

BOREDOM
BUSTERS!
P13-15

LOCKDOWN
AT LONDON
ZOO! P22-23

OUR NEW
LOCAL HERO

THE KIDS
FIGHTING
CORONAVIRUS P21

First News

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TRUSTED
NEWS FOR KIDS
WITH MORE
THAN 2 MILLION
READERS*



A DISABLED six-year-old boy from Bristol is walking ten metres a day for the NHS, inspired by the fundraising efforts of Captain Tom Moore.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

Frank Mills, who was born with a condition called spina bifida, started off with the aim of raising £99 because that was the age of Captain Tom. But, as *First News* went to press, young Frank had already reached nearly £300,000.

The little boy, who only started walking with the help of a frame 18 months ago, walks the ten metres a day on the pavement outside his family's home.

Mum Janet said the family heard about Captain Tom's COVID-19

fundraising walk for the NHS, and Frank just said: "I want to do that!"

She said: "We grabbed hold of that magic moment... and we took his walker outside for him and chalked out 10m on the pavement, with a start and finish line, and 2m 'You can do it!' markers."

As he walked with the aid of his frame, Frank shouted at one of his neighbours to sponsor him. So the family quickly put something up on JustGiving. From that moment, it took off! "We cannot believe how people are responding," says Janet.

Frank needed lots of hospital care

when he was born. Now, every time the family drives past Bristol Children's Hospital, Frank says: "That's my hospital!" so the family are delighted to be able to give something back.

Dad Tony said: "We have called this challenge Frank's Finish Line Fundraiser! At a time of great national anxiety, Captain Tom has given us a really good news story when we desperately needed one, especially inspiring our little lad Frank."

"The NHS has been very good to our family over the years. It is a privilege to be able to give something back to those who have given so much to us.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts."

Captain Tom Moore launched his walk for the NHS aiming to walk 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th birthday at the end of April. As *First News* went to press, he was at Number One in the charts, had raised nearly £30 million and had been honoured with a special postmark to celebrate his 100th birthday.

The Royal Mail postmark, which has been applied to all stamped post this week, reads: "Happy 100th Birthday Captain Thomas Moore NHS fundraising hero 30th April 2020."

You can sponsor Frank on his Finish Line Fundraiser at justgiving.com/fundraising/franksfinishlinefundraiser



WHO'S COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN, AND HOW?

THE UK may still be in lockdown, but countries all over Europe are starting to lift their restrictions. Here's how other nations are coming out the other side...

● **Scotland** – the lockdown is likely to be lifted in phases. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said that gatherings in pubs and at public events were likely to be banned or restricted for some time to come. She also revealed that all pupils might not be able to attend school at the same time because of social distancing rules.

● **Italy** – Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte is planning on relaxing Italy's measures from 4 May. People will be allowed to visit their relatives in small numbers. Parks, factories and building sites will reopen, but schools won't reopen until September. People will be able to move around their own regions, but not between different regions.

● **Belgium** – shops will reopen in Belgium on 11 May, with schools reopening the following week – but there'll be a limit on how many pupils can be in each classroom.

● **Spain** – restrictions have been lifted here to allow children outside for the first time in six weeks. They are allowed out for one hour every day with an adult.

● **Switzerland** – some businesses, such as hairdressers, are now open

in Switzerland and from 11 May primary schools and shops will also reopen.

● **Germany** – restrictions were eased last week, but masks have had to be worn in shops and on public transport since 27 April.

● **France** – shops will be allowed to reopen from 11 May, but not restaurants, cafes, theatres, cinemas or museums. Gatherings will remain limited to ten people and masks should be worn as much as possible in public.



Two girls play outside in Spain

Remember that the best way to protect yourself and other people is by staying home, and washing your hands regularly and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.

For the latest, most accurate health advice, see:

■ tinyurl.com/whocv2019

■ www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

COVID-19 VACCINE TESTS START

HUMAN trials have started on a vaccine for COVID-19 by University of Oxford researchers.

Around 1,100 people will take part in the trial, which aims to see if healthy people can be protected against the coronavirus with a vaccine. Of the healthy volunteers taking part, half will have the vaccine while the other half (known as the control group) will be given a meningitis vaccine.

The volunteers will not know which vaccine they've been given. Researchers will know if the vaccine works by comparing which of the volunteers get the coronavirus in the months ahead.

False news stories were circulating that one of the first participants in the trial, Dr Elisa Granato, had died. However she is alive and well – it was just fake news.

Another team at Imperial College London hopes to begin human trials of its coronavirus vaccine in June.



Dr Elisa Granato gets injected for vaccine testing. Rumours that she has died are nonsense

BORIS IS BACK



THE prime minister is back in charge of the UK again, after spending three weeks recovering from COVID-19.

Boris Johnson started his first day back on the job by making a speech outside 10 Downing Street. He thanked the British people for continuing to stay home and following the guidelines to help save lives and protect the NHS, but warned that it was not time to come out of lockdown just yet.

WOW!

GERMAN doctors are protesting about a lack of protective gear by posing naked!

They say "the nudity is a symbol of how vulnerable we are without protection." A recent German study found that doctors were lacking more than 100m single-use masks, 50m filter masks and around 60m single-use aprons and disposable gloves. The group tweeted that "the situation for British doctors is even harder. Doctors' solidarity!"



STAY-AT-HOME STINKERS?

HAS being in lockdown made us all a bit pongy? Well, it looks like it!

According to consumer goods group Unilever, we're all buying fewer personal hygiene products now we're not leaving the house to go to school or work.

Unilever's chief financial officer, Graeme Pitkethly, says that sales are down for shampoo and deodorant, plus other grooming products, as people are less bothered about their appearance.

However, sales of cleaning products have gone up. So although we may be a bit whiffy, our houses must be spotless!



Ready for another busy day...

STOP WILD ANIMAL TRADE



A pangolin

WILD Aid, Global Wildlife Conservation and the Wildlife Conservation Society have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife, thought to be behind the coronavirus outbreak.

Scientists say evidence points to coronavirus coming from animals, most likely horseshoe bats, and transferred via pangolins in what are called 'wet' markets, where live and dead animals are sold as food.

Other viruses such as SARS and Ebola have also been linked to animals. The wildlife organisations have come together to form the Coalition to End the Trade and are working with the European Commission to permanently ban the trade of terrestrial wild animals, to prevent any further pandemics like the one we're living through.

You can help too by signing the petition at endthetrade.com.

BELGIANS ASKED TO EAT MORE CHIPS

CAN you imagine getting to eat fries twice a week? It'd be great, wouldn't it? Well, that's exactly what's happening in Belgium, where they've got way too many potatoes because of the lockdown!

A 750,000-tonne potato surplus has built up in Belgium because of the coronavirus, so farmers are calling on their fellow countrymen and women to help eat them or risk them going to waste.

Frites (chips that are fried twice) are a national dish in Belgium, but since the lockdown started in March, restaurants have been closed, so there isn't as much demand for potatoes.

That's why Belgapom, the association for the Belgian potato trade and processing industry, is asking everyone to help out by eating frites twice a week. We would! Would you?

TRUMP'S BAD ADVICE



DOCTORS have warned people not to try the President of the United States' suggestion to use disinfectant to cure coronavirus.

Donald Trump made the comments about disinfectant during a White House press briefing. While discussing new government research into how the virus reacts to different temperatures, climates and surfaces, he said: "And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in a minute. One minute! And is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning?"

However, medical experts and makers of household cleaners quickly warned people that they should not drink or inject these products under any circumstances, as they are toxic and potentially deadly.

The next day the White House press secretary said the media took the president's comments out of context.

Trump then claimed that he was asking a question sarcastically to reporters to see what would happen.



THIS week's stay-home star is Oscar from Oxfordshire.

Oscar has decided to support people in need in his local village during lockdown. Every day, the Year 8 pupil at Moultsford Prep arrives at the village shop in Ewelme and delivers up to 45 newspapers, as well as running errands and picking up shopping for people who can't get out. So far, he has delivered over 550 papers – all while still doing his home-schooling.

Nice one, Oscar!

DON'T MISS JABS, SAY DOCS

THOUSANDS of routine vaccinations may be getting skipped, say senior doctors, warning it could lead to outbreaks of other diseases when restrictions are lifted.

Jabs for illnesses like measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus and whooping cough are important. But doctors worry that a fear of catching the coronavirus is stopping people from getting vaccinated.

Helen Bedford, a professor of children's health, said: "We are very concerned. There are plenty of anecdotes [stories] from practice nurses and others saying they have noticed a decline in vaccine uptake.

"We're concerned this is going to have a

major impact on immunisations here and also on the routine health checks that new babies have, because people are afraid to go to their general practice, or fear general practice isn't open for business – and it very clearly is."

Doctors say that making sure children get their measles vaccination is especially important. "Measles is massively more infectious than COVID-19 and so you only need a small decline in vaccine uptake to start seeing outbreaks," said Bedford.



1. WHO'S AT SCHOOL?

About 1% of pupils who would normally go to school are still attending, the Department for Education (DfE) says. It released data showing attendance since schools largely closed on 23 March. Around 61% of schools stayed open to look after vulnerable children and the children of key workers. The DfE data shows that attendance the first week after lockdown was 3.7%, but this has fallen to around 1% since April. The number of teachers has fallen with the decrease in pupils, from around 300,000 to about 50,000.

2. PHONES FOR REFUGEES

Charity Bristol Refugee Rights says it is losing contact with many of its 3,000 asylum seekers, as they do not have access to phones. Since it has had to stop face-to-face support, the charity is raising money to buy phones, saying they are a "basic right".

3. MILL FLOUR-ISHERS

A mill that is hundreds of years old has gone back to producing flour. Sturminster Newton Mill in Dorset has been a tourist attraction for decades, but has returned to flour milling as lockdown bakers create fresh demand.



Miller Pete Loosmore said: "It's been nice to bring the place truly back to life."

4. DOCTOR WHO THANKS

Ten Doctor Who stars from over the years joined forces on the BBC's *The Big Night In* to celebrate real doctors and nurses. From current Time Lord Jodie Whittaker to Tom Baker, who played the Doctor in the 1970s, the actors sent a message of thanks to the NHS staff fighting COVID-19.



5. ANTARCTIC PLASTIC

For the first time, microplastics have been found in the Antarctic. Fourteen types of plastic were discovered in Antarctic ice, dating back to 2009. Lead author of the study Anna Kelly said: "The remoteness of the southern ocean has not been enough to protect it from plastic pollution."

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. SAVE OUR ARTS

More than 400 UK artists and musicians have asked the Government to help creative industries financially. They warn the UK could "become a cultural wasteland" if not supported during the coronavirus pandemic.

7. READY, STEADY, GROW!

Able Community Care in Norwich is running a sunflower-growing competition. It will provide the seeds and all you have to do is help your sunflowers to grow as big as possible. The winner gets a £100 Amazon voucher! Email info@ablecommunitycare.com to find out more and grow, grow, grow!



8. MISSING DOG FOUND

Nurse and firefighter João Alves from Portugal has been reunited with his missing dog after four years. His beloved Labrador was found just a few miles from his home and, thanks to its microchip, was traced back to João.



9. PHONE, DON'T TEXT

Network data from phone company O₂ has shown that people are increasingly choosing to call one another during lockdown. Across the UK, the company has seen a 25% spike in the number of phone calls, with the average call lasting 30% longer than before the lockdown.

10. POLL RESULTS

We asked you if you prefer home learning to being at school. 30% of you said YES, while 70% said NO.

COMMENT

First News Live! user inkdrop enjoys getting up "45 minutes later than I usually need to". However, airbus misses school "because we have friends there, and the teachers are more experienced (no offence, parents)!"

11. TOILET SNAKE

A 3ft (91cm) corn snake in an Essex bathroom gave a girl a big fright. RSPCA officer Joe White said: "The snake was obviously quite scared by the commotion too!" The snake is thought to be an escaped pet. Corn snakes aren't venomous, but may bite if they get stressed.



12. GET ART-TEA!

The UK tea industry is encouraging those aged 11 and under to get art-tea! Ask an adult to post a picture of your tea-inspired creations to Twitter, tagging @UKTalkingTea. The best ones will get an art set or goodie bags.

13. CAR SCRAPER

A German man is on trial accused of damaging hundreds of cars by scraping their paintwork. The 26-year-old is being charged with causing more than £800,000 of damage to 642 cars.

14. BUTTERFLY SEARCH



Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is asking for the public to help measure the impact of climate change. While scientists can't get out to study butterflies

across the UK, they want you to look out for them in your garden. Richard Fox from the charity said: "We know that climate change is making butterflies emerge earlier in spring and some are spreading to new parts of the UK. We need you to tell us where and when you saw them." To record a sighting, visit butterfly-conservation.org/mysightings.

