM and innovation can help build a sustainable future for all.

Watch the full interview on Moksha's YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/DeryaTech. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.



? ? ? **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 What is Apple's first foldable iPhone called?

2 How much money has Donald Trump promised every US citizen if his Republican Party wins the midterm elections?

3 What is the closest living relative to a rock hyrax?



4 How old is World Book Day in 2027?

5 Which country was the small Italian town of Barga celebrating last week?



6 Where is the spin-off show to *I'm A Celebrity* being filmed?

7 What was the most common birth date for babies born in England and Wales in 2025?



8 Which charity did Prime Minister Andy Burnham raise money for in the Great North Run?



9 Which *Traitors* star won the Special Recognition trophy at the National Television Awards in London?

10 In what year did scientists first spot the spider-tailed horned viper?



11 How many new Harry Potter lands are being built at the Warner Bros World theme park on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi?

12 Which country could soon become the latest to ban whale-hunting?

13 What is a group of hyenas called?

14 Who scored Man City's winner in the Manchester derby?



15 Kimi Antonelli won the first ever race on which new Spanish track?

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 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.

or a cackle **14** Erling Haaland **15** The Madrid.
9 Alan Carr **10** 1968 **11** Three **12** Iceland **13** A clan
5 Scotland **6** Canada **7** 28 May **8** Changing Lives
1 The Duo **2** \$5,000 (£3,700) **3** Elephant **4** 30

Answers:

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BRING ON THE YOUTH GAMES!


31 OCTOBER – 13 NOVEMBER

WE'RE less than 50 days away from a historic edition of the Youth Olympics, as Dakar 2026 will be the first Olympic sporting event to be held in Africa. Check out more fun facts about the Games below and meet some of the Great British athletes going for glory!

MEET THE ATHLETES

■ By the youth, for the youth

Athletes competing in Dakar will be 17 years old or younger at the time of the Games.

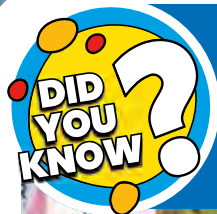
■ A flame lit by a new High Priestess

The Youth Olympic flame was lit in Athens before it travelled to Dakar and through Senegal. Leading the ceremony was actor and classical dancer Katerina Misichroni, the newly appointed High Priestess of the Olympic Flame. To mark the flame's arrival in Dakar, more than 40 African National Olympic Committees have begun a huge relay combining running or walking. Together, they will cover 30,500km, the approximate perimeter (distance around the edge) of Africa.



■ Meet Ayo

The lion mascot's name, Ayo, means 'joy' in Yoruba, a West African language. He was designed by a Senegalese school student who beat more than 500 other entries.



BEACH wrestling takes centre stage! Dakar 2026 sees beach wrestling replace traditional wrestling on the programme for the first time at a Youth Olympic Games.



■ A perfect gender balance

The number of boys and girls won't just be balanced at Dakar 2026, they will be perfectly equal in every single sport, discipline and event. Out of the 2,700 athletes competing, there are exactly 1,350 male and 1,350 female athletes. Gender equality isn't just a Games-wide average, it's true event by event, right across the board. Out of the 153 events on the programme, there are 73 for each gender and seven mixed events.

■ The first ever Refugee Olympic Team at a Youth Games

Hosted by Kenya and Uganda, the team represents millions of displaced young people worldwide.



CHECK out more fun facts and meet another amazing athlete on the First News app.

Sam Mellish/Team GB



Name: Ruby Webb

Age: 15

Sport: Sailing

My inspirations: I look up to my older brother, who I started sailing with when I was ten. Then as a country, we've got some really big female names pushing the limits, like Olympic medallist Emma Wilson.

My goals for Dakar 2026: It would be amazing to come away with a medal, but I'll go there and do my best!

Top tip for aspiring athletes: Stay disciplined, but most of all you need to have fun and enjoy what you do.

Sam Mellish/Team GB



Name: Uzair Chowdhury

Age: 16

Sport: Gymnastics

My inspirations: When I was 12 I trained alongside Olympian Jake Jarman, so that really motivated me. He gave me advice and we always have good banter!

