

Your normal issue of **First News** is inside

# First News

Issue 727 £1.99 22 – 28 May 2020

TRUSTED  
NEWS FOR KIDS  
WITH MORE  
THAN 2 MILLION  
READERS\*

We can help control the virus if we all



# Stay Alert!

Keep our distance, wash our hands,  
think of others and play our part.

**All together** >

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

# Stay Alert!

We can help control the virus if we all play our part.



**Do your school work from home if you can.**



**Keep your distance when out and about.**



**Limit contact with other people.**



**Wash your hands regularly.**

**Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.**

**All together >**

# Play your part



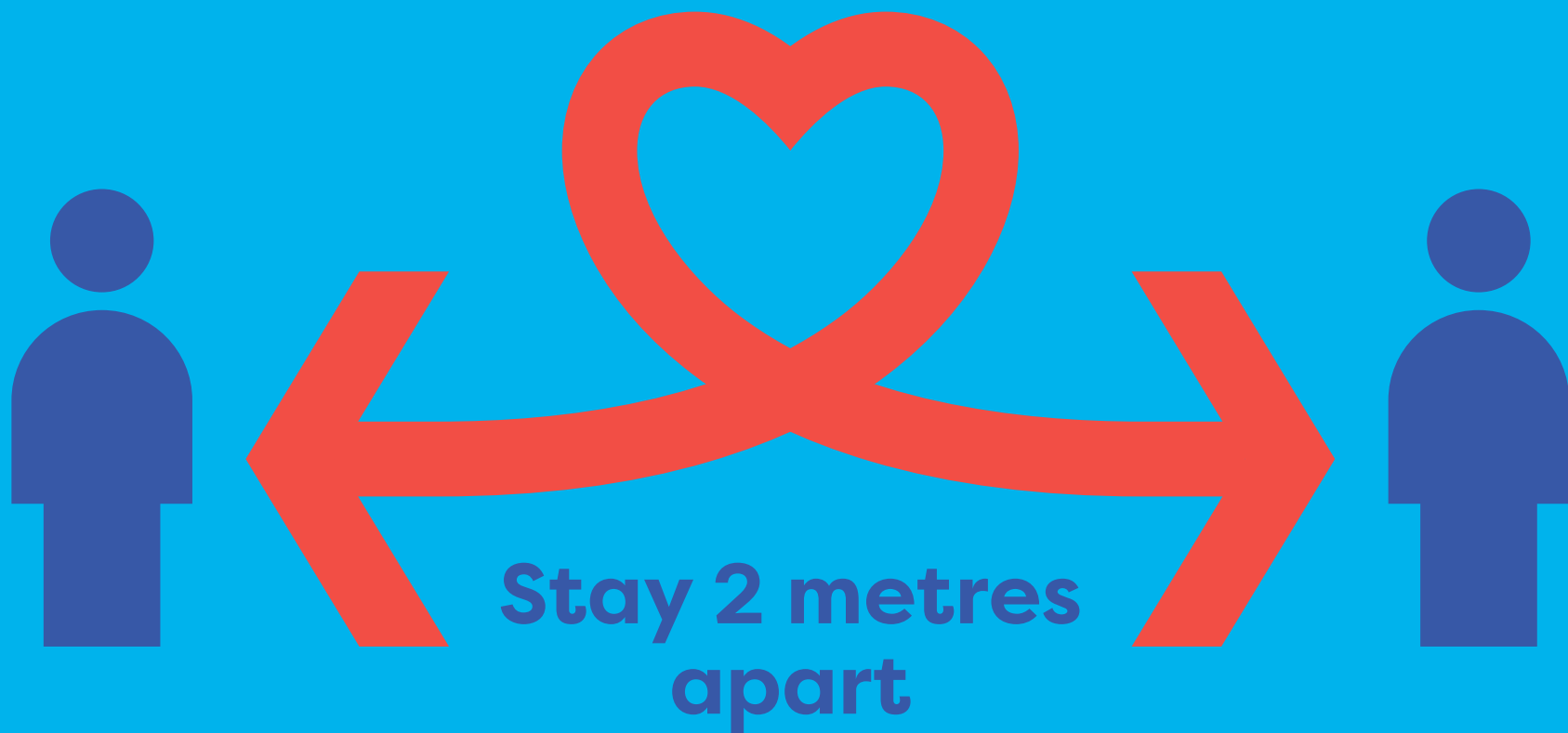
We can control the virus by  
keeping the rate of infection down >

If we all follow the rules >

This will save lives and livelihoods >

Together we can do this >

**All together >**



**We can help control  
the virus if we all  
Stay Alert.**

**All together >**

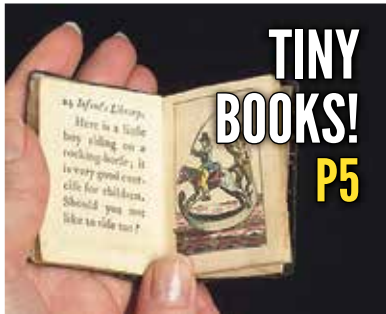




# First News

Issue 727 £1.99 22 – 28 May 2020

TRUSTED NEWS FOR KIDS, WITH MORE THAN 2 MILLION READERS\*



**TINY BOOKS!**  
P5



**SUCCESS FOR SPACE SEEDS**  
P9



**THE BIG PICTURE**  
P16



**BEAR RESCUE**  
P12



# COVID-K9



## TO SCHOOL OR NOT TO SCHOOL?

WHILE politicians, scientists and teachers try to work out when it's okay for kids to return to school, we hear from a girl who's already there.

Ruby, 12, is the daughter of key workers, so has been at school the whole time during lockdown. Read her story on page 25.



by editor in chief Nicky Cox

### CAN dogs sniff out coronavirus?

Maybe! Trials are taking place to see if specially-trained 'COVID dogs' can tell whether people have the coronavirus, even before they show any symptoms.

The dogs can already detect certain cancers, so the Government is spending half a million pounds to see if they can help spot people with COVID-19, too.

World-leading researchers at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine are working with the charity Medical Detection Dogs and Durham University for the trial.

Medical Detection Dogs has already successfully trained dogs to detect the odour of many different diseases in

humans, such as cancer, malaria and Parkinson's disease. The clever canines can detect the odour of disease at the same dilution of one teaspoon of sugar in two Olympic-sized swimming pools of water.

This new trial will look at whether the dogs, a mixture of Labradors and cocker spaniels, can be trained to detect coronavirus in people, too. If they can do it, each dog could screen up to 250 people an hour.

Dr Claire Guest, co-founder of Medical Detection Dogs, said: "We are incredibly proud that a dog's nose could once again save many lives."







**IS it safe for you to go back to school? Sadly, the answer to that question is still about as clear as particularly muddy mud.**

The National Education Union (NEU) is the group that represents most teachers in Britain, and it said last week that it still had “very many questions” after a meeting with the Government’s scientific advisers.

“We all want schools to open – as soon as it is safe to do so,” the NEU said. It feels that schools are being pressured into opening up without enough evidence that it is safe for children and teachers.

The Government also said that schools should limit class sizes to 15 pupils, but that could still make it hard for pupils to stick to social distancing rules.

However, the heads of several school chains disagree with the NEU, and say that pupils should return.

To confuse things further, the British Medical Association (BMA) backed the NEU, saying: “Until we have got case numbers much lower, we should not consider reopening schools.” Some other experts soon said that the BMA was wrong, although most seem to agree that there is very little evidence either way.

Several councils have also said that their schools won’t be opening because the virus is too widespread.

“The poorest children, the most disadvantaged children, the children who do not always have support they need at home, will be the ones who will fall

In England, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson wants children in Reception, plus Years 1 and 6, to go back to school, as well as some pupils in Years 10 and 12. However, your parents won’t be fined if your family decides that you shouldn’t go back to school

furthest behind if we keep school gates closed,” said Education Secretary Gavin Williamson. He wants schools to open again from 1 June, but only if “the rates of infection are decreasing”.

Professor Russell Viner, the president of the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health, summed things up by saying that: “Like many things COVID-related, easy answers are very hard to find and we have priorities that don’t sit easily together. We need to get children back to school, but we must do it at the right time and in a way that balances the risks. Teachers deserve to feel safe.”

Scotland was due to release more details yesterday (Thursday 21 May) about how soon schools might go back, while Welsh Education Minister Kirsty Williams said that “setting a date before we have more evidence, more confidence and more control over the virus would be the wrong thing to do”.

In Northern Ireland, it’s thought that schools won’t reopen until September at the earliest.

## KHAN CULLS CARS

THE Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and Transport for London (TfL) are creating what they call “one of the largest car-free zones in any capital city in the world.”



One of the new temporary cycle lanes set up in London during the lockdown

Because it’s so hard for commuters to keep socially distant when travelling into cities like London, Mr Khan is asking more Londoners to walk and cycle where possible.

The plans mean that many streets will be available for pedestrians and cyclists only, while others will have buses, but no cars.

However, Khan has been criticised by some people, as he has told people to avoid public transport but has also increased the congestion charge that car owners have to pay to drive into central London. But it’s also clear that cities like London need to do something to get cars off the streets if they want to tackle pollution and climate change.

## WOW!

BOSSES at Twitter have said that since working from home has been going so well, any of their staff who can work from home can do so forever if they want to! Staff at Google and Facebook have been told that they can work from home until at least the end of the year. It’s yet to be seen if the future of work really does involve many more people working from home, but companies could save money if they only need to rent smaller offices (or even no offices at all).



## DO KIDS SPREAD IT?

AS the debate about schools reopening rumbles on, new research from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has revealed that young people could be just as likely to get the coronavirus as adults.

Data shows that between 27 April and 10 May, around 148,000 people in England had the virus. The ONS says there was no evidence suggesting that age has an effect on how likely you are to catch it, so young people are just as likely to get the virus as adults (but usually mildly).

The World Health Organization’s chief scientist, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, told the BBC that there’s not much data on how likely children are to spread the disease to other people. But she says that in countries where schools have stayed open, there have not been big outbreaks in



the schools.

“It does seem that, from what we know now, that children are less capable of spreading it even if they get the infection,” she said.

But although going back to school may not pose a big risk for children, it might do for school staff. The ONS says that at least 26 teachers in England and Wales have died from COVID-19, along with 39 other staff, including ten teaching assistants.



# DO YOU HAVE A GARDEN?



**BEING on lockdown is tough, but it's even tougher if you don't have any outside space for exercise – and it turns out that a lot of people don't.**

A new study by the Office for National Statistics has revealed that one in eight British households doesn't have a garden.

Around 12% of households in Great Britain have no access to a private or shared garden during the lockdown, and the number rises to 21%, more than one in five, in London. So without access to parks, a lot of people wouldn't be able to take any daily exercise at all, apart from on streets.

# TINY TALE WRITERS REQUIRED!

**THE British Library needs your help. It's looking for children to write miniature books during lockdown.**

Inspired by the Brontë children, who made mini books for their toy soldiers to read, the British Library is calling on young writers to come up with their own tiny creations to form part of an online National Library of Miniature Books for the toy world.

Famous authors including Jacqueline Wilson have already created their own miniature books for the library. If you want to join in, or just find out more about the project, head to [www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/make-a-miniature-book](http://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/make-a-miniature-book).



# A MESSAGE FROM WALES



**THE Annual Youth Message of Peace and Goodwill from the young people of Wales is urging everyone to see the coronavirus pandemic as a wake-up call.**

The peace message, *Stop the Clock and Start Again*, was written by more than 30 young individuals.

Organised by Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Welsh League of Youth), it's said to be the longest-running peace message in the world. This year's piece is calling on everyone to rethink their priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## LOCAL HEROES

**A SCHOOLBOY from South Yorkshire is getting through lockdown by dancing in his driveway, thanks to the help of his enthusiastic neighbourhood dance instructor, Charlie.**

When Charlie lost her bookings during the pandemic, she decided to run Dancing in Driveways sessions each morning, hoping to give her neighbours "some routine, a chance to see other people (from a distance) and to have some fitness, fresh air and fun."

Seven weeks later, the dancing is still going strong – and it's really helped 11-year-old Arlo in particular.

Being autistic, Arlo found the start of lockdown challenging, but joining in the dancing has helped him feel calm. He is the only young person to join in the session every day, and has even taught his neighbours how to floss!