15. CUCKOO JOURNEY

A cuckoo called Carlton II has been tracked across an epic 3,000-mile journey from Africa to the UK. It took Carlton II just one week to fly the distance, something Dr Chris Hewson described as "an awesome feat and something even swifts don't manage".

16. REFUGEE CHILDREN

The UK is facing calls to take its fair share of refugee children stuck in Greek camps. Several EU cities, such as Barcelona and Amsterdam, have agreed to take some of the 5,000 children. Labour peer Lord Dubs, who became a child refugee in 1939 after fleeing the Nazis, said: "This is a great development and it's the humanitarian thing to do. It gives these children, who are living in a terrible and dangerous situation, a chance at life."



17. NOTRE-DAME REPAIR

Repair work on France's 13th-century Notre-Dame cathedral, which was damaged last year in a fire, has been allowed to start again during lockdown.

18. LEGO HOME

Andy Romanisyn spent the last year recreating his real-life home with LEGO bricks. As well as the outside, the inside of every room in his house has been copied using a total of 3,152 bricks. There's even a mini replica of the LEGO house inside the LEGO house!



19. NATURE LEARNING

The WWF has launched Learn to Love Nature, offering live learning events and resources for young people aged 4-18. Aimed at home learning, a full schedule of activities can be found at www.wwf.org.uk/learn/love-nature.

20. FISHING FOR BREAD

Hartmut Fey loves French baguettes and nothing will stand in his way to get them... not even the coronavirus. Hartmut lives in Germany near the border and used to go into France to get his bread. Now the borders are closed, he uses a fishing rod to get his



baguettes while social distancing. He puts a bag on a hook and casts it into France, where his favourite baker fills the bag full of fresh baguettes. Great idea, Hartmut!

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And, of course, you can do all the puzzles in the paper!

While stuck at home in lockdown, this is a great opportunity to benefit from free delivery to your home. The newspaper supply chain has been given key-worker status and we remain committed to delivering print copies of **First News** into homes across the UK every week.



Here's what our fans have to say!

“ To everyone at First News, thank you so much! I love it. I tell all my friends about it and they love it too. You do a fantastic job and it makes me understand the news much better. Every week I can't wait for it to come through the door. ”

Sienna, age 10

“ I read First News, it is great! I keep randomly telling my family and friends facts and they say: 'Where did you learn that?' and I say: 'First News!' ”

Popjam user

“ My kids race to the door when First News is delivered on Friday. Thank you for delivering something to pull them away from screens. We get some good conversations and the whole family have taken to the puzzles. ”

Jo, parent and teacher

“ I love First News. It promotes brilliant conversation with my children at home, as well as encouraging them to read. Thank you! ”

Tracey, parent



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BEDFORD School was transformed into Captain Tom's Sorting Office, where a team of socially-distancing staff began the huge task of opening the tens of thousands of 100th birthday cards sent to NHS fundraiser Captain Tom Moore.



STAR trails are seen in this long-exposure image taken on a clear night. The stars appear to move in a circle because of the Earth's rotation.



A VENDING machine sells face masks in a train station. Such masks will soon have to be worn by passengers, as Germany takes its first steps to ease restrictions on public life that were put in place weeks ago to try to slow the spread of the coronavirus.



THE 100th Rainbow Boy artwork created by street artist Chris Shea. Chris has raised more than £8,000 for the NHS through his Rainbow Boy series, which can be seen in various places across south London.



KEY workers are being celebrated on the Isle of Man with a new set of stamps that carry a royal seal of approval from the Queen. The stamps have the themes of love, faith, care, compassion, work, community, words and science, all with the message, "...will carry us through".



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ENGLAND

● E-book library surge

Libraries across England have seen increased demand for e-books and audiobooks. March 2020 saw a 63% increase compared to March 2019, as people in lockdown looked for more to do. Some 120,000 people also joined libraries in less than a month after lockdown began. Nick Poole, from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals,



hopes it could be a “watershed moment” [a new start] and show people “that the library is as accessible online as it is in person”.

ENGLAND AND WALES

● Knife crime high

Knife crime has reached a record high since data was first collected in 2010-11. Figures from the Office for National Statistics showed there were 45,627 offences in England and Wales last year, a 7% increase on 2018.

UK

● Cranes come back

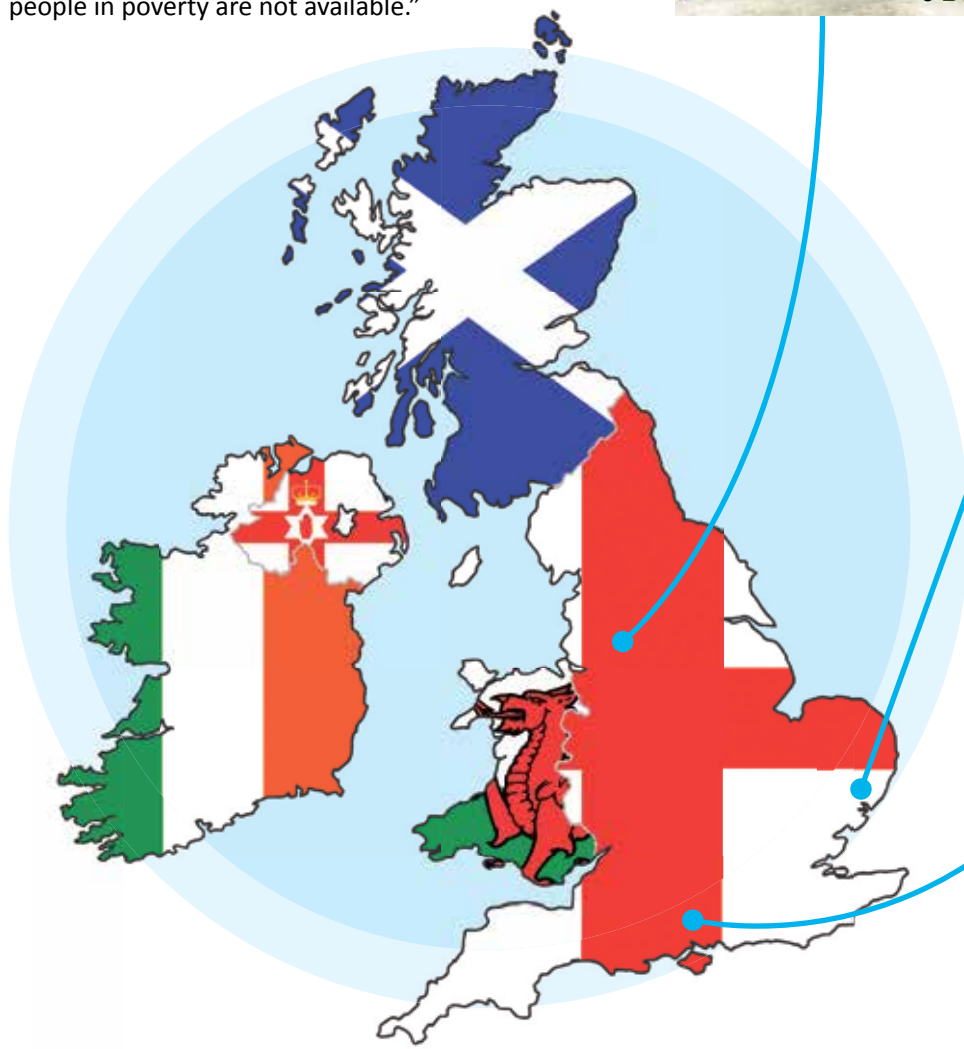
The tallest bird in Britain, the crane, is making a comeback. They have been largely absent for 400 years due to hunting and a lack of wetlands. However, the increase of wetland nature reserves has seen an estimated 200 cranes around the UK. Chrissie Kelley, from the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust in Norfolk, said: “We are thrilled to see wild cranes doing so well. Seeing these birds in flight is breath-taking.”



MANCHESTER

● Food ‘waste’ put to good use

Frozen food meant for airline passengers will go towards feeding disadvantaged people. As most flights are grounded, 1.1m meals were stored near Manchester Airport. Now, they will be given to those in need. Open Kitchen MCR estimates that there are 400,000 people “in food poverty in Manchester alone”, adding: “A lot of the usual routes to access food for people in poverty are not available.”



WALES

● Traffic light lockdown

First Minister Mark Drakeford has suggested that lockdown restrictions in Wales could be eased with a system “like a traffic light in reverse”. He hopes that if hospital admissions for COVID-19 continue to fall, the country could enter the ‘red zone’ within the next few weeks. This would see some “careful and controlled” relaxation leading to an amber then green zone, which would be “much more like the lives we had before the crisis hit”. We have our fingers crossed, but remember there is no guarantee it will be that soon.



SUFFOLK



● Winter wonder

A £500m winter sports centre near Ipswich has been given the go-ahead. SnOasis, which will feature a ski slope, ice rink and bobsleigh run, has been planned for 16 years but the proposals have only now been finalised. The project is expected to create more than 5,000 jobs. Councillor David Burn said: “SnOasis will benefit Suffolk as a whole, at a time when opportunities for employment and economic growth will be needed more than ever.”

WINCHESTER



● Peregrine eggs hatch

A peregrine falcon that lives at the top of Winchester Cathedral has laid her biggest ever clutch of eggs. Falcon pair Winnie and Chester have lived on top of the 900-year-old building for a couple of years and can be seen live via webcam. Winnie laid a clutch of five eggs recently and they have begun to hatch. Keith Betton, from the Hampshire Ornithological Society, wrote: “Five is a large number and in the eight years that we have known this pair, [Winnie] has only laid clutches of four before.”

NEWS IN NUMBERS

100km is the length Mike Reid from Hinckley will run in his back garden. He is raising money for Zoë's Place Baby Hospice. That's further than two and a half marathons and about 4,000 laps of his garden.

1,200 bouquets of flowers have been donated to hospital workers. Florist Emma Storey from Norfolk said: “They were for the doctors and nurses, but also the cleaners and catering staff. We wanted to make people smile.”



£187,039 has been raised for the family and baby of a pregnant NHS nurse who died after getting COVID-19. Doctors were able to deliver Mary Agyapong's baby girl, but Ms Agyapong passed away.

£17,000 has been raised for a dog rescue shelter. Samantha Sanderson from Babbington Rescue posted on Facebook about how much it costs to keep the dogs. “Within that night, about £5,000 had come through on our PayPal account,” she said. “We were just blown away.”



SHEEP OUT OF LOCKDOWN



Alice Gray/Dunlally Farm



WHILE the rest of the world adjusts to self-isolation, over in Australia there's a sheep who's already a master of it!

Prickles the sheep disappeared during bushfires that hit Tasmania back in 2013, after the fences around Alice Gray's family farm burnt down. While a number of sheep went missing that day, one made an occasional reappearance.

The family later set up some night-vision cameras, aiming to see if they had any deer visitors. However, instead of deer, they would sometimes catch sight of a huge ball of fluff, which would "peer down the lens" of the camera.

Then the family were having a barbecue when they finally saw Prickles themselves. It took 15 minutes for Alice's husband

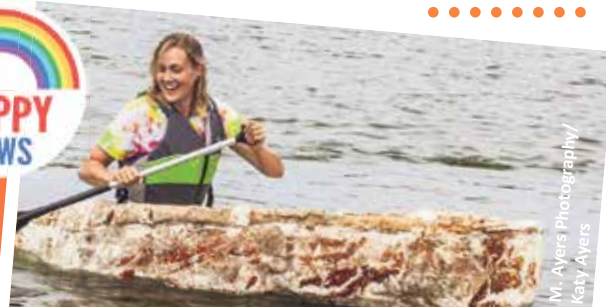
to catch Prickles, who was "very nimble" despite her size. It then took five of them to load her into the back of a van!

Now, safe at home after seven years away, Prickles will soon be getting a long-overdue shearing. The Grays want to donate money from a guess-the-weight-of-the-fleece contest to the United Nations refugee agency, to help coronavirus sufferers in camps. The winner will receive a certificate of excellence.

The family have set up a mycause page, where people can donate and guess the weight of the wool, at tinyurl.com/pricklesthesheep.

WOW!

KATY Ayers has created a canoe entirely made from mushrooms. The 28-year-old student was asked to think up a way to fight climate change. So, after finding out about the many uses that mycelium (mushrooms) can have, she created her canoe. She says it works as a floating advertisement for thinking of mushrooms differently.



M. Ayers Photography/Katy Ayers

In times like these, we feel that the world needs to be reminded that it's not all doom and gloom out there! That's why we're promoting Happy News! If you like this story, and want some more positivity in your life, head to first.news/happynews now!