My goals for Dakar 2026: I'd love to win a team medal, along with some individual ones in the apparatus and all-around events.

Top tip for aspiring athletes: You have to enjoy it. With gymnastics, I didn't really enjoy pommels and vault, but I learnt to love the pieces I hated.

NEW CHAMPS IN NEW YORK

ELENA Rybakina and Alexander Zverev battled past injury and loud home crowds to win their first US Open titles.

Former Wimbledon champion Rybakina had been barely able to walk at the start of the tournament due to an ankle injury, but she found her stride over two weeks in New York.

The Kazakhstani star already knew she would be the new world number one after the final regardless of the result, but she kept her cool against two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka to win 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

"I was coming here for the last ten years and it was never successful. I'm falling in love with New York more and more," Rybakina said.

In the men's final, Ben Shelton was hoping to become the first American man to win a major singles title since 2003.

However, this proved one step too far against German opponent Alexander Zverev, who is in the form of his life. At 29, he won the first major of his career in Paris this year, and also reached the Wimbledon final, losing to Jannik Sinner.

With no Sinner in the New York draw, and Carlos Alcaraz only just returning from injury, Zverev took his opportunity and silenced the home crowd, who were roaring for Shelton.



There were three titles for Great Britain on a super finals weekend. Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid (pictured) kicked things off with their sixth US Open men's wheelchair doubles title. Then, Neal Skupski teamed up with American Christian Harrison to win the men's doubles. Finally, Hewett returned to claim a fifth US Open singles title. He defeated his great rival Tokito Oda in the final, denying the Japanese star a calendar Grand Slam (winning all four majors in the same year)



FOOTBALL



Haaland celebrates his goal after a long VAR check

MAN City edged out bitter rivals Man United at Old Trafford, despite playing most of the match a man down.

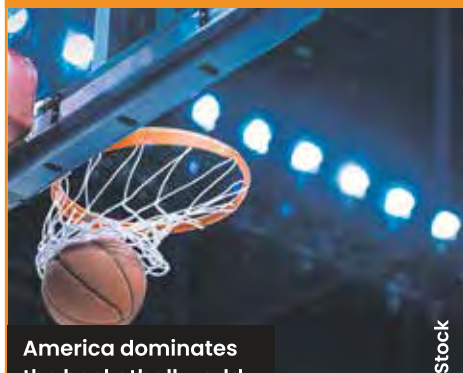
Phil Foden was sent off in the 23rd minute of the derby for kicking out at Bruno Fernandes, despite the United captain appearing to kick Foden in the back first.

United hit the post twice but City dominated for large parts of the game and won it through Erling Haaland.

There was a debate about whether summer signing Enzo Fernández was offside in the build-up, but City weren't complaining. They saw the game out against a blunt United side to maintain their perfect start to the Premier League season.



BASKETBALL



America dominates the basketball world

THE USA have won their fifth Women's Basketball World Cup title in a row after coming from behind against France.

At one stage, the French women led by 14 points in their first ever World Cup final, but the USA stormed back to win 97-79.

Captain Breanna Stewart played a huge part in the comeback, scoring 22 points.

The win stretches their impressive unbeaten run at Olympics or World Cups to 20 years.

Spain, who the USA beat in the semi-final, won the third-place game 81-58 against Germany.



F1



It's Antonelli's eighth win in 14 races this year

ANOTHER race, another win for F1 championship leader Kimi Antonelli.

He became the first ever winner on the new Madrigal track in Madrid, Spain, but this victory had a touch of fortune about it.

On a track where overtaking is almost impossible, the Italian pounced on a virtual safety car to come out ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris, who had been leading comfortably.

Antonelli held off Red Bull's Max Verstappen in second, while Norris had to settle for third.

The Mercedes man is now 81 points ahead of team-mate George Russell, who finished fifth.



Mr Burnham at the start line

ANDY Burnham became the first prime minister to complete the Great North Run, the world's biggest half-marathon. Mr Burnham was raising money for Changing Lives, a charity that provides support for homeless people. He has pledged to end rough sleeping during his time as PM. Over 63,000 people took part in the annual 13.1-mile (21km) event in the northeast of England.

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