

First News

Issue 726 £1.99 15 – 21 May 2020

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

PUZZLES! QUIZ!
BRAIN TEASERS!

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DRIVE-THROUGH
DAFTNESS

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KEITH LEMON
GETS CRAFTY

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PUPILS LIKE HOME SCHOOL

MORE kids say they prefer learning at home than going to school.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

THE results of a First News poll of more than 1,000 readers comes while politicians, scientists and schools are trying to work out how to get kids back in the classroom (page 3).

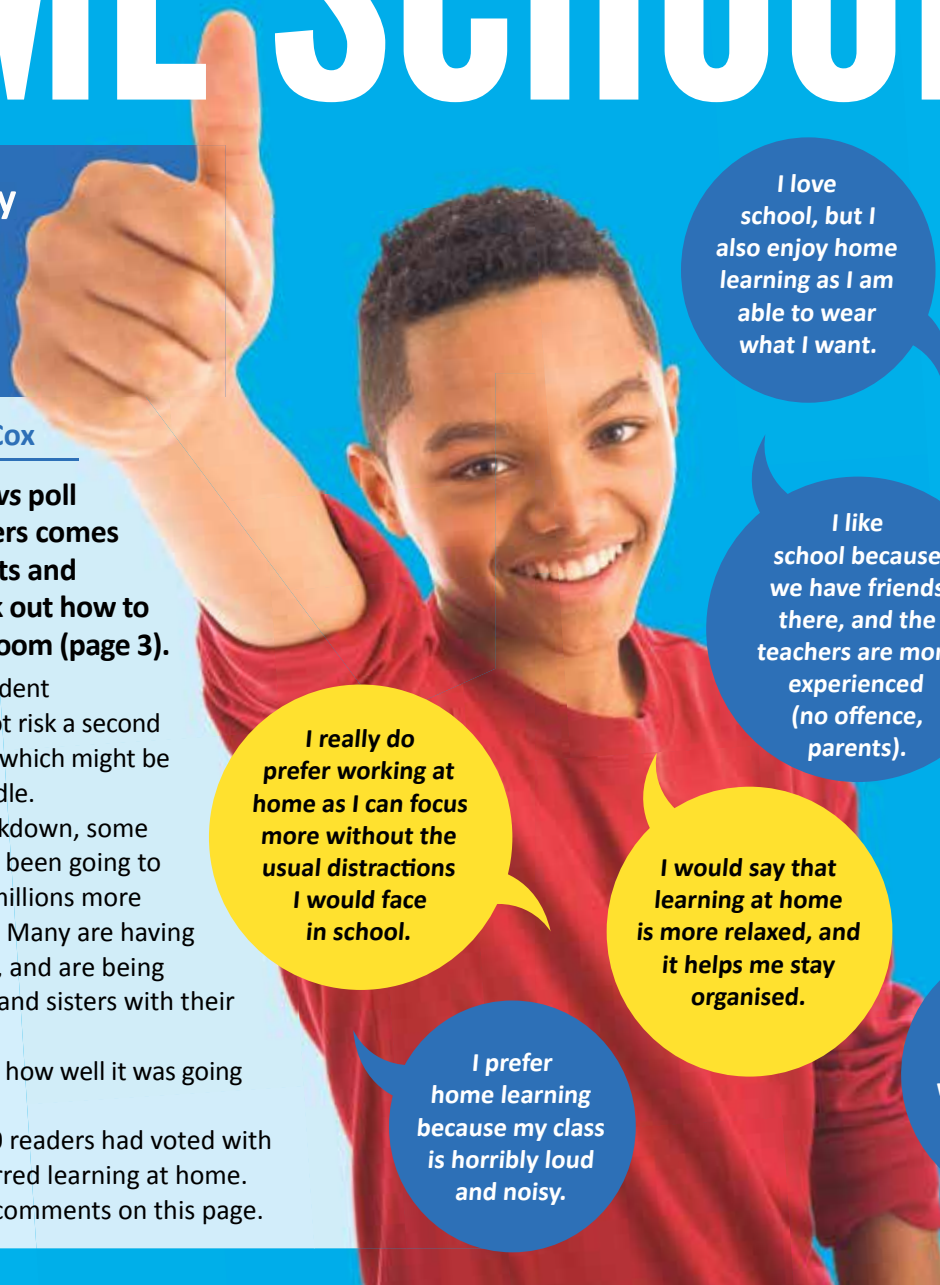
Everyone needs to be confident that any changes made do not risk a second peak of COVID-19 infections, which might be too much for the NHS to handle.

During the coronavirus lockdown, some children of key workers have been going to school the whole time, but millions more have been learning at home. Many are having online lessons with teachers, and are being helped by parents, brothers and sisters with their home learning.

First News wanted to know how well it was going – so we asked you!

As we went to press, 1,100 readers had voted with 54% of you saying you preferred learning at home.

You can read some of the comments on this page.



I love school, but I also enjoy home learning as I am able to wear what I want.

I prefer school because I can see all my friends and I'm not constantly being annoyed by my bigger brother.

I prefer school because I get to see my friends in person and I feel much more 'in the zone' than at home.

I like school because we have friends there, and the teachers are more experienced (no offence, parents).


I prefer staying at home because I can get up 45 minutes later than I usually need to.

I really do prefer working at home as I can focus more without the usual distractions I would face in school.


I would say that learning at home is more relaxed, and it helps me stay organised.

I prefer home learning because my class is horribly loud and noisy.

I like being at school better because we have teaching assistants and everything.



POLL OF THE WEEK
Who has been helping most with your home learning?
Go to first.news/polls to vote



THANK A TEACHER DAY
DON'T FORGET
Wednesday 20 May
is Thank A Teacher Day. Go to thankateacher.co.uk to find out how to send a thank you card to your teachers who are still working hard to keep up your learning.