Charlie leads the dance (below). Arlo and his brother Henry floss (right)



Do you know a coronavirus local hero? Send us an email about them to [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk) with 'Local Hero' in the subject box

## WOW!



Maria celebrates her 113th birthday back in March

**AT the age of 113, Maria Brnyas is the oldest person known to have caught, and recovered from, COVID-19.** Born in Mexico in 1907, Maria moved to Spain during the First World War. There, she lived through the flu pandemic of 1918-19, the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War and now the coronavirus. In an interview with Spanish newspaper *La Vanguardia* she said: "I have done nothing but live."



## 1. AUTHOR TOM

National hero Captain Tom Moore is bringing out a children's picture book. The book doesn't have a name yet but it will tell the story of the Captain's amazing life through pictures. It will come out in the autumn, alongside his autobiography. Captain Tom became a household name last month after raising more than £32 million for the NHS by walking 100 laps of his garden.



Getty

## 2. CHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday 17 May was National Children's Day UK. The day is all about the importance of a healthy childhood and how adults need to protect the rights and freedoms of children. But did you know you had rights? Click on the *I Don't Get It* logo at [first.news/fyi](https://www.first.news/fyi) and select our film *Do Children Have Rights?*, made with the BFI Young Audience Content Fund and Sky Kids.

## 3. HOMER'S REAL AGE

Fans of *The Simpsons* recently uncovered an image of Homer's driving licence from an early episode. The licence revealed that Homer – who has been 33 years old for 32 seasons – would now be 64!

## 4. EUROVISION 2020

*Eurovision 2020* – the international song contest competed for by mostly European countries – was cancelled back in March. However, *Eurovision: Come Together* was screened instead. It saw the public voting for the best Eurovision song ever, with Abba's *Waterloo* topping the list.

## 5. COVID-19 ESSENTIALS

An investigation by *Which?* has uncovered hundreds of listings for household items being sold at really high prices online. It says that some shady sellers are trying to benefit from the coronavirus pandemic by selling items for more money because they know people need them. The research shows Amazon Marketplace and eBay were full of items being sold for at least double the typical price.

# 20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

## 6. UK SOAPS RETURN

*Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*, two of Britain's longest-running soaps, are set to resume filming "within weeks". Some soaps have had to spread their episodes out over the lockdown period to make sure they didn't run out.

## 7. MYSTERY KNITTER

A mystery knitter has been decorating postboxes in West End, near Woking in Surrey, to pay tribute to key workers. The first knitted creation popped up on a postbox a few weeks ago, but several more have been found since. Knitted figures spotted so far include NHS workers and bin collectors.



Mark Vinal/Facebook

## 8. LOCKDOWN SIGNS

The Victoria & Albert museum in London is looking for homemade signs created during lockdown to enter its collection. Pics of your signs can be sent to [homemadesigns@vam.ac.uk](mailto:homemadesigns@vam.ac.uk).

## 9. ABANDONED ANIMALS

The RSPCA has received more than 1,600 reports of abandoned animals across England & Wales since lockdown began in March. Over half were dogs, with Staffordshire bull terriers being the most likely breed to be abandoned.



Getty

## 10. SHORTEST MAN

Thirty-four-year-old Edward Niño Hernández has been declared the shortest living man in the world by Guinness World Records. Mr Hernández is 72.1cm (just over 2ft 4in) tall.



## 11. HOLDING HANDS FEAR

According to a new EU survey, six out of ten LGBTQ+ people are too afraid to hold hands with their partners in public. A whopping 140,000 LGBTQ+ people across Europe were interviewed in the study, which found that 43% had been victimised because of their sexuality during the past year.



Getty

## 12. SUPER CYCLONE

As *First News* went to press, India and Bangladesh were evacuating millions of people from coastal areas ahead of a super cyclone which was approaching. The coronavirus outbreak was making it harder to move people.

## 13. KEY WORKERS

Data from the Office for National Statistics has revealed that a third of the UK's workforce are key workers. 31% work in health and social care while 15% were at risk of COVID-19 due to health conditions.

## 14. CHAINSAW CARVING

A life-sized wooden carving of Captain Tom Moore has raised more than £7,000 in a charity raffle. Simon Bogg spent ten days carving the sculpture using chainsaws, and described Captain Tom as an "absolute legend."



Xtremechainsaw/Facebook

## 15. DEMENTIA HELP

People affected by dementia are lonely and struggling to cope during lockdown, a survey by the Alzheimer's Society reveals. The charity has made thousands of welfare calls to provide support and information. It has also started an emergency fund to raise money for the £45 million it expects to lose in income due to COVID-19. See p13 for more about dementia.

## 16. FACE MASK FEARS

New research from Middlesex University shows men are less likely to wear a face mask to prevent spreading COVID-19 than women, because they see it as a "sign of weakness". A survey of 2,459 men living in the US showed more men than women view wearing a face mask as "shameful" and not "cool".

## 17. RAPTORS TARGETED

The RSPB says there has been a surge in reports of people illegally killing birds of prey since lockdown began. Birds like hen harriers, peregrine falcons, red kites, goshawks, buzzards and a barn owl have been killed in planned attacks.



A goshawk

## 18. NEW SUBSCRIBERS

UK families have turned to streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney+ in recent weeks to ease the stress of the nationwide lockdown. New research estimates 4.6 million families have signed up to streaming services since the country went into stay-at-home mode in March.

## 19. GET ON TELLY!

The British Film Institute has launched the See Yourself On Screen Challenge. It wants anyone aged 4-18 to send in a mini 30-second TV show from their home. Backed by Dr Ranj and judged by industry experts, the best entrants will be helped to turn their idea into a two-minute film that will be aired on TV later this year! Visit [bfi.org.uk/seeyourselfonscreen](https://www.bfi.org.uk/seeyourselfonscreen) for more info. But be quick – the competition closes on Monday 25 May.

## 20. BUMPER CAR BAR

A bar in America is trialling a fun and slightly crazy way to reopen while maintaining social distancing. The Fish Tales bar and grill in Maryland has created bumper tables – tables on wheels with big rubber rings around them. Customers have a circular table for food and drink, wheels to move and socialise, and a protective bumper to stop anyone getting too close!



CamillaNews/Twitter





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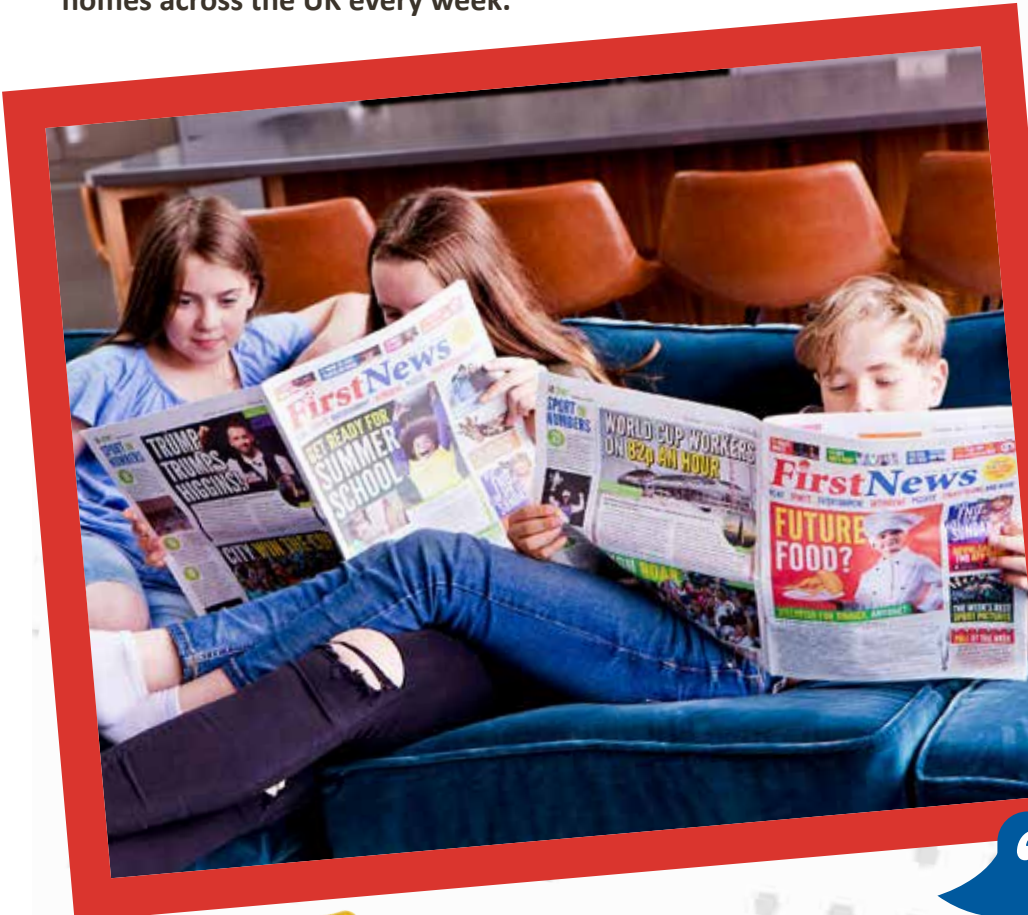
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**FirstNews** is even better in print!

We hope you enjoy your free digital download of *First News*! Why not consider getting a copy sent by post to your home every week? It's a great break away from electronic devices and a good opportunity to share what you are reading with the rest of the family. 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**

To order, visit [www.firstnews.co.uk](http://www.firstnews.co.uk) or call 0330 333 0186



## TOKYO, JAPAN



A RAKURO self-driving robot at the Chiba Zoological Park during an online virtual tour. The zoo, which is temporarily closed, held an online event where children quarantined at home could virtually tour the zoo through a remote-controlled robot with a 360° camera.

## MERSEYSIDE, UK



AS the UK Government eases the lockdown, Wirral Council created a giant rainbow mural to thank NHS and key workers during the pandemic.

## COLOGNE, GERMANY



THE mascot of FC Cologne sits on seats covered with team shirts, as the season resumed following a two-month break due to COVID-19.

## LOUGHBOROUGH, UK



TEAM GB pole vaulter Holly Bradshaw performs a 'sliding box' drill outside her home during an isolation training session.

## BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA



A BOY floats down the road on a chair, after heavy rains caused floods.



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## BLACKPOOL

### ● Air show grounded

Blackpool's summer air show has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The popular event usually attracts up to 100,000 visitors every August and people travel from all over the country to enjoy it. Dates for next year's air show have already been scheduled, for 7-8 August 2021.



Mat Campbell/Facebook

## OXFORDSHIRE



Getty

### ● Smoke-free county

Oxfordshire plans to become the first smoke-free county by 2025. This would mean that less than 5% of people in the area would smoke, making it unusual. Currently, about 10% of people smoke in Oxfordshire, below the national average of 14% in England. Smoking is known to lead to many diseases, including cancer. Oxfordshire council said 2,100 people died from smoking-related diseases in the county between 2015 and 2017.

## UK

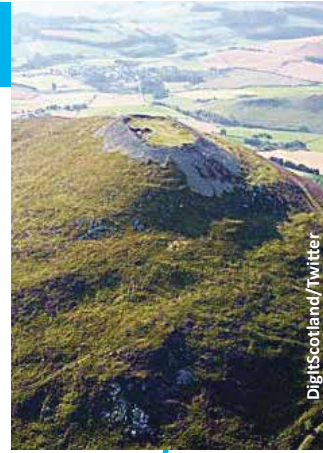
### ● Making cycling safer

Cycling and walking to work (when possible) is being encouraged, but a Government survey says 61% of people feel UK roads are too dangerous for cycling. A £250m "emergency active travel fund" aims to help councils prevent overcrowding as lockdown is lifted. New cycle lanes, wider pavements and low-traffic zones have all been suggested as positive steps.