PUP PALS

A BLIND collie has become best friends with a very bouncy bulldog, who's taken it upon herself to become the collie's guide dog!

Six-month-old Paddy the collie sadly had an eye infection as a newborn puppy. It was untreated and left him completely blind.

While Paddy was being trained, he would become very excitable. So, to teach him some manners, RSPCA staff thought they'd bring in some extra help from one of the other dogs at their facility in Halifax.

They picked Sheeva the bulldog, who turned out to be the perfect puppy pal for Paddy. Sheeva has not only been teaching him manners, but has also been helping him get around safely!

All together now... aww!



RSPCA

EDITOR'S COMMENT



YOUNG or old? Everyone is so grateful for what the NHS is doing to keep us all safe (front page).

We have been blown away by 100-year-old hero, Captain Tom, who was on his way to hitting £30million in his fundraising as First News went to press.

Now, despite difficulties in walking, Frank, aged 6, is doing his bit to help. We really are all in this together. Keep smiling!

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

THE ENVIRONMENT

SWEDEN and Austria have shut down their last coal power stations. Three European countries have stopped using coal now (the other is Belgium). The UK, France, Slovakia, Portugal, Ireland and Italy are expected to do the same by 2025.



Getty

BAD WEEK FOR...

UK SHOPS

SHOPS have suffered the biggest drop in sales since records began more than 30 years ago. In March 2020, retail sales fell by 5.1%. Many stores closed on 23 March after official Government guidance on the coronavirus.



UFOs DECLASSIFIED

THE US Department of Defense (DOD) has officially declassified three videos that appear to show US Navy pilots encountering unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

The three grainy videos have been around online since 2007, but DOD officials at their Pentagon headquarters have just confirmed they're genuine. The Pentagon says the videos show "unexplained aerial phenomena".

The DOD said: "After a thorough review, the department has determined that the authorised release of these unclassified videos does not reveal any sensitive capabilities or systems."

It also explained that it was releasing the footage now, "to clear up any misconceptions by the public on whether or not the footage was real", and confirmed that the objects flying in the videos were still "unidentified."

What do you think? Are there really aliens out there?



BRAZIL



● Coronavirus chaos

The Brazilian government claims that just 53,000 people have been infected by the coronavirus, but scientists from the University of São Paulo and University of Brasília say the number is between 587,000 and 1.1 million people. President Jair Bolsonaro has reacted differently to most countries, claiming that the disease is no more than a "little flu", and campaigning for Brazil to stay open. Disagreements between the president and his government have meant that the country hasn't had a clear strategy, and it's already having a big effect on the Brazilian people. He has fired his country's health minister, and his justice minister has resigned, claiming that Bolsonaro was stopping him from fighting corruption (dishonest behaviour by officials). The country's former president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, has said that he "fears Brazil is going to suffer a great deal."



YEMEN



● Floods hit war-torn country

The city of Aden has been hit by devastating floods, which have completely destroyed the homes and possessions of tens of thousands of families. The country has been gripped by a civil war since 2015, and has battled waves of famine and disease since. Charities are trying to help by providing emergency healthcare, food packs, shelter, clean water and survival items. The UN's Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Yemen said: "None of us know how much more suffering the people of Yemen can take. The solution is clear, [those involved with the civil war] must find the courage to stop fighting and start negotiating."



NORTH KOREA



Kim Jong-un has not been seen since 11 April

● "Kim Jong-un is alive"

Last week, rumours quickly spread that Kim Jong-un, the leader of North Korea, had died during heart surgery. A US official said that they were "monitoring the situation." This week, top South Korean official Moon Chung-in said that "Kim Jong-un is alive and well," and that "no suspicious movements have so far been detected." North Korea has strict controls on the information that leaves its borders, which makes accurate reporting on what's happening in the country difficult.

NEW ZEALAND



● Lifting lockdown

New Zealand has begun to lift its lockdown, as the country's prime minister Jacinda Ardern has said that the spread of COVID-19 from person to person has been stopped. Shops, restaurants and businesses will now begin to reopen on a small scale, and schools will open to those who can't study from home, or whose parents need to return to work. New Zealand began its lockdown long before many other countries, and the prime minister has said that a limited lockdown may continue for longer. "To succeed, we must hunt down the last few cases of the virus," she explained.



SOUTH AFRICA



● Rare bird spotted

For the first time in years, the endangered Egyptian vulture has been seen in South Africa. Records suggest that the species was common in South Africa until around 70 years ago, when it became extinct in the country. It's hoped the reappearance of the birds is a good sign for the species.



JAPAN



● Low-tech struggles

In a recent survey by YouGov, just 18% of Japanese people said they could work from home. Despite Japan's reputation as a country that uses advanced technology, many of the country's businesses rely on older electronics that make working from home difficult. Many still rely on fax machines (above) to communicate, instead of email, and lots don't have high-speed internet connections.



OUR WORLD

NAME: JALLE
LIVES: NOTTINGHAM

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JALLE loves rapping and singing, and has always found music the easiest way to express himself.

When his first serious relationship broke down, he felt like he had no reason to keep going. He turned to the Community Recording Studios, which runs the Windmills project that is jointly funded by Comic Relief and the #iwill fund to raise awareness of mental health.

As part of the project, young people work together to create a hip-opera, an opera that uses hip-hop, rap and spoken word. Jalle credits the people at Community Recording Studios for helping him rebuild his confidence.



COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief

COVID-19 UPDATE

HERE'S a round-up of the latest science about the coronavirus that causes COVID-19:

● NASA make ventilators



Doctors testing the NASA ventilator

A team of engineers at the US space agency, NASA, have developed a new ventilator to help treat patients suffering from

the new coronavirus. Named VITAL (Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally), the apparatus is now awaiting official approval for use in American hospitals. The engineers behind it say VITAL can be built faster and maintained more easily than a traditional ventilator.

● Why do more men get sick?

Data continues to show that men are more at risk of serious COVID-19 complications than women, even though men don't appear more likely to actually catch the virus than women. A study of more than 4,000 hospital patients in New York, USA, found that 62% were male. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, around 70% of critically ill patients were male. Scientists are looking into several theories. One is that men get sicker because they have slightly weaker immune systems (the body's infection-fighting mechanism) than women.



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● Air pollution link

New research from Germany has shown a strong link between air pollution and deaths from COVID-19. Nearly 80% of deaths in Italy, Spain, France and Germany occurred in the most polluted regions. Scientists think long-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide, which is produced by diesel vehicles, makes lung conditions worse.



Daide Bonadonna

An artist's impression of the Spinosaurus's head and tail

THE fine beast pictured above is called *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus*, and it was the biggest of all the carnivore dinosaurs.

A team of scientists from around the world are sure this dinosaur was able to swim. In fact, their new research suggests several dinosaurs enjoyed a dip in the water.

The *Spinosaurus* roamed modern-day North Africa during the Cretaceous period, about 112 million to 97 million years ago. A study published six years ago found that it was probably the first dinosaur known to swim, but some palaeontologists (fossil experts) dismissed the research and said it was unlikely.

Now, scientists say they have clear evidence that the Spino's structure enabled it to swim fast. After studying fossils found in Morocco, North Africa, experts said that the dinosaur had a tail with what they call "an unexpected and unique shape". This quirky tail formed a large, flexible organ, a bit like a fin, which was able to move from side to side.



Diego Mattarelli

Tools at the excavation site in Morocco, where more than 13 tonnes of rock were removed for study

The research team used a robotic apparatus to analyse how the tail would have acted as a propulsion mechanism, thrusting the *Spinosaurus* forward in water. Experiments showed that the *Spinosaurus*'s tail shape was able to generate eight times the thrust of the tail shapes of other theropod dinos.

This helped the scientists conclude that the *Spinosaurus* was "an active and highly specialised aquatic predator that pursued and caught its prey" in water.

Sounds like very bad news for prehistoric fish.

TATA
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES

INNOVATIONS

AN American company has invented a huge 3D printer to make super strong steel components for the US Army.

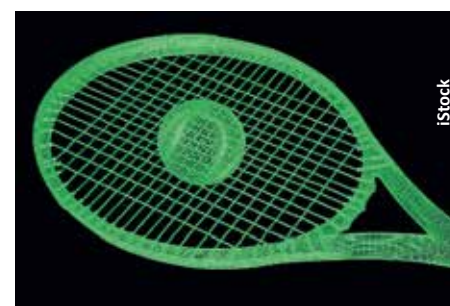
A prototype (first version) of the device has been produced by a company called 3D Systems. They say their invention is the largest, fastest and most precise steel printer ever made.

It's being used to produce parts for military vehicles such as tanks, but it won't be fully operational for a few months.

The 3D-printed steel was found to be 50% stronger than some produced in a steelworks. If the prototype is successful, it could be used to print large metal parts for non-military purposes too.



FUTURISTIC SPORT GEAR



iStock

CAN you come up with a brand-new invention that could change the sporting world?

How about a tennis racket with extra-bouncy strings, a super light baseball bat, or running shoes that increase your acceleration?

The Institution of Engineering and Technology is running a competition called Sports of the Future. It's looking for imaginative designs for a new sporting invention that involves engineering and technology.

The invention should be a piece of equipment for a new sport or for a sport that already exists.

The competition is open to all 5 to 13-year-olds, and all you have to do is fill in a short entry form, draw a sketch of your invention, and write a description of how it could work.

Cycling legend Mark Cavendish is one of the judges, and the winner of the competition will have their idea made into a real-life prototype by a team of experts.

Go to tinyurl.com/IETSportCompetition for more info. The deadline is 11 May 2020, so get your (super speedy) skates on!

FOSSIL FIND



Maryon Stewart

THIS fossil is the most complete known skeleton of a mammal from the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana.

The well-preserved skeleton is around 70 million years old, and, most excitingly, it's a brand-new species never discovered before.

Scientists have called it *Adalatherium*, which means 'crazy beast' in Malagasy, the language of Madagascar.

FOUR FREED

FOUR big cats rescued by wildlife charity Born Free have been relocated to their new forever homes in Ethiopia and South Africa.

Two cheetah cubs have found a new home at Born Free's Ensessa Kottah wildlife sanctuary in Ethiopia, after being seized by Somali officials.

Authorities believe the cubs were snatched from their mother to be sold illegally as pets in the Middle East. The cubs were cared for at a local police station in Ethiopia before being transferred to the reserve.

Another rescue and relocation was carried out by Born Free in South Africa. Two adult leopards were given a new home at Born Free's big cat sanctuary at Shamwari Private Game Reserve after being rescued from the Bloemfontein Zoo. Mowgli, a black leopard, and a spotted leopard were being kept in poor living conditions at the zoo, with limited food and without any access to veterinary care.

Dr Chris Draper, head of animal welfare and captivity at Born Free, says: "These are two very different cases, but they highlight the problems with big cats in captivity, and the continued exploitation of wild animals."

All four of the rescued cats are settling into their new homes, although their recovery back to full health may take some time.



Born Free



Born Free



Born Free



FOX IN A FIX

A FRIGHTENED fox cub has been rescued from the bottom of a disused well by an officer from the RSPCA.

The tiny cub was stuck at the bottom of the 3.5m-deep hole in a garden in Welwyn, Hertfordshire, for two days. The family who own the garden called the RSPCA after hearing the tiny fox's cries. They lowered food and water down to it while they waited for help.

Kate Wright from the RSPCA said: "I managed to scoop him up into my net and carefully bring him up to the surface. Thankfully, despite his big fall, he wasn't injured and I was really keen for him to get back to his mum, so I released him back into the garden. He darted off into the undergrowth where the family believe his den is, so I'm confident he found his way back to mum!"

It's believed the fox cub fell through a small damaged section of the well cover, which has now been replaced and made secure.

If you find an injured animal, or an animal that you believe has been abandoned, call the RSPCA for advice on **0300 1234 999**.



RSPCA



RSPCA

MINI MISHMIS BORN

THE Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park has welcomed two Mishmi takin calves, the largest goat-antelope species in the world.

The young boys have been named Mountain and Drogo by their keepers. Mishmi takins are native to India, Myanmar and China, and are believed to be the animals that inspired the legend of the golden fleece, because of their golden coat.

Like many species, Mishmi takins are under threat in the wild because of habitat loss, hunting and competition for food from other species.

The wildlife park is currently closed but the charity hopes that it won't be too long before it can reopen and visitors can see the calves for themselves.



RZSS

MEET THE WOMEN FIGHTING FOR WILDLIFE



The Black Mambas APU

A BRAND-NEW book champions the people who are working hard to save our planet. The Black Mambas, an all-female anti-poaching team in South Africa, are leading the fight to save some of the world's most endangered species. They told us about their work...