Remember that the best way to protect yourself and other people is by staying alert, staying at home as much as possible, keeping 2m away from people you don't live with, and washing your hands regularly and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.

For the latest, most accurate health advice, head to:

- tinyurl.com/whocv2019
- www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

AFTER two months of everyone staying at home, the prime minister has announced the first “baby steps” that the country will take towards unlocking the lockdown.

Last Sunday evening (10 May), Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave a televised address to the UK, outlining the steps that the Government would be taking to ease the lockdown. But he stressed that now was “not the time simply to end the lockdown” and that this was only a “first sketch of a roadmap for reopening society”.

The prime minister said that it was “thanks to the effort and sacrifice” of Britain that the infection and death rate are declining.

He announced a new, five-level Covid Alert System, which would help to decide how strictly the lockdown would be enforced. He said the UK is now on Level 4, heading for Level 3, as the rate of infection has fallen.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

If the number rises, however, the UK may return to a full lockdown. If it doesn't, then shops and businesses may begin to open again, some by June and July.

At Level 4, where we are now, there's no limit on the amount of times you're allowed to go outside with your family. Sports that can be played with social distancing, such as tennis and golf, are now allowed too.

The PM also said that those who cannot work from home should begin to return to work – although, if possible, should not travel via public transport.

It was also announced that people arriving into the country by air would be put into a 14-day quarantine, but there were exceptions for people coming from France and the Republic of Ireland.

The televised announcement ended with the Government's new slogan: 'Stay Alert. Control the Virus. Save Lives.' Ministers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland said that they would keep using the previous slogan: 'Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives' because it was not clear enough what 'stay alert' meant. They also said that the prime minister hadn't talked to them about the new message.

There was some confusion about when the new



Labour leader Keir Starmer

measures were supposed to take effect, which meant that many people ended up going to work on Monday, even though they weren't supposed to.

Later on Monday, the Government published 50 pages of details about the changes, and answered some of the concerns. They also made it clear that the new rules were due to take effect from Wednesday 13 May.

One of the most important pieces of news was that the Government now advises that face masks should be worn “where social distancing isn't possible”, for example, on public transport or in some shops.

Labour leader Keir Starmer responded to the prime minister's televised speech with his own, demanding answers to unclear issues. He said: “We all rely on the Government to get this right. What we needed from the prime minister was clarity and reassurance.”

BACK IN SCHOOL BY JUNE?

THE prime minister has said that if the rate of infection stays low, then some students could be back in school by June, starting with Year 1 and Year 6, but with smaller class sizes. These plans may just

be for England, however, as when *First News* went to press, leaders in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland had all said that they did not expect to see schools reopen before the summer holidays. When asked, 92% of members of the National Education Union, the biggest group of teachers in the UK, said that they would not feel safe if schools opened up again.

Children are starting to return to school in Germany



IS IT SAFE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL?

SOME of you could be heading back to school next month (see left), so what does it mean for you and the coronavirus?

Scientists are divided on children and COVID-19 – are they ‘super spreaders’ without symptoms who are passing it on to older relatives, or are they simply much less likely than adults to become infected in the first place?

With schools starting to reopen all over the world, researchers are racing to find out so that they know how it will affect the spread of the virus.

Some scientists worry that cases in children are only considered to be low because fewer children are being tested, because they don't show as many symptoms as grown-ups.

A report published in medical journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* studied contact-tracing (finding

anyone who's been near an ill person) on people in Shenzhen in China. The study found that children younger than ten were just as likely as adults to become infected with the virus.

However, studies in Italy and Iceland have suggested that infection rates in children were actually lower than in adults, while a virus expert from Australia discovered that children were rarely the first person to bring the infection into the home.

Something scientists do agree on is that children don't seem to get as poorly as adults from the coronavirus, with most children having mild or even no symptoms at all. And in countries including China, USA and Italy, children represented less than 2% of all cases.

THE END OF SMALLPOX



FRIDAY 8 May marked the 40th anniversary of the end of smallpox, a highly infectious disease that killed millions, but was completely wiped out.

Smallpox, which caused a high fever and a rash, is thought to have killed more than 300 million people in the 20th century alone and was deadly in nearly a third of people who got it.

Many of the same measures being used to stop the spread of COVID-19, such as contact tracing and mass communication campaigns, were used in the fight to beat smallpox.

Smallpox was eventually wiped out in 1980, following a global vaccination programme, and became the first, and only, infectious human disease to be declared eliminated from the planet.

The head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that there are many lessons we can learn from smallpox that can help in the fight against this new coronavirus.

MAD FOR McDONALD'S



A MOTHER and daughter in Belgium came up with an ingenious way to get a McDonald's meal from a drive-through, without a car – they made one out of cardboard boxes.

All McDonald's restaurants are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the only way to get a meal is at a drive-through. So, when 16-year-old Marie Moermans from La Louvière wanted a takeaway from her favourite fast food chain during lockdown, her mum Nathalie came up with a plan – she suggested they build their own car.

The vehicle came complete with a 'COVID-19' licence plate and 'Sorry I want a McDonald's but don't have a car' written on the side. It attracted a lot of attention when it hit the roads, and was even pulled over by the police – who saw the funny side.

Their hard work paid off, and the pair managed to order and get their meals after waiting in line with all the actual cars.

AIR POLLUTION RETURNS TO CHINA



SOME good news to come out of the pandemic is the positive impact that lockdown is having on the environment.

Greenpeace China has revealed that pollution levels dropped significantly during the first few months of the year, as the lockdown in the country took effect. However, in April, as things started to return to normal and people were allowed out more, pollution rose to even higher levels than the same period last year.