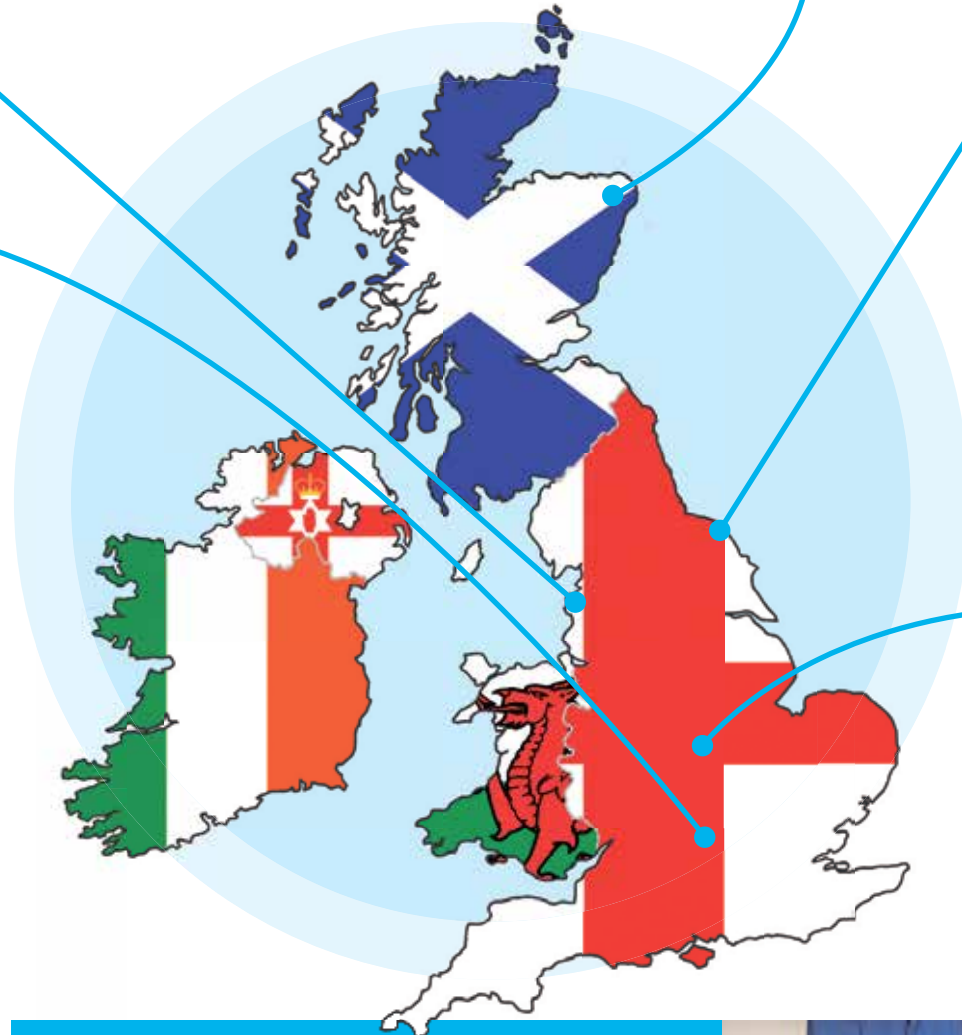
## ABERDEENSHIRE

### ● Ancient settlement unearthed

A massive ancient settlement has been discovered by archaeologists on a hill near Rhynie in Aberdeenshire. Researchers from the University of Aberdeenshire believe the settlement was home to roughly 4,000 people living in around 800 huts, making it one of Britain's largest ancient settlements. The archaeologists also found evidence of one larger hut within the settlement, suggesting that an important figure lived in the community.



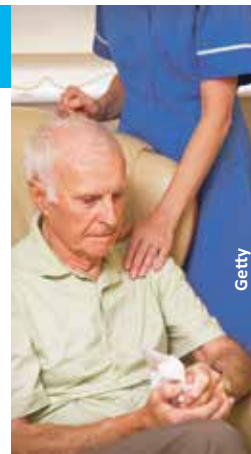
DigitScotland/Twitter



## ENGLAND

### ● Care home "scandal"

Public Health England (PHE) has revealed that more than a third of care homes in England have now confirmed a coronavirus outbreak. New PHE data shows that 5,546 care homes out of a total of 15,514 in England have recorded confirmed or suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 since the beginning of March. The research shows that almost every district has had an outbreak of coronavirus in at least one care home. Age UK has described the spread of the virus in English care homes as "a scandal behind closed doors".



Getty

## SCARBOROUGH



Philip Johnson/Facebook

### ● A touching tribute

A mum from Leeds has been left feeling "overwhelmed" by the kindness of several Scarborough residents this week. Julie Spence's son tragically passed away when he was just eight. She visits a memorial bench dedicated to her son in Scarborough on the anniversary of his death every year, but due to lockdown restrictions she was unable to travel to the bench this year. As a result, Julie appealed online for someone close by to go to the bench for her and, before she knew it, Scarborough locals had covered the special bench in flowers and tributes.

## LEICESTER



Getty

### ● Loaves of love

Geary's Bakery has been delivering more than 9,000 loaves of bread each week to NHS staff working on the front line at local hospitals in and around Leicester during the pandemic. Jason Geary, master baker and head of Geary's Bakery, says: "It's a small thank you for all the work they are putting in to keep our friends, family and community as safe as possible." How about a 'toast' to these heroes?

# NEWS IN NUMBERS

**25%** of YouTube videos reporting coronavirus news risk spreading fake news. A study published in the *British Medical Journal* has found that around a quarter of YouTube videos containing coronavirus 'facts' are, in fact, full of misleading and inaccurate information. Stick to *First News!*



Getty

**12,000** plants can be found in Kerri Notman's two-bedroom bungalow in Norfolk, England. The plant and gift shop owner first took 2,000 plants home from her store when she was forced to close the shop at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in March. She has since sold thousands more from home! Glad to hear business is still booming (well, blooming), Kerri.



**14,000** fines were issued by police officers in England and Wales to those allegedly breaking lockdown measures between 27 March and 11 May. Most of the fines were issued in London.



Getty



# CONCERNS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH



Getty

Watch our new "How to stay mentally healthy" film made in partnership with Sky Kids' FYI and the BFI at [first.news/mentalhealthfilm](http://first.news/mentalhealthfilm)

**POLL OF THE WEEK**  
 Has your mental health been better or worse during lockdown?  
[first.news/polls](http://first.news/polls)

**A NEW report from the World Health Organization, published during Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May), has revealed that young people's mental wellbeing got worse in many countries between 2014-2018.**

The report, led by researchers at the University of Glasgow and the University of St Andrews, looked at 227,441 schoolchildren aged 11, 13 and 15 from 45 European countries.

They discovered that, although lots of young people in Scotland, Wales and England are generally satisfied with their lives, sleep difficulties and social and emotional difficulties, such as feeling low and nervous, are on the rise.

Compared to other countries, young people in the UK are also more likely to worry about their weight. It was also found that school-related

stress was particularly high among 15-year-olds across the UK, with three-quarters reporting high levels of pressure from schoolwork.

Poor mental health can affect all of us at some point, which is why it's so important to have services to help people. One of these is a 24-hour text service called 'SHOUT', which is run by almost 2,000 volunteers. For this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge spoke to some of those volunteers, and thanked them for all their hard work since the service launched last year.

**BACK in 2016, two kilograms of seeds that had spent six months in space returned to Earth, where they were given out to 600,000 children from schools across the UK.** These seeds were part of an experiment to find out whether seeds that had been in space would grow differently to those on Earth. Now, the results have been fully collected, and the space seeds were found to grow just as well as seeds that never went into orbit – although they did take a little longer to grow. It means that, one day, it should be possible to grow more plants in space or on another planet for humans to eat.

**WOW!**



RHS

# HERO HOUND

**MEET Bear, the rescue dog who's saved more than 100 injured koalas in Australia.**

Hundreds of koalas are at risk of dying in Australia after wildfires destroyed vast parts of their habitat. But Bear is here to help! The five-year-old Australian koolie, who was abandoned as a pet, works with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and is able to sniff out injured koalas in the bush. When he finds one, he sits next to it and waits for his handler to come and help rescue the animal.

IFAW



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](http://first.news/happynews) now!

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



**DOGS are a true friend to us.**

Having one with you can stop you feeling lonely, they keep you fit when you go on walks together and studies have shown they even help to prevent anxiety and other mental health problems.

It's been known before that dogs can detect diseases in people and now it seems they might come to our rescue again with COVID-19 (front page). Let's have a woof for dogs!

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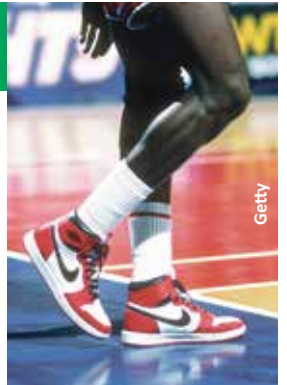
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## GOOD WEEK FOR...

### TRAINER COLLECTORS

A PAIR of Michael Jordan's autographed Nike Air Jordan 1 trainers, worn by the basketball star in 1985, have sold for a record \$560,000 (£463,000) in an online auction. The previous record was \$437,500 (£358,900) for a pair of Nike's 1972 Moon Shoes.



Getty

## BAD WEEK FOR...

### THIS BULL'S BOTTOM

WHILE scratching his bum on an electricity pole, Ron the bull accidentally bashed it so hard that a transformer box fell down – knocking power out for 700 homes, and nearly zapping Ron with 11,000 volts! His owner Hazel Laughton apologised for Ron, and said that he's "happy to be alive!"



Hazel Laughton



## ITALY



### ● Pantheon pit appears



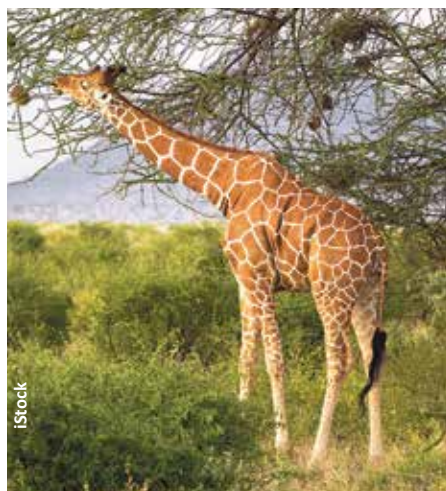
A sinkhole has opened up outside the Pantheon in Rome, revealing ancient Roman paving stones buried under the city. The sinkhole is almost 1m across and 2.5m deep. Fortunately, lockdown restrictions meant that the usually crowded area outside the Pantheon was empty, so no-one was injured. The paving stones found in the sinkhole are estimated to be from 27-25 BC – around the same time the Pantheon was built.

## SOUTH AFRICA



### ● Exotic animals sold

South Africa-based groups Ban Animal Trading (BAT) and the charitable EMS Foundation have released a report that suggests that thousands of endangered wild animals threatened with extinction are being illegally sold to Chinese markets. Their report says at least 5,035 live wild animals were exported to China between 2016 and 2019, and that the trade is increasing. Researchers found that fake permits were being used to ship the animals across the world.



## INDIA



### ● Kerala's 'coronavirus slayer'

Kerala's health minister, KK Shailaja, has earned a number of new nicknames, including 'Rock star health minister' and 'coronavirus slayer', for her success in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Kerala is home to 35 million people, yet has seen just 524 cases of COVID-19 and four deaths. Three days after reading about the new virus in China, Shailaja held a meeting to decide Kerala's strategy for stopping the disease. The first case arrived on 27 January from Wuhan. All passengers had their temperature tested, and everyone had to quarantine themselves. Since then, Kerala has been tracking and tracing all spread of the disease.



## JAPAN



### ● The Amabie challenge

A strange, mythical monster that looks a bit like a mermaid has become the unlikely focus of a viral internet challenge. It's known as the Amabie, and people across Japan and the world are drawing pictures of the sometimes-armless, beaked fish-monster and posting them online with #AmabieChallenge. The challenge started after Kyoto University Library posted a picture of the Amabie, along with the story of how creating an image of the monster can help fight off infections. Since then, hundreds of people have been making their own images of Amabie. One bakery has begun to bake cakes that look like the Amabie – and they're selling out every day!



## AUSTRALIA



### ● Night at the museum

A man from Sydney is due in court after breaking into the Australian Museum to snap selfies with the dinosaur exhibits. The man, who reportedly spent 40 minutes in the museum, was seen on CCTV taking pictures with his head in the mouth of a T-rex skull. He also stole a cowboy hat from the locker of one of the museum's staff members. Police put out a warning to the trespasser on TV news, warning him: "It's not going to be a movie producer knocking on your door. It's going to be NSW Police knocking on your door." The man turned himself in that afternoon.