● WHO ARE THE BLACK MAMBAS?

The Black Mambas are a team of young women who grew up in the tribal communities close to the Greater Kruger National Park.

They have been trained to detect and report any poaching activity, search and destroy poachers' camps and traps, disrupt poachers before they can kill any animals, and report any animals in need of help.

● HOW DID THE BLACK MAMBAS FORM?

In 2012, rhino poaching became a real issue in South Africa. The Black Mambas founder had worked as an anti-poaching specialist for ten years, so understood what needed to be done.

The mission was to create an undesirable, dangerous and unprofitable landscape for poachers, while creating a community on the edges of the wildlife landscape. At first, just six Mambas were trained and deployed. Today, there are 36!



iStock

● WHY ARE THE BLACK MAMBAS ALL WOMEN?

We want to empower the women to develop self-respect, pride and dignity. The plan is to develop a strong and proud community that values the wildlife and national parks – with women in charge.

There are men in anti-poaching as well, though, who assist the Black Mambas when and if needed.

● HOW DO YOU STOP POACHERS?

1. Looking for poacher activity with daily foot patrols and vehicle patrols at night.
2. Using roadblocks to search vehicles entering and exiting the area.
3. Searching for and destroying poachers' camps, traps and snares.
4. The Mambas will sit and listen at night for poacher activity like gunshots from observation posts at waterholes and hilltops.



The Black Mambas APU



The Black Mambas APU

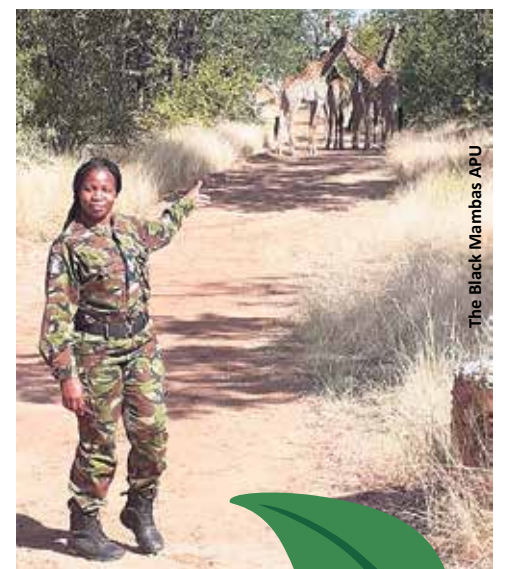
● IS IT DANGEROUS?

The biggest danger is from the wildlife that we encounter on patrols. Poachers do not want to be detected, and therefore hide or run away. But elephants, lions, hippos, buffalo, leopards... all big beasts can be a risk!

● HOW CAN I BECOME A CLIMATE REBEL?

Be a wise consumer of goods and an ethical user of the world. Put pressure on your parents and teachers to support sustainable shops and products.

Google the products in your fridge and see how many of them are produced from unsustainable and controversial suppliers – if they are, find alternatives! Use and live wisely. Tread lightly on the planet.

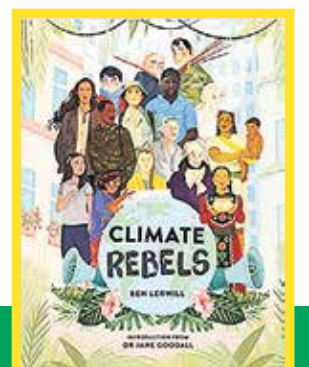


The Black Mambas APU

● WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE BOOK?

We would like the work of these brave women to reach every corner of the Earth, in the hope that this might inspire young people and encourage many nations and generations to get involved and follow their lead.

Climate Rebels by Ben Lerwill is out now, published by Penguin Books



THE BIG PICTURE

ALTHOUGH it looks like an optical illusion or an abstract painting, this amazing image is actually a photograph of an iceberg.

It was taken by Australian photographer Craig McGowan in a fjord in Northeast Greenland National Park, and won the Landscape category of the 2020 Sony World Photography Awards.

“In the calm waters many icebergs were drifting,” McGowan told us. “They had broken away from a glacier and were slowly melting. What the photo does not display is the size or scale of the iceberg or mountain. The iceberg itself would have been 4-5 storeys high. The fjord walls that rose straight up from the water line were all over 1,000 metres [0.6 miles] high. That morning experiencing the natural beauty, combined with pristine conditions in an unspoilt environment, will stay with me forever.”

© Craig McGowan, Australia, Open, Winner, Open, 2020 Sony World Photography Awards

BOREDOM BUSTERS!

FAMILY driving you mad? Can't think what to do? Why not challenge yourself to solve our brilliant brain teasers? Or give the First News Photo Challenge a go, then lose yourself in our puzzles. Once you've done all that, check out the First News website for even more stuff to do!

BRAIN TEASERS

1. WHAT CAN YOU CATCH BUT NEVER THROW?

2. I AM WET WHEN DRYING. WHAT AM I?

3. WHAT HAS AN EYE BUT CANNOT SEE?

4. IF YOU DROP A YELLOW HAT IN THE RED SEA, WHAT DOES IT BECOME?



ANSWERS TO THE BRAIN TEASERS IN ISSUE 723:

1) A sponge 2) Your breath 3) Edam 4) The temperature

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S BRAIN TEASERS IN FIRST NEWS SOON!

THE FIRST NEWS PHOTO CHALLENGE

WE want you to recreate this famous photo, which made headlines years ago, using anything you can find in your house!

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: Former prime minister Tony Blair's wife, Cherie Blair, catches up on the news ahead of Labour's win in the 1 May general election in 1997



Send your photos to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk with the subject Isolation Station, and we'll feature our favourites on the new FN Isolation Station, which you can find at first.news/happy

HOW TO MAKE A LOG PILE LODGE

YOU might have heard of, or made, a bug hotel before, but have you heard of a log pile lodge? They're a super simple way to support the smallest creatures in our ecosystem!

- Making a log pile lodge is as easy as it sounds. All you'll need to do is collect a bunch of sticks, twigs and logs!
- Find a quiet, shady area of your garden. If you don't have a garden, you could always build a log pile lodge in a green space near you. Just make sure you're not disrupting anyone or anything with your lodge!
- Simply stack the old sticks, twigs and logs, filling any spaces you can with leaves. And there you have it: a log pile lodge that's a perfect place for a ladybird or lacewing (right) to make their home in.



THIS WEEK'S HEROES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST BOREDOM

A BUNCH of brilliant people and places are doing their bit to entertain us! Here are a few of our favourites.

● Our friends at the Royal Mint have launched a hub that's full of things to do. There's a whole host of quizzes, games and educational tools, all brought to life through iconic coins and popular children's characters such as the Gruffalo and Wallace & Gromit. The hub is being updated with content

regularly, so keep an eye out for new things to do each week! The hub will feature maths first, but science, art and design will be added soon. You can find the hub at www.royalmint.com/kids.

● Hyundai and Chelsea FC have teamed up to produce a series of videos aimed at teaching you how to develop your footie skills while stuck at home. Called Home Advantage, the first video stars Chelsea players Christian Pulisic and Michy Batshuayi and talks you through four different types of dribbling drills! If you and your family share your attempts at the lessons on social media using #HyundaiFC, you might even win a prize! To read more, just head over to blog.hyundai.co.uk/experiences/football.

FIRST NEWS' POSITIVITY PLACE

IF you're feeling a little low about the news and the lockdown is getting you down, why not head to the First News Isolation Station? It's our own little corner of positivity on the internet!

Featuring messages of support to key workers, along with things to do, happy news stories and more, we hope it's enough to cheer you up on a bad day.

If the site inspires you, and you want to submit your own bit of positivity to the First News Isolation Station, email us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk with the subject Isolation Station.

WIN! POCKET GARDEN EXPERIMENTS BOOK

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

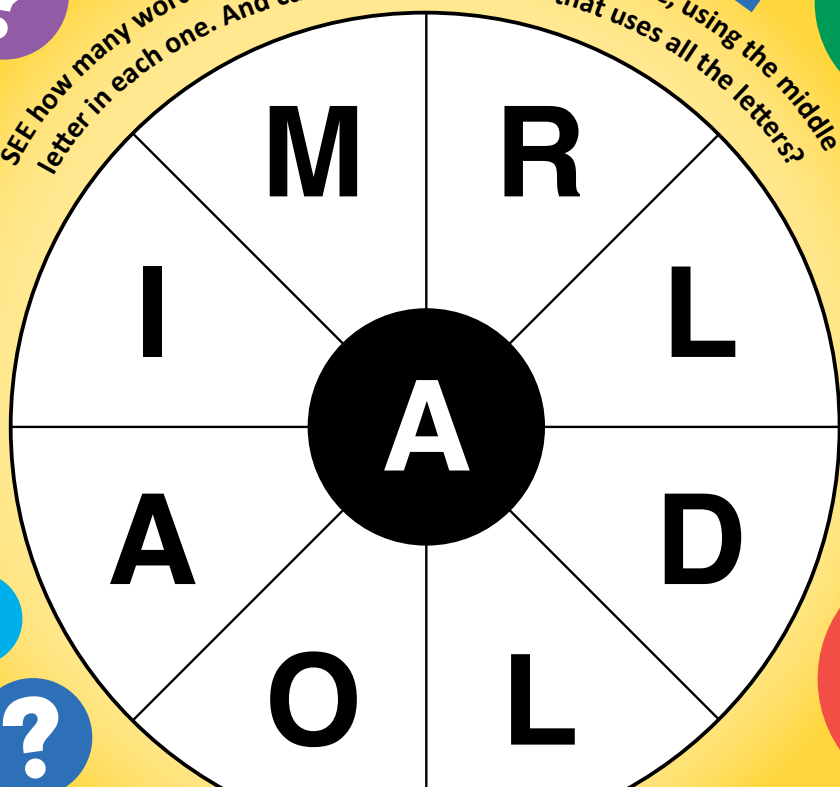
Send in your answers and three winners will win a copy of *The Pocket Book of Garden Experiments*. With 80 activities for the whole family to enjoy, *The Pocket Book of Garden Experiments* contains easy-to-follow instructions for projects that will stretch your imagination and bring out your inner scientist! www.bloomsbury.com



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

WORD WHEEL

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



CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

FOR a chance to win a £200 Amazon voucher, please take part in the 2020 First News readership survey.

It will only take you a few minutes and will help us find out when and how First News is being read in schools.

To enter the survey, click the link sent to you in the weekly First News schools newsletter.



WIN! MAX TAKES A STAND BOOKS

Nick Shepherd



CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and five lucky winners will win a copy of *Max Takes A Stand*. *Max Takes A Stand* is the first book in a funny new series by environmental activist Tim Allman, about saving the planet.

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

ACROSS

- 1 Day after Friday (8)
- 6 Nuisance (4)
- 7 Rarely (6)
- 9 Sport with an oval ball (5)
- 11 Essential (5)
- 12 Stranger (5)
- 13 Large mythical creatures, like Shrek (5)
- 16 Bitter-tasting (6)
- 18 ___ Watson: Harry Potter actor (4)
- 19 Her award (anag) (8)

DOWN

- 1 An exploding star (9)
- 2 An object in general (5)
- 3 Dry dirt that builds up on objects over time (4)
- 4 Screaming (7)
- 5 One add one (3)
- 8 Sweet and cold dairy drink (9)
- 10 Width (7)
- 14 Cuban dance (5)
- 15 A lasting mark following an injury (4)
- 17 Pet feline (3)

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 724** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 1 May 2020**.

JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*?



© 2016 Lucasfilm Ltd. All Rights Reserved

CAN you find the words in our *How To Train Your Dragon* wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.



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

ROYAL Mail has revealed images of 12 new Special Stamps to be issued to mark the end of the Second World War.

Eight stamps depict scenes of celebration by service personnel and civilians when news of the conflict's end was announced. Also featured are images of personnel returning from overseas, as well as the return of children evacuated from major cities.

The eight images were originally photographed in black and white, but have been brought to life in colour for the first time by colourist Royston Leonard.

Four additional stamps presented in a Miniature Sheet show images of official monuments and cemeteries built to remember and honour the fallen, as well as a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

We have 15 WW2 Stamp Presentation sets up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

When did World War 2 end?

a) 2 September 1945 b) 2 August 1945
c) 2 July 1945

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY WW2

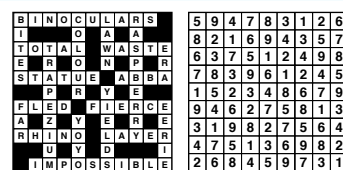
firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 14 May 2020.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: wooden panel is missing, sleeve is purple, extra finger has been added, pattern on pigeon is missing, tooth has been removed.