Experts warn the same could be seen in other countries once they ease their own lockdowns.



THIS week's local hero is an extraordinary 13-year-old from the Yorkshire Dales, who is running a marathon to raise funds for a small homeless charity in the south of England.

Rather than sit around feeling lost in lockdown, Anna Harrison-Topham set herself a new goal – to run a marathon for charity.

Anna is going to run two separate 7.5-mile runs, plus a further half marathon once lockdown ends.

She's already raised almost £10,000 for a small homeless charity called Alabaré, which she chose after carrying out lots of research into who to support.

"The homeless are the most vulnerable to COVID-19," Anna said, "with nowhere to isolate and no sanitation, no food and no hope."

The people that Alabaré supports are extremely vulnerable to coronavirus, with 75% of the charity's homeless clients having underlying health issues and many having no-one else to turn to.



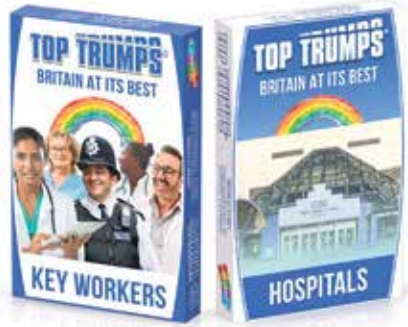
Do you know a coronavirus local hero, like Anna? Send us an email about them to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk with 'Local Hero' in the subject box



AN unexpected side-effect of the pandemic is that we are wasting less food. A survey by WRAP, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, shows we are throwing away a third less food and are buying fewer ready meals, pre-cut veg and packs of salad than before the lockdown began. WRAP also discovered that we're being more creative with our cooking, we're saving leftovers and are being more organised when going shopping, by properly checking the cupboards and fridges for what we really need.

1. HERO TOP TRUMPS

Two new sets of the classic card game Top Trumps have been released. They focus on UK hospitals and the hero key workers who are helping to keep us all safe during the coronavirus pandemic. The packs can be bought together for £5, with £1.50 going to NHS charities. You can find them online at winningmoves.co.uk.



2. DRONES ON DUTY



Drones are being used in Morocco for sanitisation.

The drone pictured is carrying disinfectant, but the country's drone fleet has also been used to give warnings and stop illegal lockdown gatherings on rooftops and balconies.

3. SHAKESPEARE GAME

Epic Games, the creator of *Fortnite*, has teamed up with the Royal Shakespeare Company to make a game out of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It will be playable online and Epic says it will be "a new type of storytelling".

4. BUFFALO TRAGEDY

A tragedy occurred in Wales when a man was killed by a water buffalo. Ralph Jump, who ran a farm and used buffalo milk to make soap, was attacked by one of the animals. His son and daughter were also injured.



5. POCKET MONEY STUDY

Pocket money app RoosterMoney looked at 24,000 of its users to see how pocket money is changing during lockdown. It found that the average weekly pocket money for 4 to 14-year-olds is £4.60, and an impressive 40% of pocket money is being saved. Since lockdown, the most common things kids have spent their money on have been online games, with *Roblox* and *Fortnite* topping the list.

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. SNAIL MAIL

An American man has received a postcard from his sister who was visiting the Grand Canyon... in 1987! It's thought Paul Willis received the 33-year-old card following a deep clean of the post office.

7. KOALA DISCOVERY

Scientists have found out how koalas drink. It was believed they got most of their water from eating eucalyptus leaves, but there have been sightings of koalas licking water from trees while it rains. Researchers found that even when there were nearby lakes, koalas were still more likely to get their water from tree-licking.



8. LOCAL HEROES

A food bus in Doncaster is serving hundreds of free meals to NHS workers. Natalie Sutherland, who set it up, said they are serving about 500 meals a day.

9. TALK TO THE ANIMALS

Paradise Wildlife Park is running a weekly competition to win a video call with its animals. A zookeeper will be there to answer all your questions too. Competitions are held every Monday on the zoo's social media. One lucky person has already won a call with a red panda!



10. WORLD NURSES DAY

For International Nurses Day on 12 May, more than 100 nurses from Wuhan, China, where COVID-19 was discovered, made a heart to celebrate.



11. UPTURN FOR TERNS

Last year saw a record-breaking 122 pairs of roseate terns, Europe's rarest breeding seabird, on Coquet Island off the Northumberland coast. "Roseate terns still face a long uphill battle – but every year I feel more and more optimistic," said Paul Morrison from the RSPB bird charity.



12. STUDENT LAND ARMY

UK students are being encouraged to spend their summer holidays picking fruit and veg. A shortage of foreign workers means farmers worry there aren't enough people to pick the food.

13. FREE MARVEL COMICS

Marvel's digital comic service, Marvel Unlimited, is continuing to offer free access to some of its most iconic stories. Classic comic arcs from Spider-Man, Captain America and loads more are free until 2 June.

14. VOLUNTEER RESCUED

A volunteer aid worker from Italy has been reunited with her mum after being held hostage for 18 months. Silvia Costanza Romano was working at an orphanage in Kenya when she was taken by Somali fighters. Italian, Turkish and Somali intelligence agencies worked together to get her released and she arrived back home in Rome this week.



15. BEANO BIRTHDAYS

The Beano has teamed up with charity Save The Children to offer Lockdown Birthday Party Power-Up Kits. You can get a personalised card from Dennis The Menace or Minnie The Minx, plus a poster, stickers and digital resources.

16. UK POPULATION STATS

The Office for National Statistics has released the most recent population estimates for the UK, with information based on the year up to mid-2019. The total number of people living in the UK is believed to be 66,796,807. We saw the number of people in the UK grow by just 0.5%, the slowest since mid-2004. We also saw 722,000 births, which, although it sounds like a lot, is the fewest births recorded since mid-2005.