## ANTARCTICA



### ● Snow goes green

In the slightly warmer parts of ice-covered Antarctica, algae can bloom in the snow, turning it bright green. This algae absorbs greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Researchers from the University of Cambridge have spent two summers creating a map of all the places that this algae appears – and have found that, as the world gets warmer, the green snow is spreading, and could turn the coast of the continent green one day. "This is important in our understanding of land-based life on Antarctica," said Dr Matt Davey, who led the study.



## OUR WORLD

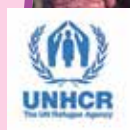
NAME: NUJEEN  
LIVES: GERMANY

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO  
[WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES](http://WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES)

**IN 2015, at the age of only 16, Nujeen fled her home in Syria and travelled 3,500 miles in her wheelchair to safety in Germany.**

Born with cerebral palsy and with her family unable to afford a school that was suitable for her, she spent most of her childhood at home in her flat, where she learned English by watching television. After war forced her family to flee, Nujeen became famous for surviving the perilous journey to Europe – including crossing the sea in a rubber dinghy.

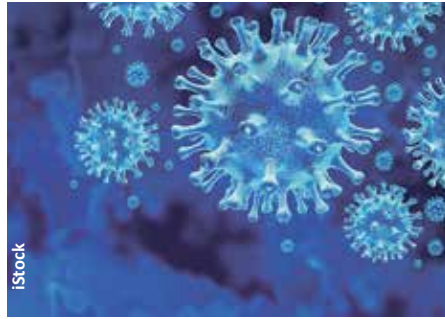
Now 21 years old, she has used her fame to bring positive change, releasing a book about her experiences, called *The Girl From Aleppo*, and giving inspirational talks around the world. "I always believed everyone's here for a mission, but I hadn't found mine yet," she said. "Now I have a voice, I can help people."





# DISORDER LINK TO COVID-19

COVID-19 may be linked to a rare disorder in young children.



Data from Italy, the USA and UK has shown a very small number of children develop symptoms similar to a rare condition called Kawasaki disease.

In the Bergamo province of Italy, ten children are thought to have had a condition very similar to the disease since February, compared to 19 in the past five years. Eight of them tested positive for COVID-19. In the UK, up to 100 children have been affected.

Kawasaki disease is a rare condition that usually affects children under the age of five. It causes blood vessels to become swollen. If the child is treated in hospital, the condition is rarely fatal. It is not known what triggers the condition but it is thought to be an immune system over-reaction to an infection, so experts think it could be directly linked to COVID-19.

But remember that the vast majority of children who catch COVID-19 suffer mild or no symptoms.

A study in France, meanwhile, has shown that a drug praised by US President Donald Trump as being a treatment for COVID-19 isn't very effective. Patients who received hydroxychloroquine were not able to recover from the virus more quickly than those receiving standard care. Mr Trump says he is taking the drug.



**SCIENTISTS and politicians have described a new COVID-19 test that has been approved for use in England as a “game-changer”.**

Public Health England, the organisation that advises the Government on health matters, says it has given the go-ahead for a reliable antibody test that can tell if people have already had the new coronavirus.

If you have developed COVID-19, even without having any symptoms whatsoever, your body will produce antibodies that stay in the blood for a long time.

The new test developed by Swiss company Roche shows if these antibodies are present. This will allow doctors to find out how many people have had the virus.

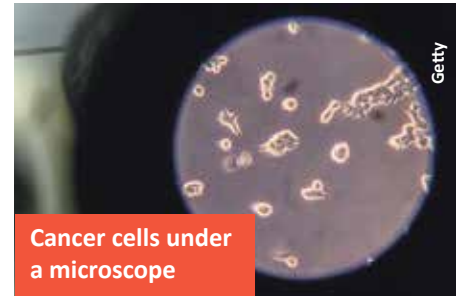
For now, scientists don't know for sure whether people who have been infected become immune to the virus, and therefore cannot catch it a second time. But previous coronaviruses have left people immune for a period of time.

The deputy chief medical officer for England, Jonathan Van-Tam, said he thought the antibody test “will be incredibly important”. It's hoped that the test will soon be available in NHS hospitals and clinics.

Some experts are worried, however, that the Government may use the antibody test to give people “immunity passports”. That would be a document that says an individual has had COVID-19 and is now healthy and can return to work. There are fears some people may forge a “passport” or even deliberately try to get infected in order to recover and be able to get back to normal life.

A medical worker treats a patient with COVID-19 at a hospital in Cambridge

# NEW CANCER BREAKTHROUGH



Cancer cells under a microscope

**A SPECIAL diet and high doses of vitamin C supplements can help destroy cancer cells.**

That's the remarkable finding of a new study by scientists at the University of Southern California, USA, and the IFOM Cancer Institute in Milan, Italy.

In studies on mice with tumours, researchers found that almost all the cancer cells were killed. The diet they used was low-calorie and plant-based (vegan). This caused cells to respond as if the mouse was fasting (not eating anything). When combined with high doses of vitamin C (right), the effects on the mice's tumours were remarkable.

One of the scientists behind the research, Valter Longo, said the study was the first to show a treatment that does not involve drugs can successfully treat an aggressive cancer.

The main advantage of this method over standard cancer treatments like chemotherapy is that there are no side-effects such as sickness or hair loss.

The treatment creates an environment that is harmful to a particular type of cancer cell, but safe for normal cells.

Further trials will need to be carried out to find out if this treatment can be safely applied to humans.



## What are antibodies?

They're microscopic proteins that are formed by our immune system in response to an attack by a virus or bacteria. They search for these invaders and attach themselves in order to fight the infection. They usually manage to stop it from coming back for a period of time.

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

# INNOVATIONS

**ELECTRONIC devices could soon be powered by sweat instead of batteries.**

A group of scientists at the University of Glasgow have developed a new type of portable energy device that replaces the electrolytes (minerals that carry an electric charge) found in conventional batteries with sweat. The innovation can be fully charged with just 20 microlitres (0.02 millilitres) of sweat.

The researchers used a special type of cloth to absorb the sweat. When the two interacted, they caused an electrochemical reaction that generated energy able to power wearable tech, such as a watch.

It's hoped that “sweat power” could one day replace some environmentally-unfriendly batteries.



SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester

**SPENDING more time at home might mean you've been playing lots of games, but have you ever played on a pinball machine?**

It provides a great opportunity to explore the science of forces and motion!

Three main forces change the motion of the ball. First, the flipper starts the ball moving by applying a contact force directly to it. Friction between the bottom of the ball and the pinball table means it rolls rather than slides. Finally, because the machine slopes downward, gravity makes the ball travel slower on the way up and faster on the way down.

From Monday 25 to Friday 29 May, the Science and Industry Museum is showing you how to make your own pinball machine and lots of other creations from home. Visit [tinyurl.com/MakeFest2020](https://tinyurl.com/MakeFest2020) or search for #MakeFestAtHome.



© Science Museum Group



# SAVED!

**THREE bears have been rescued from starvation in Armenia after they were abandoned while the country is on lockdown.**

The brown bears were used as a tourist attraction at a restaurant but were left to starve when it closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. The owner said he could no longer afford to feed the bears, sparking an emergency rescue operation. A team from UK charity International Animal Rescue (IAR) and Armenia's Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) stepped in to save the 20-year-old bear and her two young sons. They are now living at a bear rescue centre in the Armenian mountains where they will be fed, cared for and hopefully – when the lockdown is lifted – given the freedom to enjoy life in a natural environment.

Almost 30 rescued bears are living at the centre. They have all been rescued as part of the Great Bear Rescue campaign, which was launched in 2017 and aims to free all caged bears living in Armenia.

Many more restaurants in Armenia are no longer in a position to look after their bears, so are calling on rescue organisations to take the animals away. Alan Knight from IAR says: "It's ironic that this deadly pandemic has produced a positive outcome for the bears."

You can find out more about the Great Bear Rescue campaign at [www.internationalanimalrescue.org/greatbearrescue](http://www.internationalanimalrescue.org/greatbearrescue).



International Animal Rescue

## NESTING SECRETS

**TWO species of endangered sea turtle try to lead predators away from their nests by making decoy nests and trails, a scientific study has shown.**

Researchers from the University of Glasgow found that hawksbill and leatherback turtles create extra trails on the sand after they have buried their eggs.

Their studies followed the females of the two species during the nesting process. The females spent a long time moving around the nest site after it had been covered, even though they were exhausted

and in danger of attack from predators themselves.

Malcolm Kennedy, Professor of Natural History at the University of Glasgow, said: "Our research sheds new light on the behaviour of nesting marine turtles."

It was previously believed that the turtles were simply disguising their nests from predators.

A leatherback turtle making her nest



iStock



WWF

## WHISKER WATCH

**CONSERVATIONISTS in Kenya are hoping to learn more about the lions in the country by looking at their whiskers!**

The study is partly funded by WWF UK and will involve photographing the spots on a lion's whiskers. Each whisker has a unique spot pattern, just like a human fingerprint. Experts think that only 2,000 wild lions are left in Kenya, after years of conflict with people, and loss of habitat and prey, so they are trying to record data for as many of Kenya's lions as possible.

The new study will help conservationists work out how many lions there really are in Kenya, as well as their movements. This will create a greater understanding of the animals, the way they live their lives and help develop ways to protect them in the future.



iStock



# WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

Dementia describes different brain disorders that cause a loss of brain function. Symptoms of dementia include memory loss, confusion and problems with speech and understanding. Everyone experiences dementia in their own way and lots of things can affect this, including physical health, the relationships they have with friends and family, the treatment and support they get, and their surroundings.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, affecting between 50-75% of those who are diagnosed. Other types of dementia include vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia and dementia with Lewy bodies.



# WHO IS AFFECTED BY DEMENTIA?

There are around 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, and this is projected to rise to 1.6 million by 2040. An estimated 209,600 people will develop dementia this year – that's one every three minutes.

One in six people over the age of 80 have dementia but, despite this, there are more than 42,000 people under 65 with dementia in the UK.



# UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA

IT'S a tough time for lots of us right now, but for people affected by dementia, it's especially hard. Fortunately, young people like you can help those affected by dementia to get through these challenging times and feel less isolated. But what is dementia and how can you help?



# IS THERE A CURE?

There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease or any other type of dementia.

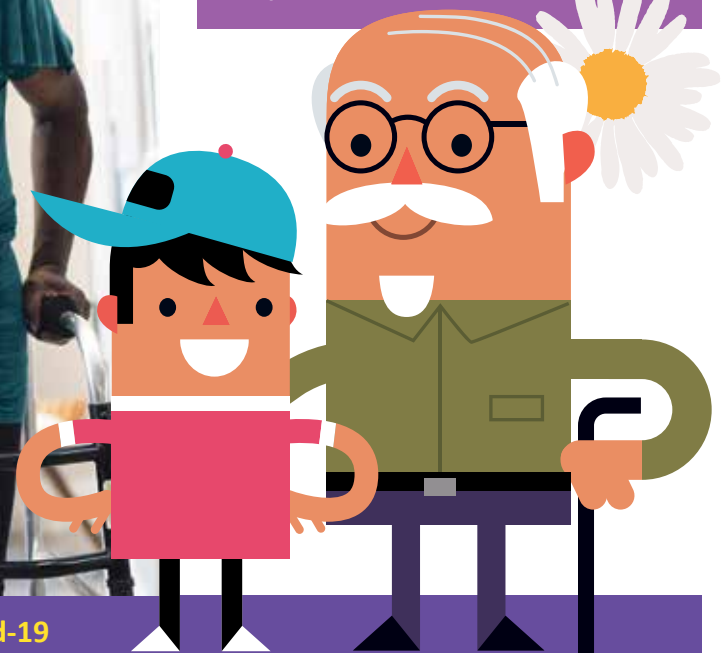
Until a cure is found, support and treatments are available that can help with symptoms and managing daily life. These can allow people with dementia to lead active, purposeful lives and carry on doing the things that matter to them most.

# HELP THOSE WITH DEMENTIA WITH THE UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA TOOLKIT

THE Alzheimer's Society has released a free compilation of activities to show everyone how they can help support the people with dementia in their lives during these unusual times.