Word wheel: fragrance.

What on Earth?: A. Mount Rushmore B. Christ the Redeemer C. Empire State Building D. Stonehenge E. Machu Picchu F. the Colosseum.



NINTENDO HACKED



DETAILS of 160,000 Nintendo accounts have been taken in a hack, the videogame company has confirmed.

In the wake of the attack, Nintendo has temporarily prevented users from logging in using their Nintendo Network IDs, and changed the passwords of everyone affected. The theft affects anyone who uses a Nintendo Network ID to log on to Nintendo's online services. The company says that private data such as nickname, email, date of birth, gender and country may have been accessed.

Nintendo says it will email everyone affected, and has recommended users set up two-factor authentication, one of the best ways of protecting your account. For more information on that, ask a trusted grown-up to help you out and head to bit.ly/2VTEVu5.

ASTRONOMICAL!

FORTNITE (PEGI 12) hit an all-time player record this week, when more than 12 million people played at once, to watch a special live in-game performance by rapper Travis Scott.

The live show, called Travis Scott's Astronomical, was viewed by 12.3 million people, according to folks at Fortnite – and that's not including the millions who were watching on livestreams.

A bunch of Travis Scott-themed skins and emotes have been added to the game to celebrate the in-game show.



BEAST Quest Ultimate Heroes is a new mobile game that's based on the Beast Quest books by Adam Blade. Games reviewer Isobel, aged 14, gave us her thoughts...

"There's a lot going on in Beast Quest Ultimate Heroes, and it can be confusing at first. There are lots of characters and cards and chests – and all sorts of other things. While I did all the tutorials, I still wasn't 100% sure I understood everything.

The fun part of the game is where you've got to stop goblins and other nasty creatures from reaching your crystal.

You do this by placing characters around the world, who can then attack the goblins. The more you play, the more characters you can unlock. Plus, you can upgrade your characters to be more powerful over time.

It takes some time to do this though, but you can speed things up by spending real money. The game looks nice, and the music is cool, but you end up hearing the sound of dying goblins a bit too much."



Beast Quest Ultimate Heroes is available on iOS and Android from 6 May

WIN! AN ACTION & REACTION STARTER SET

THE Action & Reaction range from Clementoni is a unique science kit that teaches the principles of physics in a super fun way. It lets you design your own tracks and experiment with gravity, force and levers by using the parts and accessories included.

Action & Reaction is a modular system, so components can be assembled together to enable you to create amazing tracks that can be personalised. It also allows you to add additional items from around your home too!

We are giving away an Action & Reaction Starter Set to ten lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Who discovered gravity?
a) Albert Einstein b) Stephen Hawking
c) Isaac Newton



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ACTION

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 15. The closing date is 14 May 2020.

WIN! A DISNEY PRINCESS DOLL

This is a great competition for your younger siblings!

FOR every child who dreams big, there's a Princess to show them it's possible!

With multiple Disney Princess Toddler Dolls available, there's an adventure to be had with all of your favourite Princesses!

Each Toddler Doll comes with her very own specially-decorated dress from their fairy-tale adventures!

Who would your favourite Disney Princess Toddler Doll be?

Six lucky winners will each win three Disney Princess Toddler Dolls!

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

In which Disney film would you find Belle?

- a) The Little Mermaid
- b) Sleeping Beauty
- c) Beauty and the Beast



Suitable for ages 3 and over



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DOLL

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 15. The closing date is 14 May 2020.

VALUABLE LESSONS

CHILDREN around the world are having to learn a lot of new things right now, whether that's how to have school lessons at home, how to get by without friends, or even how to defeat a virus when you can't even wash your hands. UNICEF has been seeing how kids are coping.

"We are all in this together. No matter how much we can be different in our countries, cultures, habits or thoughts, this situation reunites us and shows us that we are not THAT different," writes Jenifer from Lebanon, on the Voices of Youth website, a blog for young people to share experiences on one platform.

No matter how close to home the current coronavirus pandemic may be for some of us, we must not forget that this is a global issue. It may be a scary time, but we are not alone, and we must be kind and helpful to each other during this period.

Currently, more than 80% of the world's children are out of school due to nationwide closures. Xiaoyu, 16, starts the day at 8am in Beijing. "Compared with normal schooling, online learning is less effective to me," she says. "At school, I can approach teachers at any time if I have questions, and I can discuss with my classmates. I miss my friends. Staying at home for such a long time is so boring."

Xiaoyu is one of the hundreds of millions of children learning from home using the internet.

KITCHEN CHAOS

Meanwhile in Georgia, 13-year-old Giorgi has started to find ways to fill up his spare time outside of studying.

"First, reading: I've always loved reading, but I'm running out of books and the bookstores are closed," he says. "Second, I really enjoy cooking. It's just so satisfying when you make the perfect dish. But when I cook, things don't usually go that way and there's total chaos in the kitchen!"

In many countries, studying from home and not being able to play outside with friends are just the first steps to preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

Keeping your hands clean is also essential, but can you imagine not having soap and clean water available? For three billion people worldwide, this is the reality. Almost half of the world's population (40%) do not have access to basic hand-washing facilities with water and soap at home.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) the conditions are dire. Since 2019, a measles epidemic has killed more than 5,000 children under the age of five, while there have been over 31,000 cases of cholera. Now, coronavirus cases are increasing fast, posing another big challenge to a country that is ravaged with conflict, violence, a lack of clean water supplies and a lack of medical resources.

HIDDEN VICTIMS

As coronavirus cases pass three million around the world, children continue to be the hidden victims of this crisis. UNICEF is working tirelessly to support children and families by raising awareness of hand-washing, while also providing essential health worker supplies, such as surgical gloves, soap and clean water facilities.

In 145 countries, UNICEF is working with partners to provide equipment to schools and circulate information on virus prevention; to train teachers in mental health support for themselves and students, and to ensure children have access to remote learning programmes when out of school, through TV, radio and online.

Xiaoyu has been taking lessons online every day during lockdown



Parents wash their child's hands at a UNICEF water point in Abdoya, Djibouti, where water is scarce and temperatures can reach 47°C in summer

UNICEF is appealing for £503.7 million to respond to children and families in emergency countries. Donate now to support UNICEF's work for children and families at www.unicef.org.uk/coronavirus

ONE of the many kids who have written to First News about their experiences of lockdown is Alexia from Greece.

"My name is Alexia Kanaroglou, I'm 14 years old and I live in Athens. My sister and I go to St Catherine's British School. At first, the only schools that were closed were the ones with a student or parent who had the virus. Then our lockdown started on 23 March. Now, to leave your house, you have to send a message to the number they gave out.

We typically have 2-3 online classes every day, plus work that the teachers set. I eat with my mum and sister and then I take my dogs for a walk.

I can wake up later and it's a more comfortable environment, which makes the schoolwork less stressful. On the other hand, not being able to socialise and learn with your friends makes schoolwork very boring. There are also no after-school clubs, so I can no longer play football or volleyball. But I FaceTime my friends very often so we can catch up and just laugh together. Quarantine has also made me spend a lot of time with my family and I really enjoy that, but I want things to go back to normal."



GOING WILD



CHRIS Packham narrates the brand-new BBC wildlife series *Primates* and tells us why we should learn more about all of these amazing animals, the closest relations to humans in the animal kingdom.



■ What drove you to take part in the series?

I've known Gavin Boyland, the series producer, for some time. He's been making really intelligent, imaginative series and pushing the boat out to make them as creative as possible. He made a previous series about big cats and I stayed in touch with him while he was doing that. I loved the series, so when he told me he was doing *Primates* I was interested. If you ask people about primates, they'll talk about apes and monkeys. They'll talk particularly about gorillas, chimpanzees, orangs [orangutans] and so on and so forth – the big flashy 'T-shirt animals' as I call them; things that people easily engage with. I like the way the series covers the whole breadth of the primate family. They've got everything, including the lemurs, the slow loris, the bush babies, spider monkeys and the gibbons, to mention a few. There's a great breadth there that I think will open people's eyes to this really important group of animals, which are, as programme three tells us, critically endangered in many cases.

■ In your view, what are the most surprising stories in the series?

There are a number of surprising stories, and the first one pops up in our first programme. I think we've all grown up with the idea that male silverback gorillas are all about being big and immensely strong. But what we've learnt through new observations and new science is that male gorillas' fitness, in terms of how often they can reproduce successfully, is nothing to do directly with their size; it's to do with how they respond to the needs of their young. Effectively, how cuddly they are! It's fantastic. I love it when we turn stories on their head and we completely change what we think about something into something new. And we can do it with authority because the science says it's true and the science is therefore trustworthy.

■ In your opinion, why is a series like *Primates* so important for our audiences?

I think we can use animals that we engage with easily to help people engage with things that they don't perhaps necessarily know much about. Gorillas, chimps and orangs are an easy 'in'. Everyone loves them, everyone knows that they are endangered and threatened, everyone knows that they are intelligent, and we share a lot of genes with them and a lot of similarities in terms of our species. They are a great way of getting people to watch. Once you get people watching, then we can take them somewhere new, and that's what we do with this series. It's about the entire breadth of the primate group, including some small species that people may not have even heard of. And yet we can show people how important they are, how smart they are, and how fascinating they are.

■ What do you hope viewers will take away from this programme?

A deepened affection for this group of animals that are easy to love. I think people need to see that they are valuable, not just because they are interesting, but also because they play important roles in the ecosystems that we're dependent upon. And programme three is a pretty forthright plea for people to help the conservation of these animals. Without that we'll lose a lot of them very quickly. And when we start losing species en masse [all together], we're making ourselves vulnerable. We are still part of the ecosystems on planet Earth and if those ecosystems collapse because we're taking all the species out of them, then we will collapse too. So, it is in our best interest to help. I'm really hoping that people will love primates even more and contribute in some way to their conservation.

■ Do you have any last thoughts on primates in the wild and their future?

We're still learning and there's so much more to learn, which makes them exciting, very beautiful, very similar to us and therefore easy to engage with. But collectively, they are a group of animals that, just like ourselves, are in big trouble. And the big trouble from their point of view is down to us. I think this is a series that has to leave us with one or two questions about ourselves. We are a primate, we are part of this group of species and the way we behave at this point in time will determine all of our futures.



PICS OF THE WEEK



CELEBRITY Disney fans have teamed up to record their favourite Disney songs as part of *The Disney Family Singalong* for Disney+.

The original cast of *High School Musical* reunited for the singalong show, teaming up for an online performance of *We're All In This Together* from the film.

Other celebrities joining in the fun included Ariana Grande, who sang *I Won't Say I'm In Love* from *Hercules*, Auli'i Cravalho singing her character's song *How Far I'll Go* from *Moana*, Josh Gad, Luke Evans and Alan Menken singing *Gaston* from *Beauty and the Beast* and Demi Lovato and Michael Bublé singing *A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes* from *Cinderella*.

The Disney Family Singalong is available to stream now on Disney+.



THIS WEEK

1 Horrid Henry fans can now tune

in to a brand-new *Horrid Henry* podcast to find out how Henry and his family are coping during lockdown.

As well as the new weekly podcast (available on Apple, Spotify, Google and YouTube), daily online activities, projects, challenges, puzzles and brand-new videos will also be available each week on the *Horrid Henry* website.

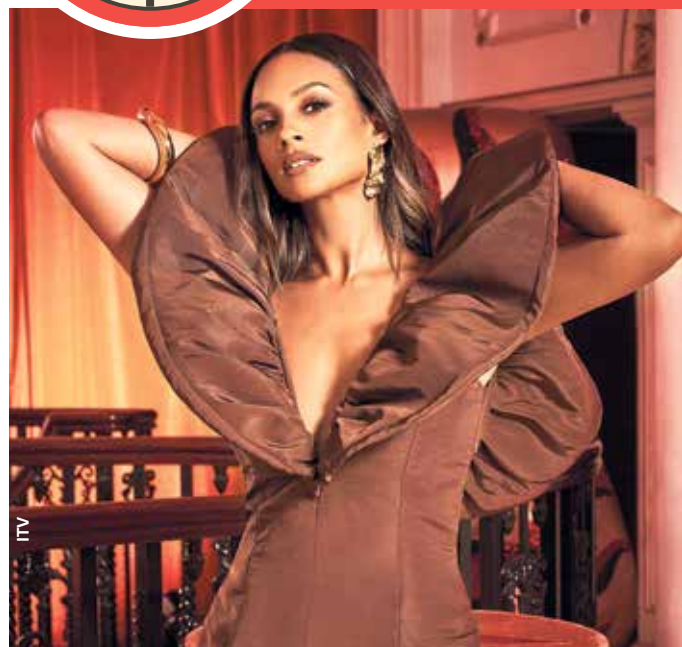


2 *Les Misérables: The Staged Concert* is available for digital download for the first time ever and will help raise money for performers, musicians and the NHS. The famous musical was filmed at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End and stars Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Matt Lucas and Carrie Hope Fletcher.