17. FUGITIVE FART FAIL

A wanted man who hid from police was caught after he farted! The bottom burp alerted police to his hiding spot in a bush. An officer who chased him said: "I was almost out of wind but luckily he still had some. I heard him letting rip and followed the noises to a bush."

18. BALLET FOR BOYS

The London Boys Ballet School is offering remote, interactive ballet training for boys aged four to 17 during lockdown.



Founder James Cunliffe said he looked forward to "supporting male dancers around the globe and helping them to achieve their ambitions in dance".

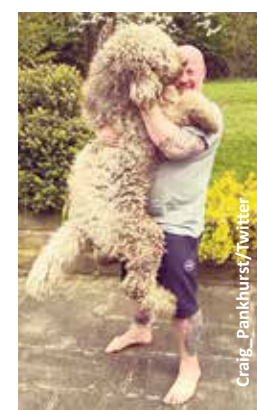
19. RARE RODENT

A rare white squirrel has been spotted in Tayside in Scotland. Chris Eddington saw the squirrel through his window. It is a native red squirrel with a condition called leucism, which makes it white.



20. GIANT CUDDLES

After he suffered a stroke, Craig Pankhurst bought a puppy. The Newfoundland/poodle cross, known as a Newfypoo, helped Craig's recovery, both mentally and physically. Rowlf



has since grown into a six-foot-tall, seven-stone giant. Despite this, he still thinks he's just a little puppy and Rowlf regularly jumps up onto Craig for a (really, REALLY) big cuddle!



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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!

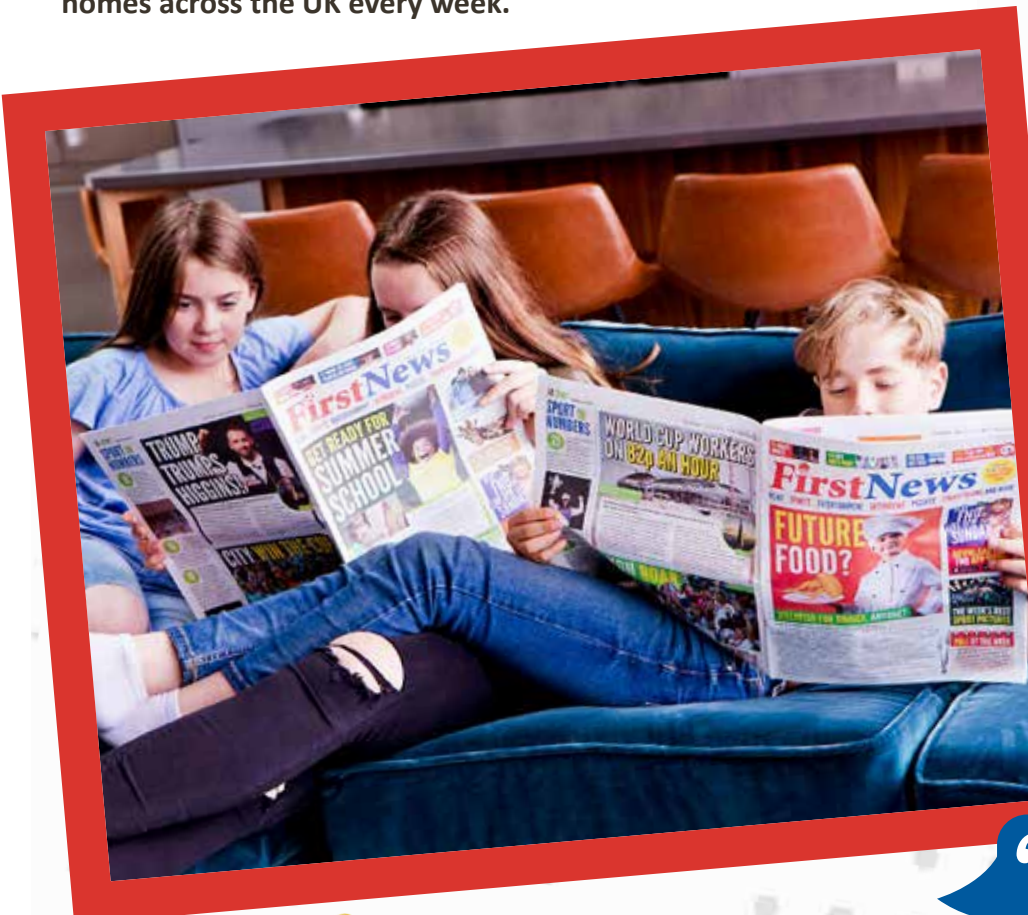


“ To everyone at First News, thank you so much! I love it. I tell all my friends about it and they love it too. You do a fantastic job and it makes me understand the news much better. Every week I can't wait for it to come through the door. **”** **Sienna, age 10**

“ 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**



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LONDON, UK

THE Red Arrows fly over Downing Street to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day).



SOUTHAMPTON, UK

A NEW creation called Game Changer by mysterious street artist Banksy has appeared at Southampton General Hospital, paying tribute to NHS staff during the coronavirus pandemic.