The activities include animations and activity packs, plus instructions for how to create a memory box or play dementia bingo. There is also a reading list for young bookworms looking to read stories featuring dementia, and a list of suggested actions that young people can take in their households.

Whether it's simply keeping in touch with someone you know who has dementia, delivering care packages to neighbours and family members, or taking part in the Alzheimer's Society's Cupcake Day, there is a lot that people can do so that people with dementia know they aren't alone.





# WIN! KID NORMAL

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

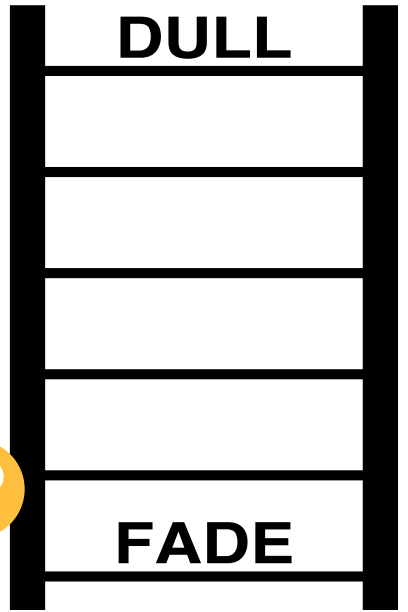
Send in your answers and four winners will each win a copy of *Kid Normal* and the *Final Five*, the epic conclusion to the awesome, award-winning, best-selling, super-charged *Kid Normal* series by Greg James and Chris Smith. Can *Kid Normal* and the Super Zeroes save the day one last time?



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

# WORD LADDER

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



# WIN! THE GREAT GAME OF BRITAIN



CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win *The Great Game of Britain*. Grab your secret destination cards and get ready for a trip around the UK with *The Great Game of Britain*! You'll need to think carefully and plan ahead. Watch out for the hazards... every time you change lines you could end up going in the opposite direction! Get ready for a fast and furious race around Britain's railway networks! Suitable for ages 7+.

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

**ACROSS**

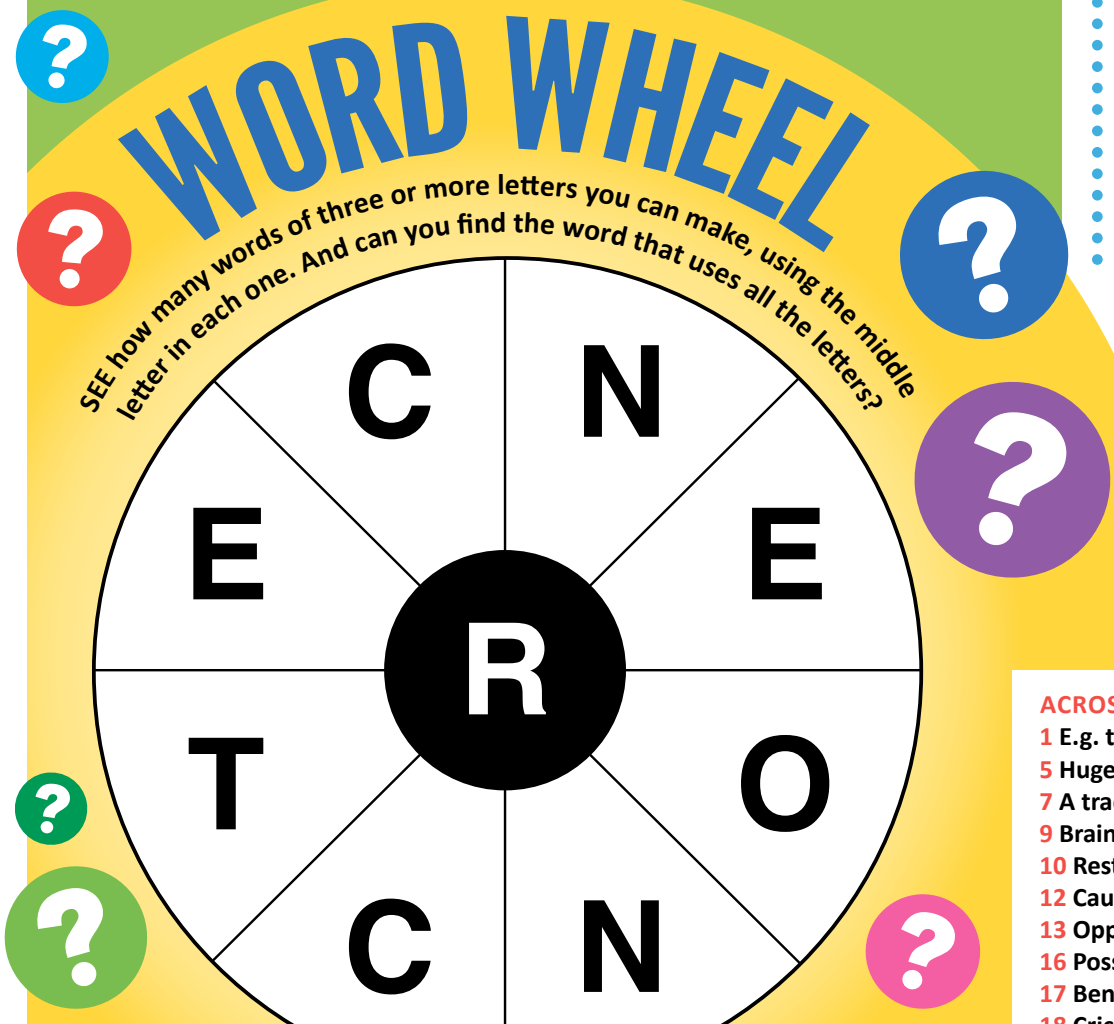
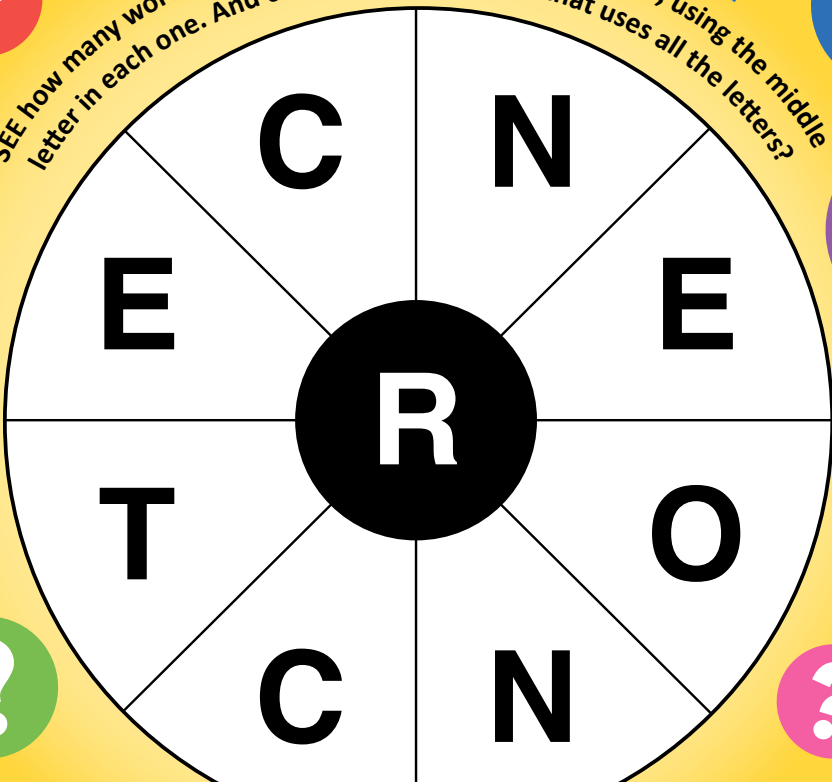
- 1 E.g. the use of the imagination (10)
- 5 Huge body of water (5)
- 7 A traditional type of Sunday dinner (5)
- 9 Brain-teaser (6)
- 10 Rest against something (4)
- 12 Cautious (4)
- 13 Opposite of private (6)
- 16 Possessed (5)
- 17 Beneath (5)
- 18 Cricket-playing nation (4,6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Group of singers (5)
- 2 Twist together; entwine (6)
- 3 A word used to describe an action (4)
- 4 Journeyed (9)
- 6 Stamina or durability (9)
- 8 Unit of weight (3)
- 11 Season when leaves fall from trees (6)
- 12 Doctor \_\_\_\_ : popular sci-fi TV show (3)
- 14 Miley \_\_\_\_ : actor and singer (5)
- 15 Change or modify (4)

# 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?





# 15. BOREDOM BUSTERS!

## HOW TO ENTER:

Send your finished puzzles by email to [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk). Don't forget to put **Puzzles 727** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 28 May 2020**.

# WIN! PADDINGTON DVDs

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Adventures of Paddington*? Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a copy of the DVD and two activity books – two runners-up will win the DVD. The DVD features heart-warming tales about being curious, being good to others and being part of a loving family. *The Adventures of Paddington* is out now on DVD.



# WORDSEARCH

CAN you find the words below in our human body-themed wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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

- Skull
- Thumb
- Shoulder
- Ankle
- Wrist
- Eyes
- Jaw
- Spine
- Foot
- Elbow
- Tongue
- Knee

# WHAT ON EARTH?

THESE can all be found in the bathroom. Do you know what they are?



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

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

**Spot the difference:** square on jumper coloured in, button is now pink, nose is bigger, circle is missing from wall, extra tooth added.

**Word wheel:** challenge.

**Word ladder:** wing, wind, bind, bend, bead, beat.

**What on Earth:** plane, train, skateboard, bus, boat, bike.

9	6	7	1	3	4	2	8	5	T	A	L	O	R	S	W	I	F	T	
8	5	1	2	7	6	9	3	4	R	E	O	L	U	M	B	A			
3	4	2	8	9	5	6	7	1	A	L	L	I	A	L	L				
2	3	6	4	1	7	8	5	9	N	L	O	R	I	E	S	L			
1	7	9	5	8	2	4	6	3	S	P	L	U	S	N	E				
4	8	5	3	6	9	7	1	2	P	L	A	N	T	M	I	G	H	T	
6	1	4	9	5	8	3	2	7	A	G	P	E							
7	2	3	6	4	1	5	9	8	R	E	V	E	N	T	U	R	N		
5	9	8	7	2	3	1	4	6	N	E	C	R							
									T	R	E	A	C	H	E	R	O	I	S



# THE BIG PICTURE



## **BRITISH photographer Alan Murphy captured this dramatic moment when a bald eagle swooped down for its dinner.**

Murphy was in Alaska, US, where he spends several days a year teaching other photographers how to get the best images of these beautiful creatures.

Bald eagles are no longer listed as endangered in the US. They have been protected there since 1900, and criminals who target the birds can be jailed or fined. In January 2005, two people pleaded guilty to cutting down a tree containing a bald eagle nest in Florida – one defendant had to pay \$90,000 (£73,000) in fines, while the other was fined \$10,000 (£8,000) and had to hand over the chainsaw he used to chop the tree down.





Chancellor Rishi Sunak is the man in charge of the country's money

Before we start, it's probably helpful to know what interest rates are. An interest rate is a percentage of the amount you borrow (or save). For example, if you borrow £10 and you're charged 10% interest (which equals £1), you will pay back £11 – the £10 you borrowed plus £1 interest. It's like hiring a bike or a pedalo when you're on holiday – interest is what you pay to 'hire' someone else's money.

If you're saving money by putting it into a bank, it's similar, except the interest is paid to you – because banks are paying to 'hire' your money.

### SO WHERE IS ALL THIS MONEY COMING FROM?

"Most of it will be borrowed. The Government will borrow it from members of the public, pay interest on it, and eventually repay it, probably decades later. The great thing is that the interest rate is now so low that the amount that will have to be paid to service [pay back] that debt is really very small. Rates have never been so low in the last 200 years. The other point is that the servicing of the debt is a transfer from taxpayers to other members of the community. The people who buy the Government debt are providing the money today to the community, and later on the community is paying back those people. The other thing to say is that a great chunk is going to be borrowed from the Bank of England [BoE], which is actually a part of the Government, so the money is being borrowed from itself."