3 If you're missing live music, Amazon Prime has added the Jonas Brothers *Happiness Continues* concert film to its streaming service. The film is a mixture of live concert performances and behind-the-scenes footage of the band and their life on the road. The show was filmed during the band's sold-out *Happiness Continues* tour in 2019 and is available now.



ALESHA DIXON



THE audition shows for *Britain's Got Talent* are our favourite thing about Saturday nights, so we grabbed five minutes with Alesha.

■ What's the vibe like on the show this year?

We have quite a long time when we don't see each other, so when we come back together it's always good energy. Good vibes. One of the last days in Manchester was a particularly good day. We had everything. It was like being on an emotional rollercoaster. Everyone's buzzing to be back doing it again. And, you know, it's the best show on telly, so why wouldn't we be?

■ How would you rate the talent this year?

It feels classic, like old-school BGT. I think that there's this feeling about some of the acts that are coming through that they're just people from everyday life who think: "I'm going to give that a go." But, for me, the bottom line is always about feeling something. Whether it's rolling around laughing so much or feeling really moved by it. Those are the kind of acts that you want. Someone that moves something in you rather than something just being okay and a bit average.

■ What do you think of the dance acts?

As a fan of dance, I sit there willing a dance act to come out and smash it. The only way I ever measure it is if I get jealous over the choreography, or I want to join them on stage!

■ Why do you think it's important that we have this show on TV?

I think it's a combination of a few things. You know, I could sit with my daughter and my nan, and we can all enjoy the show. There are not many shows you can do

that with now. So, just from a family viewing point of view on a Saturday night, it's so important. And then, obviously going back to the roots and the bones of it, we're giving the everyday person some inspiration and a platform to change their lives. I love that. When we say: "Go for it, you've got two minutes to change your life," we mean it because that's what literally happens.



■ Can you predict a winner this year?

Up until the second to last day I didn't know who I thought could win, but now I feel like David's golden buzzer has got a really strong chance of winning. I would love an act like that to win because they, for me, are the heart and soul of this show. Everyone's going to relate and connect to them, and I would love them to go all the way.

Britain's Got Talent,
Saturdays at 8pm on ITV



“WE SHOULD ALL
LOOK HARDER FOR
THE REAL HEROES”

Kid Normal and the Final Five, the final book in the Kid Normal series, is available to buy now! Authors Chris Smith and Greg James talk to First News about saying goodbye to the books, heroes and dressing up as ducks!

● **Kid Normal and the Final Five is the last book in the series. How does that make you feel?**

Chris: It's a sweet and sour moment, like sweet and sour pork. The sweetness is the knowledge that we've written a series of four books that we're enormously proud of. But underneath that yummy sauce there's a porky sadness that we won't be able to hang out with the Super Zeroes any more.

● **Were there always four full stories planned, or did you find the series came to a natural end? And any temptations to write a fifth?**

Greg: Well, as we say at the end of *Final Five* – stories never end, but books do. We don't have plans for any more books about Murph and his friends, but that doesn't mean they'll never have any more adventures!

● **How does it work writing the books together?**

Greg: Basically it means we get to hang out together and try to make each other laugh. We pass the laptop between us and take it in turns to wander about, acting out the characters.

● **What can we expect from Kid Normal's final adventure?**

Chris: You can expect the biggest, maddest, most dramatic Kid Normal story ever. With added wombat.

● **What is it about the Super Zeroes that uber-villain Nicholas Knox dislikes so much?**

Greg: Knox tries to tell the world that people with Capabilities [superpowers] are dangerous freaks. So Murph – who is part of the Heroes but doesn't have a Cape – kind of destroys his whole argument! And Knox really, really hates being proved wrong.

● **The opening page of this book reads: "There are Heroes everywhere. You walk past them in the street every day. You read about them in the papers. You hear about them on the news." That couldn't be truer at the moment, but who were you thinking about when you wrote that?**

Chris: It's strange to think we wrote that a whole year ago. You're right, it rings so true now, doesn't it? But we really feel that sometimes the world celebrates the wrong people, and we should all look harder for the real Heroes. Perhaps this is reminding us of that.

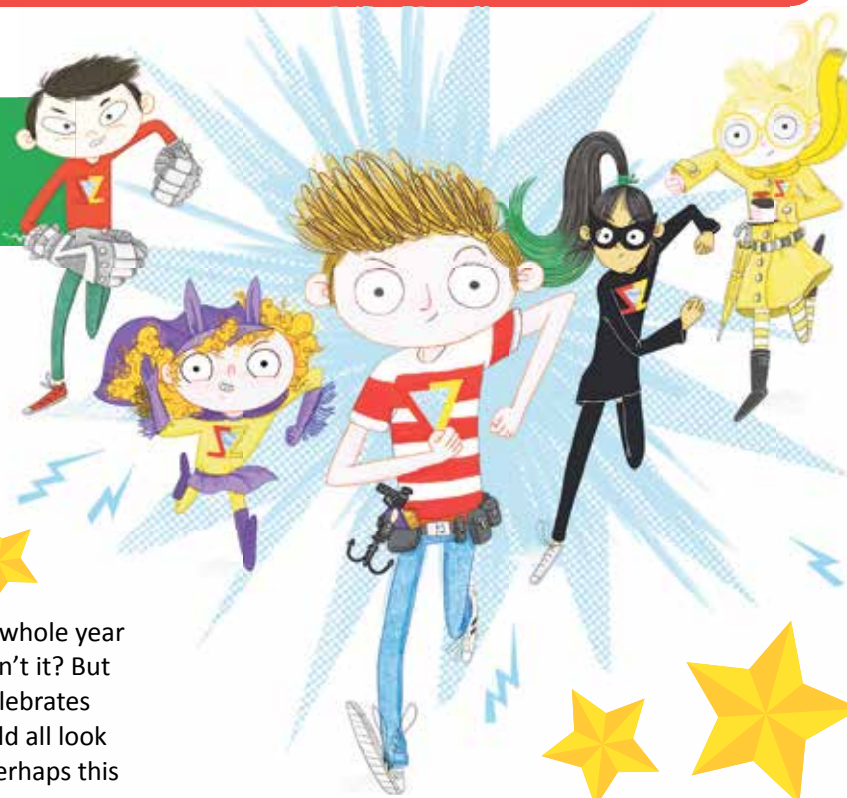
● **There are some really cool characters in your books, but which ones do you enjoy writing the most?**

Greg: Thanks! Well, we love coming up with ridiculous villains, like The Sponge, who smells of stale sponge, or Skeleton Bob, who is a rubbish pirate with a silly name.

● **What kind of superhero would you be, and what power would you like to have?**

Greg: I would like to be able to conjure up any dinner immediately. My Hero name is Dinner Man and his theme tune goes: "Dinner dinner dinner dinner dinner dinner dinner... DINNER MAN!"

Chris: I would like to be able to summon Daniel Radcliffe to appear in the cupboard under my stairs, so in the middle of dinner parties he could pop out and I would bellow: "Potter! Get back in your cupboard!"



● **In this book, the identities of the Super Zeroes have been revealed, but do you ever try to avoid being recognised in public? Have either of you ever gone out in disguise?**

Chris: We sometimes go out in public dressed as ducks. It's not a disguise, though, it's just a way of scoring loads of free bread.

● **As a child, did you ever think you'd have written one book, let alone a whole series?**

Greg: We certainly hoped! We've both always loved coming up with stories, but of course, to see them made into actual books, with a nice booky smell and everything, is pretty incredible.

● **What advice would you give to kids who want to be writers?**

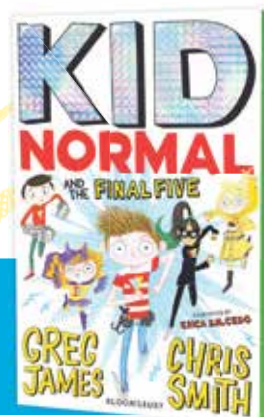
Chris: Read loads! Don't panic if you don't know what to write about. Keep your brain open and an idea will settle there sooner or later. This advice applies to grown-ups who want to be writers too.



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



Kid Normal and the Final Five
by Greg James and Chris Smith
is out now





William, a South Sudanese refugee who's been educating people about the virus

KIDS AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

CHILDREN around the world have been helping their communities to learn about and beat the new coronavirus that has swept across the globe. Patricio Cuevas-Parra, the director of child participation and rights at World Vision, shared some of their stories with us.

Schools are closed, you can't go shopping, and you can't meet up with friends. Parties, sleepovers and picnics are off-limits.

You may have thought you'd never say it, but it can be hard not going to school and seeing your mates. But the best thing we can all do to beat coronavirus and keep everyone well is to stay at home.

Many children across the world have been using their time indoors to spread positive messages and take action to keep families and neighbours safe. Here are some great examples of kids using their skills and technology to reach people.

Meet the coronavirus campaigners

● Fourteen-year-old **Arijan** from Bosnia and Herzegovina in southeastern Europe is helping to sew cloth masks for people who need them. His mum is a tailor and usually makes clothes, but her business has dried up since the virus hit. So now, Arijan and his parents are sewing masks to give out for free to anyone who needs them in their local community.



Arijan

● **Anita**, 16, and **Jason**, 15, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in central Africa are planning to start their own community radio show and have agreed with their local station that they can host a weekly slot. Life in the DRC is very hard, with a long-running conflict and lots of people living in poverty. Most people don't have access to the internet, so the radio is the best way to reach people with messages about washing your hands and keeping safe from the virus.



Jason

● **William**, 14, is a refugee from South Sudan, now living in northern Uganda in East Africa. He lives in a refugee camp, where he's volunteering as a child ambassador. Keeping a safe distance from other people and wearing a mask and gloves, he goes door to door, sharing with other children how they can stay safe. It's much more difficult to socially distance and stay clean while living in a refugee camp, so William's messages are crucial to ensure the virus doesn't spread.

● **Salimata**, 15, from Mali has begun producing videos teaching people about good hygiene practices. More than two million children in Mali aren't able to go to school even when they are open, and over half of the country's young people can't read or write. So it's extra important



One of Salimata's videos

The Channels of Hope radio show helps to give health messages to people in the DRC



that simple videos are shared so that everyone understands what's needed during this difficult time.

● Seventeen-year-old **Lara** in Brazil lives in a favela, where thousands of people are crammed into very small homes. They only get fresh water delivered once a week, so it's especially difficult for families to stay clean and healthy. The tiny living spaces also mean there's not much room to play at home, and children easily get bored. Lara saw this problem, and decided to create videos with her friends to share on social media, raising awareness about the coronavirus and why it's crucial people take part in the lockdown. Not only that, but she's also creating and sharing educational storytelling videos for younger children, to help keep them entertained at home.

How about you?

World Vision is working all over the world to help protect vulnerable children and their families from disease. We know that everyone, children and adults, have a vital role to play in this. We're in this together, and together we'll beat the virus.

Why not come up with some of your own ideas? Share them with your parents or caregivers, and see if there's anything you can do to help keep your community safe.

To read about World Vision's work around the world, see www.worldvision.org.uk





LIFE AT A ZOO IN LOCKDOWN

WHILE we're all staying at home, life goes on for the zookeepers who are looking after the animals in zoos across the UK. Glynn Hennessy, a zookeeper at ZSL London Zoo, has written an exclusive diary for First News about what it's like working (and living) at a zoo during lockdown.



Zookeeper Glynn and his "neighbour" Bhanu

7am: I wake up to the sound of my new neighbour making a roaring racket, but he's an Asiatic lion called Bhanu, so I'll let it slide. I've been living at ZSL London Zoo since the lockdown, in our special overnight lodges, usually reserved for visitors. They're very cosy, with an en-suite bathroom and a sunny deck, at the heart of our Land of the Lions exhibit. Time to get the kettle on!

8am: Team meeting time. Like everyone else, we're social distancing, so we stay 2m apart and run through any extra daily tasks that need doing. It's getting warmer outside, so we know our primates would enjoy some ice lollies made out of fruit tea frozen with nuts and seeds. I'll get onto those after...

8:30am: Breakfast time! I set to work chopping fresh veg for our critically-endangered western lowland gorillas – Effie, Mjukuu, Gernot and Alike – plus 18 squirrel monkeys and all the other primates at the zoo. They eat a lot! This morning it's 13kg of leafy greens, vegetables and peppers for the gorillas, 12kg of cabbages, leafy greens and salad leaves for our 11 colobus monkeys, 7kg of vegetables and leafy greens for our Hanuman langurs and squirrel monkeys. That's a lot of chopping!