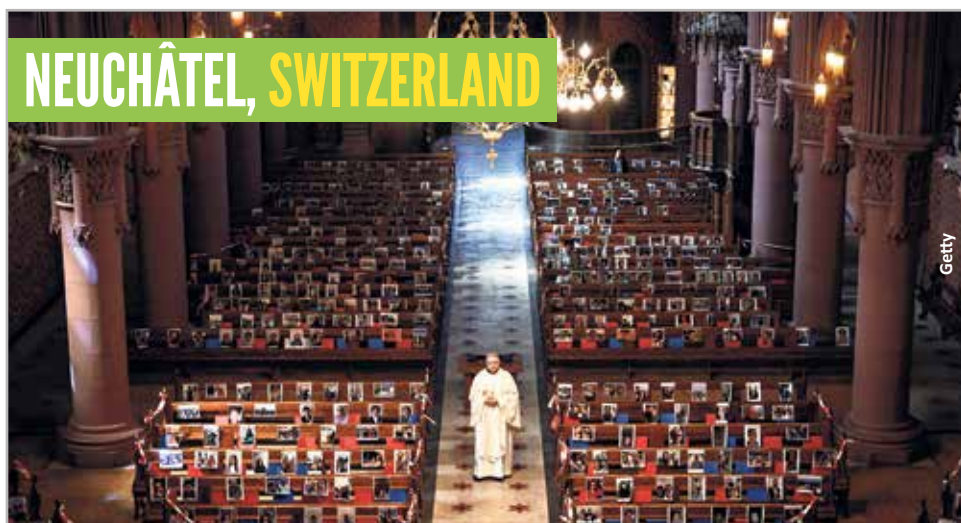
BANGKOK, THAILAND

TRADITIONAL Thai dancers perform while wearing face shields, after the Thai government relaxed measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus.



PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

AN amazing display of watermelons and colourful trucks at a fruit market.



NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND

ABBOT Vincent Marville stands in the aisle of the Basilica of Neuchâtel, which displays portraits of 400 parishioners unable to attend mass due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Switzerland has started to ease its restrictions, but masses are still forbidden.



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CUMBRIA

● Food bank use soars

A food bank in Barrow saw demand increase by 283% during the first two weeks of lockdown. The service risked running out of food in March but assistant manager Claire Coulhurst says that, thanks to donations and fundraising, they have around “three months now based on April’s usage”. The Trussell Trust, which runs food banks around the UK, said overall demand has increased 81% compared to the previous year.



BIRMINGHAM

● Potter book auction

Three rare first editions of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* are to be auctioned this month. The hardback copy is expected to sell for up to £12,000, while two paperbacks should make £2,000 to £3,000 each. All three were found in a skip. Jim Spencer from Hansons Auctioneers described the hardback first edition as “the holy grail for collectors”.



WILTSHIRE

● £1m lottery loss

A mystery person who bought a winning lottery ticket in November has lost the £1m prize as they did not claim their ticket in time. Winners only have 180 days to claim their prize, so the money will be given to charity now.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

● Nature reserve project

The Langholm Initiative has begun an ambitious project to buy more than 10,000 acres of land for £6.4m and turn it into a nature reserve. The John Muir Trust, which protects wild lands, has donated £100,000 to the cause. The moor is home to wildlife including hen harriers, the UK’s most persecuted [badly treated] bird of prey. The land will be used to promote the regeneration of natural woodlands and fight climate change.



NORTHUMBERLAND



● Weird sewer finds

Northumbrian Water has highlighted some of the strangest things flushed down the loo and found in the sewers. The water company discovered potatoes, socks, toys and a tin of peaches! Head of wastewater Simon Cyhanko said: “Accidents can happen but some customers are using their toilet as a bin.” Despite the funny finds, wet wipes remain the main cause of blockages.

KENT



● Lockdown podcast

Zoë Giles has decided to do something new and exciting while she is stuck at home. The 11-year-old has started her own podcast for kids! *The Lockdown Show* is full of tips for kids about what to watch, read and enjoy during lockdown. There have been lots of special guests too, including Hetty Feather star Isabel Clifton, multi-million selling author Holly Smale and *Blue Peter’s* Skinny Jean Gardener, Lee Connelly. Zoë says: “It’s been a lot of hard work but it’s been fun and the best bit has been getting to interview Issy Clifton.” Visit buzzsprout.com/1013320 to listen to the podcast or find out more.

CORNWALL

● Making art from plastic waste

An artist has been taking plastic waste from his local beach and turning it into art. Rob Arnold has been making sculptures from plastic found on Tregantle beach for years, cleaning up a beautiful area as well as doing something constructive with the rubbish. Since lockdown, he has sifted through 40 bags of litter collected from the beach and has separated more than 50 million pieces of plastic debris from the sand. He uses the plastic pieces to make sculptures like this copy of a Moai, a stone head found on Easter Island.



NEWS IN NUMBERS

£10,000 has been raised by Maisie Catt, aged ten, from West Yorkshire. She lost both her legs as a baby due to meningitis and septicaemia. To raise money for amputee charity LimbPower, Maisie walked a marathon on her blades – prosthetic legs that allow her to walk.



50,000 Facebook likes have been racked up for this wonderful rainbow door. “We decided to paint our door like a rainbow as a sign to the outside of our support for the key workers,” said Sara Jane Hemmings-Horsey. She added that she hoped it would “make people smile going by, and lift the spirits in our small town”.



£30,000 is the amount that a treasure trove of Anglo-Saxon treasure has sold for at auction. History teacher Gordon Taylor discovered the artefacts, which date back to 450AD and include a 1,000-year old skull.



ONE SMALL WEE FOR MAN...



iStock



Could we build a place like this on the moon one day using space piddle?

NEW research from the European Space Agency has shown that wee (yes, wee) could be used to make concrete on the moon for a lunar base station.

Urea, the main substance in urine, apart from water, is the key. It would help to make a type of lunar concrete easier to mould into the required shape before it sets.