Even if your parents/guardians aren't at work, many will have become your temporary teachers instead

# PAYING FOR A PANDEMIC

**DURING this lockdown, many of your parents are being paid by the Government until they can go back to work. The Government's own estimates say that this could cost £84 billion this year, so where does all that cash come from and how can the UK afford it? If you don't understand it, don't worry, because here's a secret for you: most adults haven't got a clue either. So, to help you (and us) understand how we're paying for millions of workers to not do any work, we spoke to Professor Richard Layard, the director of the Wellbeing Programme in the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. Is he right that we could all end up happier when this is over?**



### WHY WOULD YOU BUY GOVERNMENT DEBT? AND WHO BUYS IT?

"Because it's a secure investment. It's people like pension fund managers, some rich people, and a very small fraction are foreigners."

### WHY CAN'T THE GOVERNMENT JUST PRINT MORE MONEY?

"Borrowing from the BoE essentially is the Government creating money, but it means that the BoE is paying a small amount of interest on that. That's because the BoE gives money to the Government, which then spends it; people get the money, they put it into their bank account, and their bank eventually re-deposits it back to the BoE, which has to pay interest."

### WHEN WILL ALL OF THIS HAVE TO BE PAID BACK?

"Over a very long period of time. After the Second World War, which was largely paid for by borrowing money, the Government debt equalled 2.5 times the nation's annual income. Now, there are two ways that ratio can come down, but the most important one is that the national income goes up. So if the debt doesn't go up that much, but the national income does keep going up, then that ratio comes down and down. So the ratio fell from about 250% after WW2 to something like 30% in 2008, and that will happen again."

### WILL THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO INCREASE TAXES TO HELP PAY FOR ALL THIS DEBT?

"Yes, I do think it's a good idea. I spend most of my time studying human behaviour, and with the kind of public services that we have at the moment, which are so stretched, it's quite clear that human wellbeing would be improved if we were spending more on those services, even though this



would mean that households have less money to spend on themselves."

### SCANDINAVIA GENERALLY HAS HIGH TAXES, BUT GOOD PUBLIC SERVICES AND HIGH LEVELS OF HAPPINESS, SO WHY IS THERE RESISTANCE IN THE UK TO HIGHER TAXES?

"I think that there's a huge cultural and educational failure. In Britain, we think of taxes as a form of robbery. In Scandinavia they think of taxes as paying for things that they're getting back, such as education, health, safe streets and good roads. I would say it's an important role of the education system to get that idea across, that we're paying taxes largely for our own personal benefit. And to some extent, of course, we're paying taxes to support the weakest members of the community."

### FOR THE WORLD TO RECOVER, LOTS OF EXPERTS THINK WE NEED TO MAKE ECONOMIES FAIRER AND MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY. DO YOU THINK THAT WILL HAPPEN?

"I hope it will. I think there has been a change going on in the community. People have understood that the Government actually is crucial for a good life, and public services really are important. I hope that there'll be some bigger change to our culture generally, because I think people have become very concerned about how they're doing compared with other people. Of course, if that's what you care about, for every winner there's a loser. Competition as the basis for individual motivation produces a lot of stress. You can't have a happier society if that's what people's motivation is. You can have a happier society if people's motivation is much more about how they can contribute to the lives of other people. That's good for the other people, but it's also good for those who contribute, because it's very satisfying. The countries of the Far East have handled this pandemic far better than Europe and North America, which I think has been easier for them to do because they do have more of a sense of community and a duty to the community."



Will the UK's sense of community carry on when the pandemic is over?



# MUSICAL MEMORIES

*High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* is out now, exclusively on Disney+, so we caught up with the cast to find out their thoughts on the original *High School Musical* movie. What did *High School Musical* mean to them? And which character did they relate to the most?

## ★ MATT CORNETT PLAYS EJ

"I think everybody in the cast is a major fan of the *High School Musical* movies. I think I was seven years old when the first movie came out, so I wasn't in my teenage years – but I definitely remember watching the movies. I'm sure this is going to sound like a cliché, but the character I related to the most was Troy [played by Zac Efron] because I think we are very similar. I was almost in the exact same boat as Troy, because I was into theatre at school but I was also on the basketball team. I was juggling both."

## ★ SOFIA WYLIE PLAYS GINA

"When I was five years old, there was a *High School Musical* contest at my local shopping mall. You had to walk across a red carpet and you could win tickets for your whole family to fly out to LA to be part of the *High School Musical 3* premiere. Somehow, that five-year-old Sofia walked across this carpet and won! I have pictures of my family and I at the premiere. To this day, I still get excited when I think about it. Now, it's ten years later and it's weird to think that I'm part of this amazing show."

## ★ JOSHUA BASSETT PLAYS RICKY

"When I was little, we used to watch *High School Musical* all the time. My family all loved it. We had Zac Efron lunchboxes and all that jazz, so it's pretty insane to be in *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. When I was eight years old, my local community theatre put on a production of *High School Musical*. My sisters had been doing theatre for a while and I was finally old enough to join in, so I auditioned. That was my first introduction to musical theatre, so you could definitely say I'm familiar with the franchise. I relate to Troy Bolton a little, but I strangely adored Zeke [played by Chris Warren] too. Zeke liked to make crème brûlée in the first movie and even though the most popular girl in school laughs in his face about it, he sticks to it. He does what he loves regardless of whatever others think. I think that's really admirable."

## ★ DARA RENÉE PLAYS KOURTNEY

"*High School Musical* has always meant a lot to me. When I was younger, I had all the merchandise; even the bed sheets. I bonded so much with everything about it because I was a musical theatre geek. Finally, it was cool to do musical theatre! The character I bonded the most with was Taylor, played by Monique Coleman in the movies. I love how she represented everything I love. She was intelligent. She was confident. She was all about girl power!"

## ★ FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ PLAYS CARLOS

"*High School Musical* means a lot to me. I grew up loving the movies. In my back yard, we had a long-running nightly show of *High School Musical*, which ran for more than a few months! It was really fun. For me, I always have nice, warm, fuzzy feelings whenever I think about it. The character I related to the most was always Sharpay [played by Ashley Tisdale]. Well, she's simply fabulous! Just look at her clothes. Sharpay was always the coolest."

## ★ LARRY SAPERSTEIN PLAYS BIG RED

"We all love the songs. I think that's why *High School Musical* is so amazing. Anyone who has a little bit of love for musical theatre can find something to identify with in the original movies. Personally, I always thought Ryan [played by Lucas Grabeel] was great. Within my group of friends, I was the most geeky about musical theatre, which is very similar to Ryan. He loves what he does and he's not apologetic about it. He tries to get other people excited about doing the thing that he loves and I really identified with that."

## ★ JULIA LESTER PLAYS ASHLYN

"I'm a musical theatre kid, so when the first movie came out, it was eye-opening and exciting to see kids like me on screen. It was also exciting to see lots of people wanting to be in a movie like that. It's

such an honour to continue the legacy of *High School Musical* in this show. Being a part of something to do with *High School Musical* is crazy. It's a dream come true!"



Catch every episode of *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* on Disney+ now



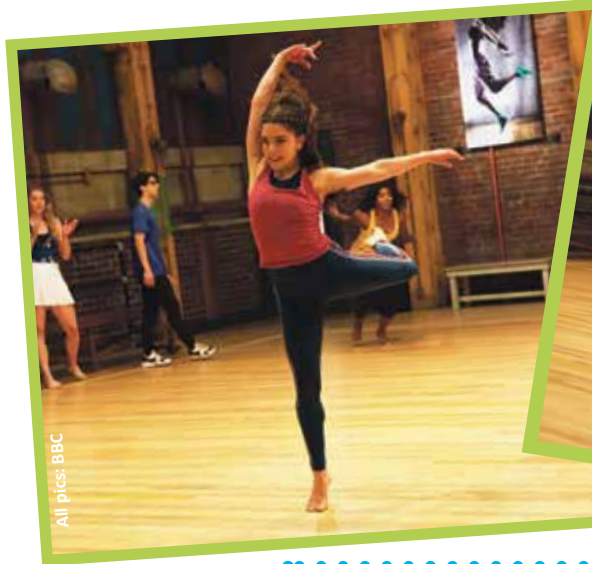
# PICS OF THE WEEK

## THE Next Step is back on CBBC and BBC iPlayer.

The first episode of the new series of the hit dance show has just landed on iPlayer and is available to watch now.

As series seven continues, the A-Troupe face new challenges as the next phase of their dance training begins. But, with clashes in the group, do they have what it takes to dance on their biggest stage to date?

New episodes of *The Next Step* will air every Wednesday on CBBC. Catch up on BBC iPlayer.



## THIS WEEK

1 A launch date for the new Alex Rider TV

series has been confirmed. From 4 June you'll be able to watch all eight episodes of the action series on Amazon Prime. The series is based on Anthony Horowitz's second Alex Rider novel, *Point Blanc*.



2 The hit musical *Hamilton* is coming to Disney+! The filmed version of the show will premiere on 3 July. The performance was filmed at the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway in June 2016 and features the original, award-winning cast. It will be the first time the theatre production has been shown as a film!



3 Andy and the Odd Socks, the band from CBBC's *Andy and the Band*, are releasing their new album, *Who's In The Odd Socks?*, today (Friday). The new album features a whopping 17 new family-friendly songs. Andy says: "While *Who's in the Odd Socks?* is all about dancing and rocking out, the songs also hold such an important message and we couldn't be more excited for you to hear them!" More than 45,000 families tuned in to the band's online gig earlier this month.



# 15 (EXTRA) FILMS TO SEE BEFORE YOU'RE 15

FILM charity Into Film has teamed up with the BFI to update the list of films you should see before you are 15.



- Bend It Like Beckham (below right)
- The Cave of the Yellow Dog
- Thumbelina
- He Named Me Malala (left)
- Hunt For The Wilderpeople
- The Iron Giant
- I Wish (aka Kiseki)
- Persepolis
- Shaun the Sheep Movie
- Song of the Sea
- Tomboy
- Wadjda
- Wallay
- Your Name
- My Life As A Courgette (top right)

Short Films: *Hansel & Gretel*, *Snow White & Rose Red*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*.

The list has been created to inspire young people and show that film can be as important and as serious as art and books.



FIFTEEN new films have been added to the original list of 50 films that was first published in 2005. The new list features modern films as well as classic masterpieces. All 15 of the films are currently available to stream and some of them even have extra resources linked to them, to help you learn more about film and film-making. Check out the list – how many have you seen?

The full list of all the films and their resources can be found at [tinyurl.com/15filmsbefore15](https://tinyurl.com/15filmsbefore15)





Toby Madden

“IT’S A VERY POSITIVE, UPLIFTING THING”

AS *First News* went to press, author and illustrator Rob Biddulph was getting ready to host the world’s largest online art lesson and attempt to set an official Guinness World Record. We chatted to him about the record attempt and why he started his *Draw With Rob* lessons in the first place.

● **We hear you’re planning to break the world record for the world’s biggest art lesson. Ambitious stuff!**

It’s really cool! The tech side of things is really hard, actually. Blimey, hosting a live YouTube event – I had no idea how difficult this was! That’s the thing I’m most nervous about, to be honest. We want to get 10,000 people drawing along with me, live. They’ll stick with me for the entire half an hour of this drawing lesson and, yeah, we’re going to break the record! But the real reason I’m involved is because we’re going to be raising quite a lot of money for various charities [all supporting coronavirus relief efforts].

● **How do you feel about being an art teacher to 10,000 people?**

Do you know what? That’s fine. I do this quite often, because the thing they don’t tell you when you sign your first kids’ book deal is that you have to develop an act and go out on the road pretty sharply. I think about a month after I signed my deal I found myself on stage at the Royal Festival Hall at a literacy festival talking to a few hundred kids. And, do you know what? It doesn’t make much difference whether it’s 100 kids or thousands of kids, because you do the same sort of thing. The actual lesson will be fine, because it will be me sitting in my studio basically talking to myself, which is what I do when I record the regular draw-along videos.