9:30am: Feeding time. Sometimes we scatter it around their homes, sometimes we place it in their cosy dens. We like to mix things up to keep it interesting.

10am: Usually at this point our doors would open to the public and we'd welcome thousands of visitors. But at the moment, the zoo is closed, so we're focusing on looking after

our animals and thinking up entertaining and enriching activities for them all. It's something we do every day, but with the zoo closed we have even more time to spend with them. It's always good to see the positive!

11am: We take our time visiting all the animals and doing visual health checks. We work so closely with our animals that we can tell if anyone is feeling a bit under the weather and can call on our team of vets and vet nurses to come and take a look if needed.

1pm: After a quick break for lunch (for the humans), it's squirrel monkey play time! I put on my mask and gloves and make puzzle feeders for our troop to enjoy. These are hanging puzzles that the group have to figure out their way into to get a treat – today it's locusts. I hang them around the enclosure and watch as everyone joins in the fun.

2pm: Recall training with the colobus monkeys. It's important that we

do daily training with all the animals at the zoo for a number of reasons. Some examples are in case we need to move them from one area of their home to another to change their straw bedding, or to call them over for health checks. Our big cats will lie down and show us their tummies for examination, or put their paws and tail up against the fence so that vets can take their blood quickly and safely without the need for a general anaesthetic. We blow a whistle and when they come over they get a reward. Next year our growing colobus troop will be moving across the zoo to a huge new home called

the Snowdon Aviary, so we need to start preparing them for the move.

3pm: Time for a late lunch for everyone and another visit to see how our animals are doing before we finish up for the day. Western lowland gorilla Gernot is sunbathing after playing on the outdoor climbing frame, while Jimmy the white-cheeked gibbon is showing off his skills for the keepers – swinging speedily from the ropes and branches in his home. His son Yoda is just watching with an embarrassed look on his face. Oh, Jimmy!

4pm: Clean-up time! Everything in the back dens and kitchens gets a full sterilising clean before we go home for the day, including our uniforms. Then there's just enough time to put some ice lollies in the freezer and make some popcorn for tomorrow – our western lowland gorillas, Diana monkeys and white-naped mangabeys love both of these! We work closely with ZSL's dedicated animal nutritionist to make sure everyone's diet is healthy, so we leave out the butter and salt from the popcorn!

5pm: Home time! It's a short commute across the zoo to the ZSL London Zoo lodges and I'm sat on my deck ready to watch the lions play in the last of the sun before it goes down. I'll watch Netflix on the iPad, Skype my family and friends to make sure they're okay, and fall asleep to the sounds of the animals. Sometimes Bhanu might wake me up with a roar during the night, but that's okay. It's a zookeeper's life!

Glynn says: "We're all working hard to make sure our animals are looked after while the lockdown is in place, but we do need people's help. We're a charity, so we've launched a fundraiser at zsl.org/donate to raise money to care for and feed our animals until we can open our doors again – please do spread the word! You can keep up to date with the lives of all our animals by checking out [@zslondonzoo](https://twitter.com/zslondonzoo) on social media. We can't wait to see our visitors again. Until then, stay indoors and stay safe, everyone."



The gorillas enjoy some frozen treats



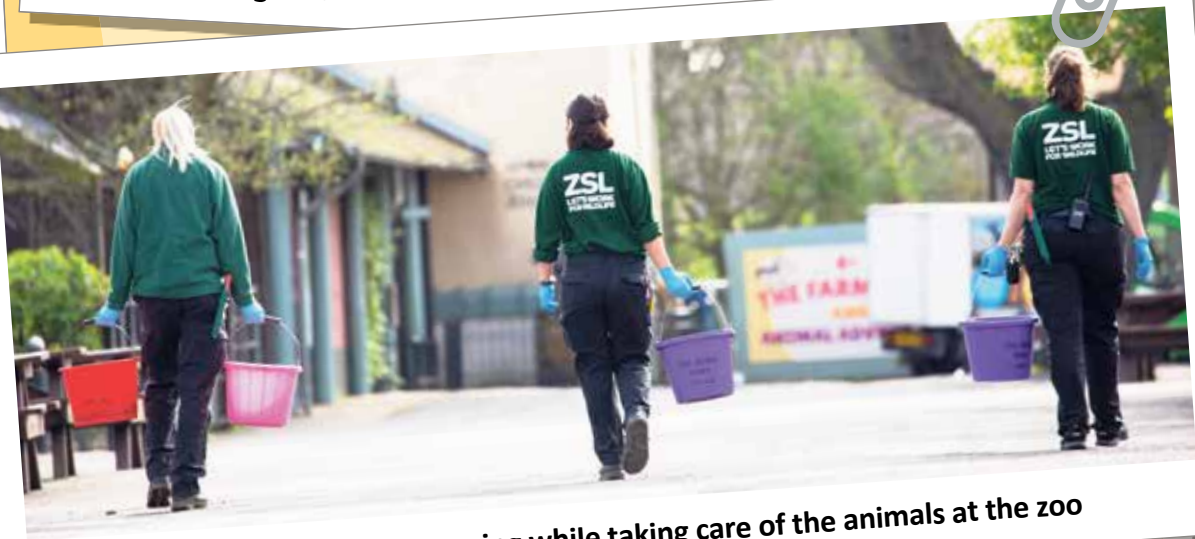
Hello Jimmy!



Glynn relaxes on his deck after work



Keeper Tara Humphrey feeds Gulad the mongoose



The keepers practise social distancing while taking care of the animals at the zoo



Glynn checks the delivery of fruit and vegetables for the primates. This delivery will last just one week!



A keeper checks the feeding schedule for the day



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WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

THE CHILD SMALL SOFT TOY SHOPDISNEY.CO.UK £21.00

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LEGO STAR WARS SITH TROOPERS BATTLE PACK ARGOS.CO.UK £13.00

Featuring a battle speeder with room in the cockpit for two minifigures and two blasting blue engines. You can attach a blaster to the front of the speeder, ready to fire at any moment, and lead troopers into enemy territory for the battle! Comes with four minifigures.



STAR WARS JEDI: FALLEN ORDER THE SECOND SISTER POP FIGURE SMYTHSTOYS.COM £10.00

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

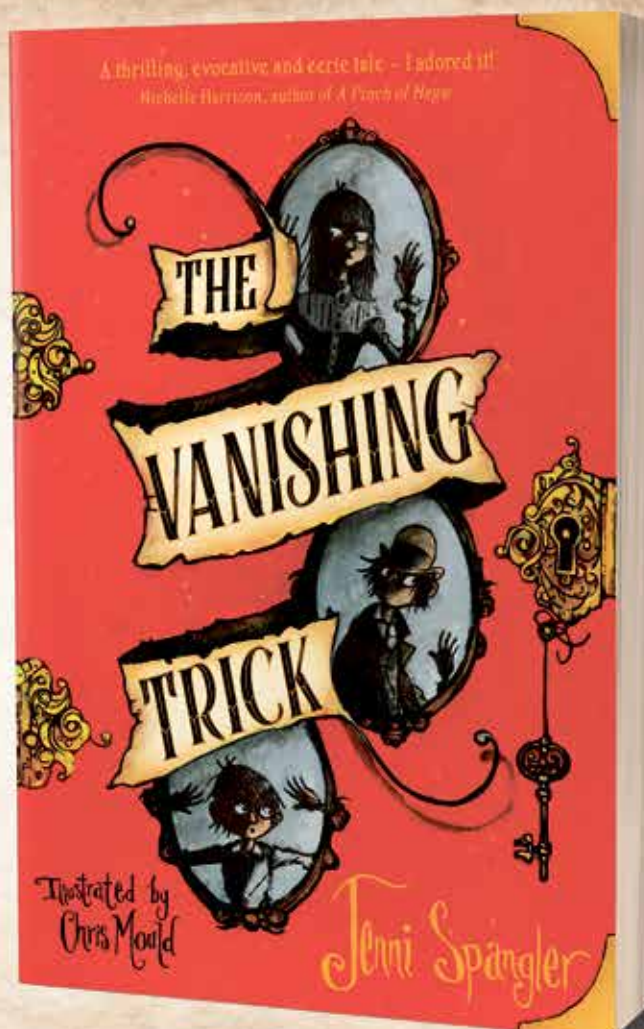
Waterstones Children's

Book OF THE Month

Step into a world of secrets,
folklore and illusions...

THE VANISHING TRICK

Available from Waterstones.com



'Ghosts, gadgets, likeable villains and unlikely heroes: *The Vanishing Trick* is a dark and dazzling adventure'
EMMA CARROLL

'A thrilling, evocative and eerie tale - I adored it!'
MICHELLE HARRISON

'Hugely original and thrilling'
ABI ELPHINSTONE

Illustrations © 2020 Chris Mould



WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

**WORDS
FOR LIFE**



GAVIN Puckett won the 2013 Greenhouse Funny Prize. His first book, *Murray The Horse*, came out in 2015. He has gone on to write more horsey adventures as part of a humorous rhyming series called *Fables from the Stables*. We asked him what the best thing about reading is:

“ There are too many positives to list here. I always tell my son that reading is like super food for your brain. The more you do it, the more your brain wants to be fed – and the more you feed it, the smarter you become. ”



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

YOUR READS!

THE CURE FOR A CRIME ROOPA FAROOKI

reviewed by Lily Ward

The Cure For A Crime by Roopa Farooki is an excellent medical mystery book about a pair of twins: Tulip and Ali.

Tulip and Ali are best friends and hatch top secret plans together. Their surgeon mother has fallen sick when her new boyfriend Brian (or as Tulip and Ali like to call him, Stupid Sturgeon) moves in.

To add to this suspicious situation, teachers from their school start getting the same symptoms as their mum. This must just be a coincidence... right?

Tulip and Ali are on the case, with help from their nan, and, to their annoyance, their enemy twins: Jay and Zac.

Is this merely a disease going around? Or is an evil mastermind behind all this? There were so many twists with this book, which made it gripping and page-turning.

I loved this book and I couldn't put it down! It was extremely funny and I'm sure everyone reading it would agree too! I'd rate the book five out of five stars, and would recommend for any 9 to 12-year-old who loves mystery and fast-paced books. I'm sure to buy the next book when it comes out!



SEND US A BOOK REVIEW!



Whether you've read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about, or one that others should avoid, send us a review!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.



FOUR weeks ago, Cressida Cowell, the Waterstones Children's Laureate and the author and illustrator of the *How To Train Your Dragon* and *Wizards of Once* series, began a new story in *First News*. Then, she handed things over to YOU to write what happens next. Every week the story has continued, written by our readers, 250 words at a time. To read the first four parts of the story, head to:

FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL

SO FAR IN THE STORY...

Ferocity the young spellcaster and her pet boggart, Guggalugs, fled their family's home to escape the clutches of an evil child-snatching Tapper. Now, they find themselves lost in the undergrowth, and a new danger is approaching...

PART FIVE BY ELLIE MITCHELL, 13

With barely a whisper, the creature of darkness stole towards the sleeping pair. The moon was half, a silver slice amid a bed of clouds: illuminated, the beast wormed closer. But deep inside the tousled undergrowth someone was watching. Someone else was creeping towards them, closer and closer, observing the being, which was arched over Ferocity. He had to help.

Clearing the concealing shrubbery, he pounced on Ferocity and Guggalugs, snatching them away just in time. Confused, the brute bellowed, and lumbered around, harsh eyes scanning the vicinity. Thwarted, the creature of the night turned and departed.

Meanwhile, three pairs of watchful eyes were surveying the scene from the bough of a nearby tree.

'What,' Ferocity gaped, 'was THAT?'

'A creature of the night. A Prowler, to give it its proper name,' replied the stranger, matter-of-factly.

'A wha... oh, never mind. More to the point, who are you?' Ferocity detached Guggalugs from her jacket. He was surprisingly heavy.

'My name is Trick,' the boy stated. 'I know this forest like the back of my hand. There are too many Tappers and beasts around to always take the same route. I couldn't let the Prowler get you. It gives unhealable cuts with those talons, you know.'

'Right, erm, of course they do.' Ferocity observed Trick. His hair was pale blonde, with streaks so black they could be part of the diamond-strewn sky, and his eyes were a startlingly deep emerald colour. She suddenly grinned at him.

'Where do we go now?'

Cressida Cowell said:

"Trick is a nice name for a boy hero, who might be tricky! It's nice and ambiguous"

PART SIX: BY YOU!