The main ingredient in lunar concrete would be lunar regolith, which is the loose, dusty stuff found on the moon's surface. Adding urea to a mix of lunar regolith and

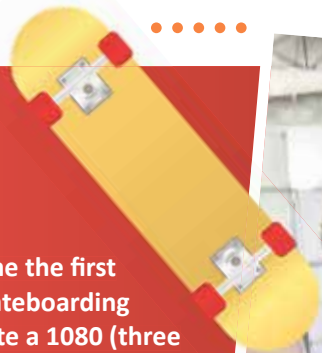
water would make it less thick to stir, which means astronauts wouldn't need to use as much water.

Being able to use only materials available on the moon when building a lunar base would be really helpful, as it would reduce the need to launch supplies from Earth.

We reckon it sounds like a wee-ly good idea!

WOW!

AN 11-year-old boy from Brazil has become the first person ever to land an amazingly hard skateboarding move. Gui Khury defied gravity to complete a 1080 (three full spins) on his board before landing smoothly. "It's so amazing! It's the best feeling ever," he said.



@Gui_khury

SIGN UP FOR SIGN SCHOOL



IF you want to do something with your spare time on lockdown, why not try learning sign language?

Tyrese Dibba, a 15-year-old deaf boy, has teamed up with the charity Sense to provide British Sign Language lessons for free. So far, more than 7,000 people have signed up to learn.

"I want more people to learn to sign, so deaf people don't get excluded," said Tyrese. "You should be able to chat to someone, whatever their disability might be. After all, no-one likes feeling left out." You can sign up at sense.org.uk/sense-sign-school.

The National Deaf Children's Society is also launching a series of YouTube lessons around British Sign Language, with specific classes for people in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The charity says that there are 50,000 deaf children in the UK, and that the lessons could help to make some of them feel less lonely. There'll be a new video every Friday for 12 weeks. See www.ndcs.org.uk to find out more.



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

EDITOR'S COMMENT



THE uncertainty about whether you are going back to school, or not, must be difficult for you.

But, although you are missing your friends and teachers, it's good to hear that most of you are getting on OK with learning at home (front page). In fact, more than half of you say you like it better – so far! We're interested to hear who's giving you the most help. Tell us at first.news/polls.

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

ANDY SERKIS

THE actor, who has starred in *Black Panther* and the *Lord Of The Rings* movies, has raised £280,000 for NHS Charities Together and Best Beginnings after completing a live, continuous reading of *The Hobbit*. During the 'Hobbitathon' it took the star just under 11 hours to read all of JRR Tolkien's fantasy novel.



Getty

BAD WEEK FOR...

JOE WICKS

POOR PE teacher to the nation Joe Wicks had to have an emergency operation after he got an infection in his previously broken hand. Even though he was unable to carry out his daily online PE lessons, his wife Rosie was able to step in as his 'teaching assistant' and demonstrate the exercises for a few days.



Getty

WHO'S YOUR HOME SCHOOL TEACHER?

WE want to know who is helping you the most with your school work at home.

Is it your mum, dad, grandparents, teachers, a brother or sister, your friends, or someone else?

Let us know by voting in our poll!

POLL OF THE WEEK

Who has been helping most with your home learning?
first.news/polls



iStock

VENEZUELA



● Kidnapping plot foiled

Venezuelan security forces captured two US mercenaries (soldiers who fight for whoever pays them) last week, in what appears to have been an attempt to remove President Nicolás Maduro. In a televised confession, one of the mercenaries, Airan Berry, claimed the plan was to take away the president “however necessary”. Maduro alleges the men were working for US President Donald Trump. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has denied any “direct” involvement in the plot, while Venezuela’s opposition leader Juan Guaidó has denied being involved with the US-based security firm that employed the two men.



USA



● Shooting shock

Back in February, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old unarmed black man, was out jogging in Brunswick, Georgia, when he was chased and shot by two white men, a former police officer and his son. They claimed he looked like a suspect wanted for break-ins in the area. Since then the case had been moving slowly, but now a dashcam video said to show the shooting has been posted on a local radio station’s website. The two men have now been arrested and are due to face trial for murder. Many people – including Jay-Z and Alicia Keys – are calling for an investigation into the shooting, and asking why it took the police so long to bring in the men.



HUNGARY



● “Not a democracy”

A new study by human rights group Freedom House has found that Hungary is no longer a democracy. Freedom House looks at countries around the world and gives them a ‘democracy score’ based on seven categories. It looks at how fair elections are, levels of corruption (dishonesty such as bribery) and whether courts and media are free to say what they want. The report found that, over the last ten years, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán had removed several rules that would stop his office from taking too much power. Orbán described the report as an “attack.”



GHANA



● Worker infects 533

Ghanaian president Nana Akufo-Addo has said that health authorities have traced 533 positive cases of COVID-19 back to one person, a worker at a fish-processing factory in the city of Tema. At the time of writing, Ghana had carried out 160,501 tests, which Akufo-Addo said was more tests per million people than any other country in Africa. The World Health Organization has said that the spread of the disease will likely be different in Africa, with experts suggesting that the illness will have hot spots, and an overall slower, more patchy spread.



ITALY



● Lockdown love story

You may remember we told you about an Italian couple who fell in love after noticing each other on neighbouring balconies. Michele D’Alpaos and Paola Agnelli fell in love during the lockdown but couldn’t meet, so spent hours talking on the phone. The couple, from Verona, where Shakespeare’s famous love story *Romeo and Juliet* is set, finally met in a local park after lockdown had been relaxed. There, they had their first kiss and are already making plans for a future together. Paola told us: “Meeting Michele was wonderful! It was exciting and very sweet. Our souls and hearts have met.” Aw!



JAPAN



● Animation paused

For the first time in decades, the longest-running animated TV series in the world has had to take a break due to the coronavirus pandemic. *Sazae-san*, about Mrs Sazae and her family, is hugely popular in Japan and has aired every Sunday night since 1969. To protect the staff animating the show, producers have decided to show repeats instead, promising that they’ll get back to showing new episodes as soon as possible. Japan is in a state of emergency until the end of May.