● **The response to your #DrawWithRob videos on YouTube has been tremendous during the lockdown period!**

That’s the best description for it! It’s crazy – and it was pretty immediate, as well. About a week before they closed the schools, I was just sitting on the sofa with my wife on a Sunday evening and I suddenly thought that all these kids are going to be at home soon with their parents. I’ve got three daughters, and I know what it’s like in the summer holidays trying to find things for them to do. So then and there, just sitting on the sofa, I tweeted out a little teaser video saying I’m thinking of doing this, and immediately the response was incredible. I then put the first video out two days



Rob Biddulph

later and it was madness. I get thousands of people taking part. I put a unicorn one up this morning and I’ve already been sent hundreds of drawings! It’s a very positive, uplifting thing. I challenge anyone to look at my timeline on Twitter and not smile, because it’s just full of pictures of these lovely kids holding up their drawings – and the drawings are really good! I had one sent to me today by a three-year-old and it was of a recognisable unicorn; it’s really amazing.

● **That must be such a rewarding experience for you as a children’s illustrator.**

It is, actually. It’s really nice. Most of the things we draw are characters from my books, so I know these characters really well. I get to see how thousands of people draw my characters slightly differently – no two are ever the same. They’re all really full of a personality. I get

lots of lovely emails and letters from kids and adults. That’s the really interesting thing: lots of parents are sitting down at the kitchen table and doing the drawings with their kids. It’s quite a simple pleasure just picking up a pencil and drawing a picture. It’s really nice to see lots of adults engaging with their creative sides too.

● **Were you a natural artist at school?**

Yeah, I was – I was always the kid who drew at school. My mum paints, so she was always encouraging me and my brother and sister to draw and paint with anything on the table, so we were drawing from a very young age. My mum tells me that apparently it was quite obvious from an early age that I was quite good. Whenever I do my live shows I always show the kids this drawing I did when I was in Reception; I won a prize at school for the drawing and I think getting that sort of praise very early on gives you the confidence to keep going.

● **What advice would you give to a budding illustrator who perhaps lacks confidence?**

There is no right answer with drawing; one person’s drawing is not better than another person’s drawing. Drawing is all about your own interpretation of something. It’s difficult to think like this, but I know from my own experience that there is no right or wrong answer. If you want to improve and learn new techniques, the only way to improve is repetition. Draw and draw and draw and draw – that’s what I did! Drawing is a muscle; the more you exercise it, the stronger it will become!



Rob Biddulph

You can join in and *Draw With Rob* on his YouTube page. Rob’s latest book, *Show and Tell*, is out now, and you can find out all his other news at [www.robbiddulph.com](http://www.robbiddulph.com)

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS





# UNREAL!

**THE people at Epic Games don't just make *Fortnite* (PEGI 12) – they're also behind the software that lots of games (like *Fortnite*) are made with. This software is called Unreal Engine, and this week Epic showed off Unreal Engine 5, the latest version of the software, running on a special development version of the PlayStation 5.**

A demo called *Lumen in the Land of Nanite* showed a girl climbing through a highly detailed cavern and leaping through ruins, as rocks realistically tumbled down cliffs around her.

Epic Games has said that *Lumen in the Land of Nanite* – which was being demoed in real time – won't actually get an official release, but that it is a fully playable demo.

Epic suggested that if 2020's big videogame conferences hadn't been cancelled, people would have been playing it for themselves!

While the graphic upgrades are really

impressive, Epic Games founder and CEO Tim Sweeney says that he's more excited about what other developers will end up doing with Unreal Engine 5.

"We can't even imagine yet what this is going to help the games industry to make," Sweeney explained.

First though, *Fortnite* is getting an upgrade. Epic Games say it plans on upgrading the international mega-hit to Unreal Engine 5 at some point next year, making it the first title to run on the super-fancy software.



Epic Games

## JOURNEY'S END

**TERRARIA (PEGI 12) has received an absolutely enormous update, which introduces loads of new items, upgrades and even more!**

If you've never given *Terraria* a go, it's a bit like a 2D *Minecraft*. You've got to survive against enemies who come out at night, by building shelter and



mining materials to make weapons that can fend them off.

Unlike *Minecraft*, however, *Terraria* is full of loads and loads of items, which can do all sorts of funky things. There are grappling hooks, shoes that make you run really fast, and a weapon that shoots out bees!

The *Journey's End* update is the fourth big free update that the game has received since it came out on PC back in 2011. This latest update adds even more cool stuff – for example, you can now play golf in the game.

While it's only out on PC at the moment, we're sure a console release will be announced soon.



## BECOME A TROLLHUNTER

**A GAME based on the smash-hit Netflix series *Trollhunters* is coming to PC and consoles later this year.**

*Trollhunters: Defenders of Arcadia* will be a brand-new story that covers the three *Tales of Arcadia* series: *Trollhunters*, *3Below* and *Wizards*, which is also out later this year on Netflix.

Voiced by the actual cast of the series and featuring slick side-scrolling action, it's coming to Nintendo Switch, PS4, Xbox One and PC this September.



TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## MUG CAKES PREZZYBOX.COM £7.99

If you fancy baking a cake, but don't want to cover your kitchen in flour, then this mug cake recipe book is perfect for you. Simply choose a large microwave-friendly mug, mix your chosen ingredients, pop it in the microwave and enjoy! There are loads of choices – will you go for a classic, lemon, carrot or chocolate fondant cake, or a more creative raspberry and green tea or blueberry and ricotta?



## MINI BAKING TOOLS LAKELAND.CO.UK £11.99

These mini baking tools are made from stainless steel and soft silicone, making them comfy and easy to hold. They're just like full-sized tools, only smaller. And because they've been made for proper baking, they work brilliantly too. The set includes a silicone-coated balloon whisk, flexible turner spatula, 'spoonula' and a basting brush.



## BAKING

## DINOSAUR BAKING SET AMAZON.CO.UK £16.99

Get ready to bake with this fun dinosaur kit. This activity set contains all the tools you need to create delicious dinosaur cupcakes – you just need to buy the ingredients. Includes six silicone cupcake holders, piping bag with eight different nozzles, a cupcake display stand, icing mould, two decorative sticker sheets, cupcake recipes and instruction book. Ready, steady... get baking!



\*All prices correct at time of printing

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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.

# WIN! CORONATION STREET STAMPS

ROYAL Mail has revealed images of 12 stamps being issued to mark the 60th anniversary of the world's longest-running TV continuing drama, *Coronation Street*.

Eight stamps in the set are inspired by some of *Coronation Street*'s most loved duos over the years, and each of the images is complemented with a quote that shows the essence of the couple's relationship. A further four stamps are presented in a miniature sheet and celebrate characters who have worked at the iconic Rovers Return.

15 lucky winners will each get a *Coronation Street* Stamp Presentation set. For a chance of winning, just answer this question:

In which year did *Coronation Street* first air?  
a) 1950 b) 1960  
c) 1970



# WIN! A MINDSHOT ACTIVITIES BUNDLE

SPRING into action with this cool set of fun activities from MindShot!

These seven pocket-sized MindShot packs each contain an assortment of stickers, puzzles, crosswords, mazes, tattoos, bright ideas and more on the theme of Nature and Nurture. Each pack also helps the charity Born Free support wildlife. Not only will you have amazing fun, you'll learn how to help our natural world, and why your ideas matter.

Each activity pack takes around 15-30 minutes to complete, so they're perfect as a break from the screen or from home-schooling.

Twenty lucky winners will each receive a full set of MindShot's new Nature and Nurture series. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which Swedish teenager started School Strikes for Climate?  
a) Tilda Thunberg b) Ebba Thunberg  
c) Greta Thunberg



MINDSHOT  
[www.digitaldetoxkids.com](http://www.digitaldetoxkids.com)



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY STREET

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 15. The closing date is 4 June 2020.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MIND

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 15. The closing date is 4 June 2020.



# WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

**WORDS FOR LIFE**



**LIBBY Scott is 12 years old. She loves hot chocolate and Little Mix. She is also autistic, and after her mum Kym shared a piece of Libby's writing online, Libby and her writing went viral. She told us her favourite thing about reading:**

“ The best thing about reading is just sinking into a good book. It's like being teleported into the story you are reading. Reading is a very under-rated subject; being on screens can take over. When you do switch off devices and get stuck into a book, it's so relaxing. ”



TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews) FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)



SEVEN 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 seven parts, head to:

**FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL**

## SO FAR IN THE STORY...

After escaping child-snatching dangers, young spellcaster Ferocity and her pet boggart, Guggalugs, have been led by an odd boy called Trick to the mysterious Perum Hollow. The strange metal piece in her pocket appears to match one owned by Trick's grandfather, who the two are about to meet...

## PART EIGHT BY TUDOR LUHAN, 12

*Ferocity turned to the old man. 'Hello Ferocity... my child! I see you have what I've been looking for...'*

*His voice was that of a croaky frog's, his smile showed wisdom, while his eyes showed regret.*

*'Hello?' Ferocity was slightly confused; it felt like she knew him but... she didn't.*

*As the old man ambled toward her, Trick took a few steps back. Was he scared? He did say that this man was his grandad, didn't he? Ferocity lost her footing a bit, but the old man held his staff out for her to hold.*

*'In your hand, you have a part of a puzzle. I have one – and Trick has one. We have three parts, but we miss a fourth. Have you noticed strange things lately...? More Tappers? More wild things?'*

*As he spoke, she felt a funny sensation in her toes and the old man's eyes began to glow an eerie blue.*

*'The parts of the puzzle we hold are a key controlling the magic in the world, but I fear that a great evil bangs at our doorsteps and we need the key to lock our door. For years I have searched for the piece you hold and now I have learned of the fourth's location. You and Trick are to collect it and stop this great evil!'*

*He stopped, and handed Ferocity a map.*

*'To the north you must go, and retrieve the final piece... our world depends on Trick and you! Farewell!'*

**Cressida Cowell said:**  
"I like the direction that Tudor is taking the story in!"

# YOUR READS!

## MAX TAKES A STAND TIM ALLMAN

reviewed by Devan Barodia

Max is a schoolboy who wants to make changes to the planet to help prevent global warming and pollution.

One day on the radio, he hears about a competition to find the 'greenest' school in the country, with the winner receiving a special prize for their school.

Max likes the sound of this and starts a 'car free' campaign at school. He also comes up with lots of other good ideas as well. I would describe Max as funny, smart and determined to make a difference. I enjoyed this book a lot, as it contained real facts about the environment and how we could make it better, but it was also entertaining and written in an easy-to-read style.

I would recommend this book for ages nine and up. I'd give it four stars out of five. It'd get five stars if it had a bit more humour!



## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

Looking for something to do? Send us a book review! Whether you've read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about, or have read one that you think others should avoid – write 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](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk).

## PART NINE: BY YOU!

A big thanks to everyone who took the time to send us their creative efforts. We enjoyed reading them all, and love how talented you all are! If your story wasn't chosen this time, don't let that stop you having another go. We could choose you to continue the story in next week's issue!

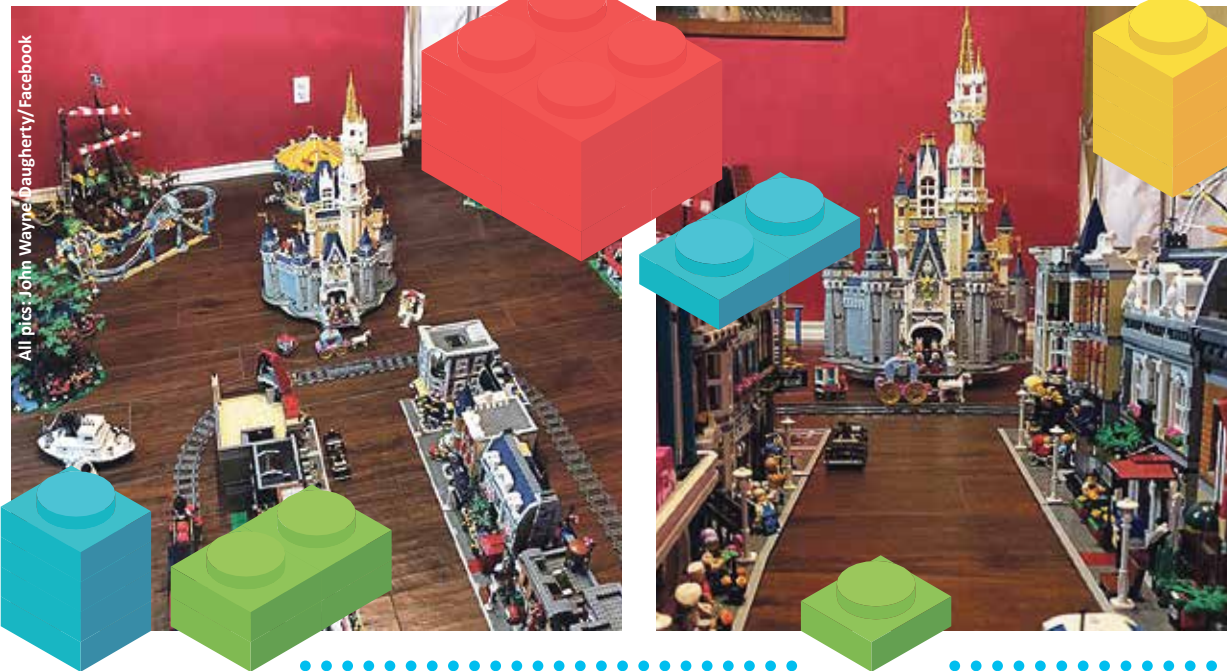


You can submit the next part of the story by email at [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk), popping **Story** into the subject line, or at [first.news/cressidacowell](https://www.first.news/cressidacowell).