Well done to everyone who sent in their suggestions for how the story should continue. We enjoyed reading them all, and love how talented our readers are! If your story wasn't chosen this time, be sure to have another go. We could choose you to continue the story in next week's issue!



You can submit the next part of the story by email at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk, popping **Story** into the subject line, or at first.news/cressidacowell.

We'll be deciding on the next part of the story every Monday, so make sure you send us your efforts by then!

TAKE THE BINS OUT IN STYLE



A FACEBOOK group created to give people in lockdown the chance to dress up and have fun has passed a million followers.

Bin Isolation Outing was the brainchild of Australian Danielle Askew. The description for the online group sums up her thinking beautifully: "Basically the bin goes out more than us, so let's dress up for the occasion!"

After dressing up in a blue dress and crown (above, bottom right), Danielle inspired others to dress up and make putting the bins out a big event. As people uploaded pictures and videos to the Facebook group, the trend snowballed. Before long, thousands of entries from all around the world were being sent by the hour.

Some of our favourites are people donning their wedding dresses, and the awesome dad who created a bin train by his lawnmower!

BUG MYSTERY

THOUSANDS and thousands of bugs have washed up on a beach and no-one knows why.

Locals going out for their daily exercise noticed the sea of bugs along Cayton Bay in Scarborough. Some thought they were heather beetles, an insect that is native to the region and could have come from the North York Moors National Park.

However, the Scarborough & Burniston Coastguard Rescue Team, who are investigating, think the bugs have come from further away. They posted that the critters appear to be "a large number of European chafer beetles", which are normally from mainland Europe.

Either way, it's not clear what happened and why so many have been washed up on the beach. The mystery continues...

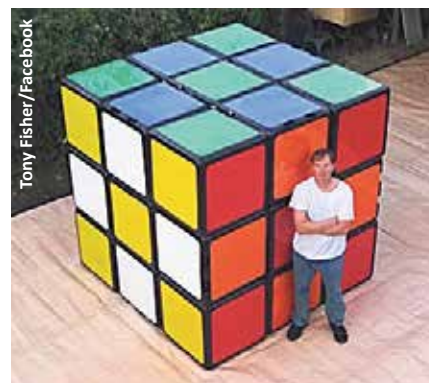


SURPRISE GUEST

MANY businesses are having to get creative to keep the cash coming in. But one farm in America has come up with a unique way to earn some dollars.

For \$50 (£40), you can get a donkey, horse or chicken to crash one of your virtual meetings! Peace N Peas Farm in North Carolina says it can add some fun to boring office meetings or just make your friends and family laugh online.

Eight-year-old mini donkey Mambo (pictured above) has proved the most popular. Farm owner Francie Dunlap said: "I think it would get some laughs. The animal would only make an appearance for the first five or ten minutes, then they could actually get on with their meeting."



CUBE CREATOR

THE Guinness World Record for the largest Rubik's Cube has returned to a British puzzle enthusiast.

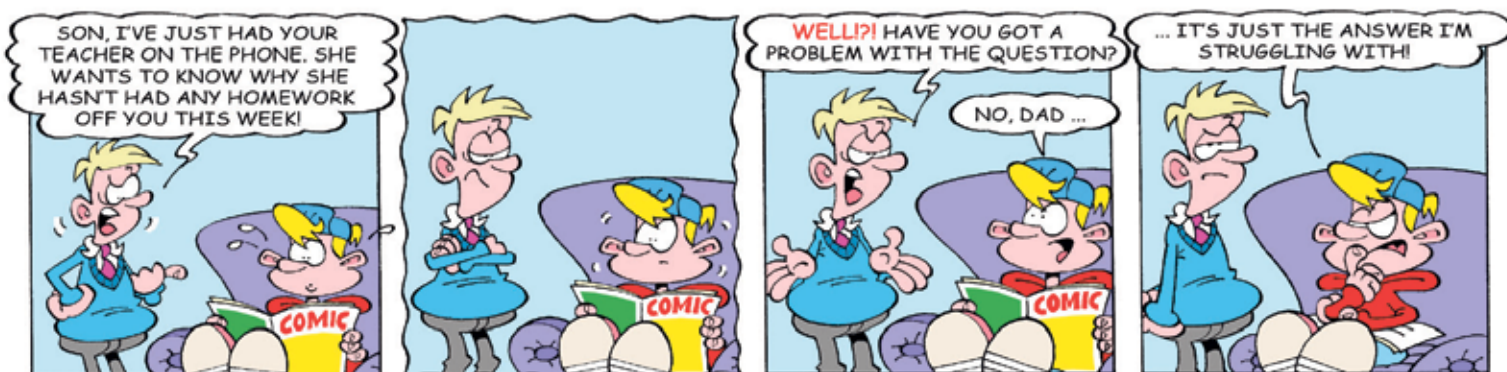
Tony Fisher set the record in 2016 but was bested by the TELUS Spark science museum in Canada in 2018. They created a cube measuring 5ft 6in (1.67m), but now Tony has assembled a 6ft 7in-tall (2m) colourful creation!

The record-breaking Rubik's Cube is fully functional and can be rotated, although you'll need to push it onto a different side to turn certain parts.

Tony has been a Rubik's Cube devotee since he got his first one at the age of 14. He made puzzle-making his full-time job a decade ago and has never looked back. Just look at this crazy one he created on the right. It's a sphere inside a cube! It makes our brains hurt just looking at it.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



DIG DEEP CAMPAIGN

by Daisy, Flora and Betty, Highfield and Brookham Schools

WE are three sisters who have taken on a lockdown challenge to raise money for the Hampshire Medical Fund's Dig Deep Campaign.

We challenged ourselves to stay in our dining room for 24 hours without any screens – iPads, phones, TV – and only allowed ourselves to leave the room to use the loo.

We brought our bedding into the room as well as games, books and toys to keep ourselves entertained.

Flora said: "We moved stuff out of the room to make our own areas to have some space from each other. We found it quite hard and did squabble a bit! The reason we decided to do this is because we are all so grateful to live where we live with lots of space to go, but realise it is not like that for lots of people and wanted to do our bit to help the wonderful NHS and the patients."

So far, we have raised £525 for the Hampshire Medical Fund's Dig Deep Campaign. The Hampshire Medical Fund exists to buy medical equipment that falls outside the NHS funding due to time or cost.

The critical equipment which we are currently fundraising for will be for Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover hospitals as they battle against COVID-19.

Phillip Evitt, headmaster at Highfield School, said: "It makes me extremely proud to be a headmaster at this time, seeing our wonderful pupils such as Daisy, Flora and Betty doing all they can to support the community through the COVID-19 crisis. They have been so creative in ways they can help."



Daisy, Flora and Betty

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

Write in to let us know what you've been up to on lockdown! How have you been learning at home? Have you been getting creative? How have you been keeping fit and active? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

Email your report (including pictures) to yournews@firstnews.co.uk

Don't forget to include your name and age (and your school's name and address for school news reports). By writing in, you give consent to First News printing details and photographs of those involved in the report.

ISOLATION POEM

by Abi

BECAUSE we have all recently gone into isolation, me and my younger sister, Faye, decided to cheer some people up by chalking on the pavement in front of our house.

We wanted to thank all the NHS workers on the front line, but not just them. We want to thank all essential workers for the amazing job they are doing keeping us safe and happy during these times.

I also decided to write a sort of poem because all of my family have been saying things like: "Oh, I would've been here if coronavirus hadn't come along!" or "Right now, we would've just done this!" so I thought I would make a poem using those words!

Here is my poem, But Then COVID Came:

**We were going to have chicks in our classroom!
But then COVID came.**

**We were going to have fun in Northumberland!
But then COVID came.**

**We were going to do a Year 6 production!
But then COVID came.**

**We were going to go visit our friends!
But then COVID came.**

**We were going to go to birthday parties!
But then COVID came.**

**We were going to see our family!
But then COVID came.**

**We were going to do SATs...
Thank goodness COVID came!**



Chalk art

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

MY LOCKDOWN

by Alice

I AM doing a lot now that I have so much spare time due to lockdown.

Recently I took part in a writing competition. The judge was a crime writer and I came second!

I have also been doing a lot of baking – today I made a raspberry and lemon sorbet

and yesterday I baked a delicious carrot cake.

In addition to baking, I have been playing a lot of games in my garden, like swingball. And, for my one piece of exercise a day, I normally ride my bike or go for a run with either my mum or dad.

As well as all my activities, I have been keeping in contact with my friends and relatives. We video call each other via Skype and Zoom. Plus I call and chat with my grandparents.

My school has set up school work on a website. The work is the same as the work we had at school, but the nice thing about it is that the teachers made kind videos for us, which made me and others happy.

The thing I most like about school work from home is we get to choose when we do our work. We don't have a set schedule, but it has to be completed.

Am I bored? The answer is truly no. This is because I always have something left to do and I have loads of free time, so I can do all my other hobbies. The upside to lockdown is that I am spending much more time with my family and having more fun.



Alice

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

SPORT IN NUMBERS

2020

's European Athletics Championships have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event

was due to take place in Paris this August. Laura Muir (below) was one of Team GB's seven gold medallists at the competition two years ago, when Britain finished top of the medal table.



2,000

car park spaces at Danish football club FC Midtjylland's ground are being used for a "drive in"

so fans can watch the team (below) play. Supporters will watch on a giant screen outside the stadium while the match goes on without fans inside. Fans can chant, sing and clap – while keeping their social distance.



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challenges need to be completed for you to design your very own Formula 1 car! F1 in Schools has

launched a competition for children who are currently at home due to the lockdown. The first three steps involve sketching your design, the second three are about making it, and the last three involve using software to bring your car to life. You can find out more at f1inschools.com.



"I'M IN MUM'S BAD BOOKS!"

WHEELCHAIR tennis star Alfie Hewett is one of the sport's most successful athletes, with several Grand Slams and two Paralympic silver medals to his name. He talked to *First News* about his career highlights, future plans, and how he's coping with the COVID-19 lockdown.

● How have you been keeping active in the lockdown?

I'm trying my best to keep active. It's obviously difficult. Every athlete is managing in their own ways. I live out in the sticks in Norfolk so it's a peaceful and quiet area to go out for a push, and to do sprints on the pathways.

To be back home and not have [the gym and court] on hand means I have to be creative and imaginative with what I do. But I'm in Mum's bad books because I've turned the conservatory into a home gym!

● As an athlete, what has been the most frustrating thing about the lockdown for you?

I accept the situation and there's a bigger picture out there, it's completely out of our control, everyone's in the same boat. You can still do lots of other things: I've been watching lots of matches and doing more analysis than I have before.

The physical side is restrictive and I haven't picked up a racket since the second week of March now. It's quite strange! I think the most difficult thing I've struggled with in this period is motivation. But it's quite good for us as athletes to take the strain off our bodies.

● Do you have any tips for our readers about how to stay fit during this unusual time?

What I found was the turning point for me was structure: most people have structure in their day, whether it's going to school or to work. To have that taken away was [tough]. So the night before, I make a schedule for my day. Then within that, weigh up what you can and can't do, write yourself a programme. Just get it down on paper. There's lots of help on the internet, like apps for physical activity.

● How did you first get into tennis?

When I was seven I was diagnosed with a hip condition called Perthes' disease. That's why I came to be in a wheelchair. Obviously to have my life change and be told I had to be in a wheelchair was a struggle. My mum and my family were big drivers behind getting me back involved with sport, so they took me to Stoke Mandeville [a hospital] where anyone with a disability could try various para-sports. Then every Wednesday evening I was on the court with a group of other disabled people. It was to help my self-esteem, get social again, be happy and be



Alfie Hewett has two Paralympic silver medals, two US Open singles titles, three US Open doubles titles, three Wimbledon doubles titles and the French Open men's singles – and he's still only 22!

active: all those benefits that sport can bring.

● You've won so much, and starting at such a young age, but what has been the stand-out moment so far?

Playing at the Rio 2016 Paralympics [right] was just unbelievable, a dream come true. To go and play as well as I did and get two medals was unexpected! To look up and see [my family] all there with the flag, it was something I'll never forget.

As for the Grand Slams, it doesn't get much better than Wimbledon. It's such an amazing place to go. The support is incredible; every time, the support has blown my mind. I love that sort of atmosphere.



Alfie and Gordon Reid winning the doubles at Wimbledon in 2018

● The wheelchair tennis authorities recently ruled that your disability was not severe enough and said you won't be able to compete beyond 2020. What will you do next?

I want to fight the case and overturn the decision as much as I can, with the Lawn Tennis Association's support. I know they are asking questions and trying to find out what the situation is.

Alfie is an ellesse athlete. ellesse.com



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