OUR WORLD

NAME: NAMAAT
LIVES: JORDAN

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES

WHEN Namaat was only four years old, she walked with her family through the night to escape the war in her homeland of Syria and reach safety over the border in Jordan.

Today, she is 11 and living in Jordan’s capital, Amman. Although Namaat is so young, she has to help her parents with many adult tasks; her dad is too ill to work, while her mother cleans houses for \$7 (about £5.50) a day.

Each morning she feeds her baby brother and changes his nappy before making breakfast for

her two other younger brothers. “She is only 11, but she’s living the life of a 30-year-old woman,” says her mother, Fatima.

The one place Namaat can act her age is at school. “I lost part of my childhood, but I find what remains in education and in building a future for myself,” she says.



© UNHCR/Diego Ibarra Sánchez

RESEARCH INSTITUTES ATTACKED



COUNTRIES including Russia and Iran are thought to have tried to hack UK universities and scientific facilities to steal COVID-19 research.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) says cyber attacks against research organisations working on the new coronavirus have increased recently.

The attacks could be designed to steal information about potential vaccines and drug treatments, or to find out more about how COVID-19 has affected the UK.

Although the NCSC hasn't said who is behind the hacks, it's thought "hostile nations" (countries that are not on friendly terms with the UK) are behind the attempted attacks.

Russia in particular has been accused of several cyber crimes in recent years by intelligence officials here and in the USA. Russia and China have also been accused of spreading coronavirus disinformation (fake news and lies) throughout the internet.

Oxford University has said it is working with the NCSC to protect its COVID-19 research.

None of the attacks on UK research facilities have succeeded so far.

THE RIVERS OF MARS

These layered rocks on Mars were formed by flowing rivers

SCIENTISTS have revealed the best evidence to date of the ancient rivers that flowed on Mars.

The team studied new high-resolution satellite images of a rocky Martian cliff face and found that it was formed by flowing rivers more than 3.7 billion years ago – that's around the time life began evolving on Earth. The research makes it more likely that life once existed on Mars.

The detailed images were taken 400km from the Martian surface by NASA's High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft. The pictures were of the Hellas impact crater, one of the largest impact craters in the whole solar system.

They revealed a 200-metre-thick stack of layered rocks within the cliff walls. The images' detail proved to scientists that the rocks were formed by running water. Scientists reckon these rivers were probably active for tens to hundreds of thousands of years.

The evidence will help future Mars rovers, such as the European Space Agency's upcoming Rosalind Franklin ExoMars rover, to look for signs of ancient life.

INTRODUCING INGENUITY

IN more Martian news, this special helicopter – the first craft to roam the skies of another planet – has been officially named.

NASA held a contest for American school pupils to come up with a name for their upcoming Mars rover. They selected Perseverance. But then they decided the helicopter accompanying Perseverance ought to have a name too, so they took another look at the 28,000 submissions and chose Ingenuity.

The word means the ability to think of clever new ways of doing something. Vaneesa Rupani, a student at a high school in Alabama, came up with the name. Perseverance and Ingenuity will leave for the Red Planet in July.



GREAT BRITISH SHAKES OFF



A quiet Oxford Street in London

BRITAIN is shaking less since the COVID-19 lockdown began.

Data from 127 seismometer stations shows there has been a big fall in ground vibrations linked to human activity. These monitors usually record earthquakes, but also detect general background shakes caused by cars, trains, lorries, large numbers of people walking and sites such as factories or nightclubs.

Scientists at Imperial College London say the current level of activity is half what it would normally be.

Although the lockdown isn't easy, it is providing researchers with a rare opportunity to detect small earthquakes that are normally hidden by general noise. It gives experts the chance to study Earth's interior.

Researchers at Mount Etna in Sicily (below) have taken advantage of the quiet caused by the Italian lockdown to listen more closely to the volcanic mountain. They hope it will enable them to learn new information about one of the most active volcanoes in the world.



TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

INNOVATIONS



THIS robot dog, named Spot, is patrolling a park in Singapore to make sure people are social distancing.

The pooch contains a camera to keep a 360° eye on people's movements, and a speaker to blast out messages. If it spots too many people crowding in an area, the robot will say things like: "Let's keep Singapore healthy" and "Please stand at least one metre apart".

The dog has been developed by an American tech company called Boston Dynamics. It's being trialled in a Singapore park for two weeks.

The authorities in Singapore say the robo-dog won't monitor people's movements and whereabouts, but some people are worried about privacy.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from our friends at the Science Museum



HAPPY 200th birthday, Florence Nightingale!

Florence Nightingale was born on 12 May 1820. You may already know all about her work as a nurse who transformed hospital care, but her devotion to maths and statistics played a huge role in driving her throughout her medical career.

Nightingale studied mathematics from an early age, as her parents had strongly supported women's education.

Years before she began her formal mathematical training, at the age of 12, she had developed skills in collecting, organising and presenting data. These skills helped her study the health of soldiers during war, create innovative diagrams to illustrate her findings and ultimately transform healthcare in 19th-century Britain.

Discover more about Florence Nightingale's work at tinyurl.com/Florence200.

JUMBO RESCUE

A YOUNG elephant calf has found safety at an elephant orphanage in Kenya after almost drowning.

Lomunyak ('Lucky' in the Maa language) was rescued from the fast-flowing Ewaso Nyiro river in Kenya by the security team from the Elephant Bedroom Camp, a luxury camping site close by. They heard his cries from the campsite and rushed to help save him.