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



# LEGO DISNEYLAND



All pics: John Wayne Daugherty/Facebook

## IT'S a small world after all. No, really...

A man from Texas has stunned Disney fans across the globe by building a replica of Disneyland out of LEGO in his living room.

After Disney parks were forced to shut down in response to the coronavirus pandemic in March, Disney fans (including us!) were suddenly left without the happiest place on Earth in their lives.

Unless your name's John Daugherty and you were completely prepared for this unexpected magic drought...

The Texan has spent more than 300 hours of the lockdown building his LEGO replica of Disneyland. The impressive structure is made from 25 different LEGO sets (including a Pirates of the Caribbean ship and a replica of the iconic Main Street), which John has spent years collecting.

Just like the real Disneyland, John's Disneyland LEGO sets surround a replica of Cinderella's castle, which, of course, is rammed with Disney characters.

Oh, and a moving train circles the park too. Sadly, John's a tad too tall to ride any of the rides, though!

## SLOWEST PUZZLE ON EARTH



### THIS ridiculous puzzle will leave you seeing red.

If you and your family are doing lockdown right, then no doubt virtual quizzes, baking and jigsaw puzzles are just part of everyday life now.

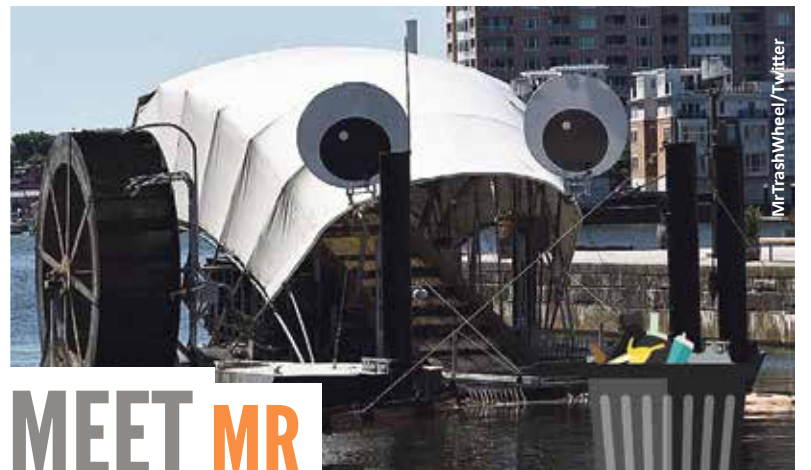
Puzzles, especially, are a great way to engage your brain and have fun together as a family – unless, of course, you foolishly choose to tackle Heinz's "slowest puzzle on Earth." This fiendish jigsaw could cause some serious family squabbles, so play with extreme caution.

Heinz (yep, the ketchup guys) recently launched a giveaway to give fans the chance to win a copy of this puzzling puzzle. Why is it so tricky, we hear you ask? We're glad you asked. You see, all 570 pieces of the puzzle are exactly the same colour – red (the colour of ketchup). The number 570 is a nod to the company's "57 varieties" slogan.

A jigsaw puzzle can be tricky enough at the best of times, but it's even harder when the image is just one block of colour!

The food group announced the news via Instagram earlier this month, telling fans that the jigsaw "might be the slowest puzzle on Earth" – and we can see why.

Heinz gave 57 copies of the puzzle away to 'lucky' fans who are no doubt seeing red right now.



MrTrashWheel/twitter

## MEET MR TRASH WHEEL

**MR Trash Wheel has been cleaning up the Jones Fall River in America since 2014 and now he's got a Guinness World Record!**

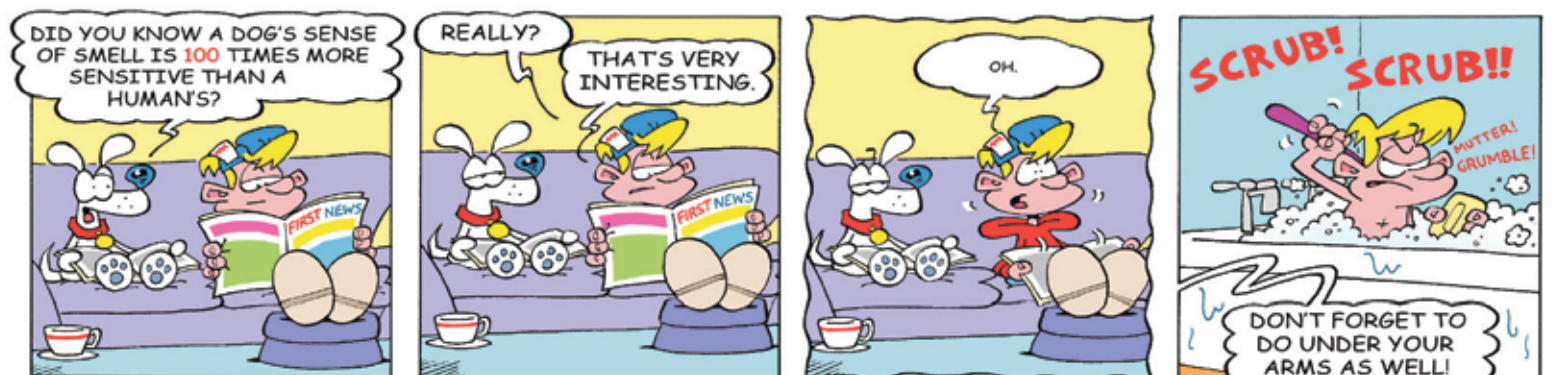
Mr Trash Wheel cleared 57.4 tonnes of junk, beating the record for the most floating debris removed by a trash receptor in a month.

The giant googly-eyed machine lives in Baltimore, where rubbish in the river is funnelled into his hungry mouth. Rubbish gets put in a massive bin while the water flows past him, much cleaner than it was before.

Mr Trash Wheel was invented by Baltimore local John Kellett for the Healthy Harbor Initiative of the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore. He's powered by a big water wheel, but when the current isn't strong enough, solar panels provide power instead.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





SCHOOL NEWS

# WILDLIFE LESSONS

by Auburn and Rupert, Ambergate Primary School

**FOR** the last two weeks, we have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's live question-and-answer sessions.

We are amazed by the technology the team uses to create the live interactive shows. Ben, who organises and runs the sessions, ensures they run smoothly. You sign up for the session beforehand and you receive a pre-session activity idea, like making a mini-beast trap or how to make a mini pond.

Then, on the day, you join the Zoom meeting a few minutes before it is due to start. This week there were more than 100 families all taking part at the same time.

The Wildlife Trust provides experts to share their exciting knowledge. The sessions so far have all involved a quiz, sharing of marvellous facts and a fun outdoor activity that we could do in our garden, while the experts were on hand to answer all our questions live. The first session was about 'mini-beasts' and the second session was about 'wild water'.

Each session lasts for an hour and is completely free! We have learnt lots from Ben and his team and are looking forward to the next one. They inspired us to look after the little creatures in our world. These sessions are running every Thursday at 2pm. The Wildlife Trust do a great job looking after wildlife across the country.



Rupert and a toad!



Mini-beast hotel

## 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](mailto: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.

# GOING TO SCHOOL : VIRTUAL BALLET

SCHOOL NEWS



Ruby

by Ruby Isaac

**ME** and my brother are still going to school during lockdown, as both of our parents are key workers.

We don't really mind going to school because when we are at home we get a bit bored, but when we go to school they always have fun activities to do.

Last week we made our own crazy golf course, which was really fun. It's nice going to school and seeing lots of different teachers and students. It was strange at first without my usual classmates and friends, but now I am used to it. It's

definitely different, as some days there are only four children in the whole school.

Both of my parents have very important jobs. My mum works at the job centre; before all of this happened my mum used to have people come in, but now it's all done over the phone. My mum helps people who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus, and who have to claim benefits to get money to buy food.

My dad works at a superstore as a store manager. His job is very important as he is selling food and essential items like medicine.

I hope you are all staying safe, and hopefully we will all be back at school soon, where we can see all our friends and start learning again.

by Dylan Griffiths

**I'M** a ballet dancer! I normally train three times a week; twice with my teacher at a local ballet school and once with the Royal Ballet School in Bath.

In lockdown, I haven't been able to attend my classes, but my teachers have sent video lessons for me so that I can train at home.

At home I now do two classes on a Monday and one class on a Thursday. I really enjoy the video lessons, but I can't wait to get back to proper classes and see my friends again.

My mum wanted to take some pictures of me doing ballet around the house.

We had fun planning the shoot and working out where we could take



Dylan

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

pictures around the house. It was hard work trying to get the poses right!

My mum let me wear my hair down for the shoot, but normally I'd wear it up in a bun because it gets in my face when I'm dancing.

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Celtic players celebrate a goal earlier this season

Getty

# CELTIC CHAMPIONS

**CELTIC have been crowned champions of Scotland and Hearts are relegated, after the Premiership football season was cancelled due to COVID-19.**

The 12 clubs in the Scottish top division agreed at a meeting that completing the season was impossible. The average points per game already played has therefore been used to decide the clubs' placings.

The final league table (right) is almost identical to how it was when play was suspended on 13 March; the only change is that St Johnstone are up to sixth, with Hibernian down to seventh. So although Hibs have one point more, they drop a place when the average points per game rule is applied.

The Bhoys have now won the title for an incredible ninth season in a row. Boss

Neil Lennon said: "The title is ours and we deserve it. We are indeed champions for a reason."

South of the border, plans continue for the English Premier League to resume play at some point in June. Clubs have agreed to return to training using small groups of players maintaining social distancing.

The Government is very keen for matches to restart – but without fans in the stadium.

However, some players, including Watford captain Troy Deeney, want more assurances about the health and safety of players.

And Newcastle boss Steve Bruce has said footballers won't be match-fit until late June.

## SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP TABLE



TEAM	POINTS
1. Celtic	80
2. Rangers	67
3. Motherwell	46
4. Aberdeen	45
5. Livingstone	39
6. St Johnstone	36
7. Hibernian	37
8. Kilmarnock	33
9. St Mirren	29
10. Ross County	29
11. Hamilton Academical	27
12. Hearts	23

# SPORT IN NUMBERS

**31** July is the new date when professional tennis will start again. The men's and women's tours were due to resume on 13 July, but have been delayed because of the ongoing pandemic. The US Open is still due to start in August – Rafael Nadal (below) is the reigning men's champion.



Getty

**2-0** was the score as reigning champions Bayern Munich beat Union Berlin in the first weekend of German football since the season was suspended in March. Robert Lewandowski (below) opened the scoring, before Benjamin Pavard doubled Bayern's lead. All matches are being played without spectators.



Getty

**17** under par (271) was Hyun Kyung Park's four-round total as she won the KLPGA Championship by one stroke. It was Korea's first golfing event since sport was cancelled due to the coronavirus. The tournament was played without fans, and all caddies had to wear masks.



Getty

## CLASSIC SPORTS PIC OF THE WEEK



Getty

Britain's Lizzy Yarnold celebrates after her gold medal run in the skeleton at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics. She became the first Briton to retain a Winter Games title