The baby elephant, believed to be around 6-8 weeks old, was upset by his ordeal and also had injuries from a suspected lion attack. A team from Save the Elephants and the Kenya Wildlife Service searched for his mother, but were unable to find her. They contacted Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, which was able to offer Lomunyak a home.

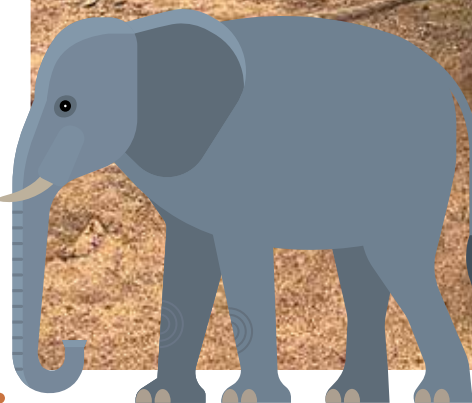
After Lomunyak was transported to the sanctuary, his wounds were cleaned and stitched up, and he began to drink milk from a bottle.



Reteti Elephant Sanctuary

Lomunyak has now settled in with the rest of the orphaned elephant calves at the sanctuary. The small group are all under six months old, and they play together and have daily morning dust baths to help keep them cool in the African heat.

As they are so young, the orphans get a lot of love and affection from the keepers looking after them at the sanctuary.



Jane Wynyard/Save the Elephants



iStock

LONELY LOCKDOWN

IT'S not just humans who are missing people while the world is on lockdown – zoo animals are missing their visitors too.

Keepers from zoos around the world are reporting that their animals seem to be feeling lonely now that they don't have daily visitors.

Rhinos and giraffes at Orana Wildlife Park in New Zealand are still turning up at the part of their enclosures where keepers host a daily meet-the-animals talk for guests. Apes and birds seem to be particularly missing interactions with people.

"Primates especially have noticed our guests are gone and go looking

for them," says Linda Hardwick from Phoenix Zoo in Arizona.

In the UK, staff at zoos and aquariums are making sure they spend lots of extra time interacting with their animals. At the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, staff are hand-feeding the ducks and geese, which is what visitors would usually do!

As the world starts to slowly come out of lockdown, hopefully it won't be too much longer before zoos can welcome visitors again.

RHINO EVACUATION



iStock

RANGERS and government officials in Botswana are relocating black rhinos living in the Okavango Delta, to keep them safe from poachers.

Poachers attacked and killed six black rhinos in March, and rangers are worried that the lack of safari trucks and visitors to the area is giving poachers more opportunities to find the rhinos.

Botswana's Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism has increased anti-poaching surveillance of the area, but thinks that evacuating the remaining black rhinos to a secret location is the best option.

Across Africa, there are more than 20,000 white rhinos, but black rhino numbers have dwindled to just 4,500. The last black rhino that was native to Botswana was killed by a poacher in 1992.

Since then, around 20 animals have been reintroduced to the Okavango Delta with the help of wildlife conservation organisations, including Rhinos Without Borders.



Max Johnson

MAX & KEIRA'S LAW

ORGAN DONATION LAW IN ENGLAND IS CHANGING



Keira Ball

ON 20 May, organ donation laws will change. The law, known as Max and Keira's Law, has been named after Max, a boy who received a life-saving heart transplant, and Keira, the girl whose tragic accident gave Max his new heart. We spoke to Max, as well as Keira's dad Joe, to talk about the law and what it will mean for people in need of vital organs around England.

WHAT IS THE LAW CHANGE? Max and Keira's Law means that England is moving from an 'opt in' to an 'opt out' system.

● 'Opt out' means that most adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die, unless they have registered a decision to opt out and not donate their organs. With the old system, you had to opt in by registering a decision to donate.

● Every day in the UK, someone dies while waiting for an organ transplant. It is believed that switching to an opt out system could save up to 700 lives each year.

MEET MAX



Max Johnson was eight when he began to get sick. He was later fitted with a mechanical pump, as his heart couldn't pump blood around his body. Max received Keira's heart when he was nine, after six months on the urgent heart transplant waiting list.

● What was it like waiting for a transplant?

It was very hard. The Clown Doctors and play specialists helped. Inside, I'd think: "This is fun," but outside I was embarrassed because they're clowns! I thought: "I'm a big boy!" but, when they did a magic trick, I was like: "Woah!", like a kid! And when I didn't want to get up, they'd say: "Oh, come on!" and I'd feel better after I'd been up.

● After the transplant, did it take long to get back to a 'normal' life?

Well, to be honest, there isn't such a thing as a normal life in our family! You know, it was actually a really fast recovery. I think I had all my wires out in one or two weeks. After, like, six days, that was the first time I'd felt a lot of energy. I remember I was standing up on my chair and mum and dad were saying: "Stop it! Get down!"

● Why is Max and Keira's Law so important?

I feel like it helps spread the word around. With the new law, the opt out makes it so you don't have to sign up to the donor register. So when you die, some of your organs may go to someone else. You could save someone; you could be someone's hero.

● What would you say to someone waiting for an organ transplant?

Just stay as strong as you can in these weird times. Try not to worry about this whole COVID-19 thing – worrying isn't the solution. If you just try to stay positive, the chances of you making it are higher. The reason I made it through was because I was positive. The gift [of an organ] will arrive eventually – just stay strong.

● And you're in touch with Keira's family...

They're like another family to me – just incredibly nice people. I feel really sorry for them because they've lost a child. I can't imagine how hard that must be. And they're staying incredibly strong. The way Joe, Keira's dad, said yes [to donating Keira's organs] is just... thank you, Joe!



After surgery



Max with Loanna and Joe, his donor family

MEET KEIRA



Keira Ball was nine when she died from injuries suffered in a car accident. Her mum and brother were also in the crash. Dad Joe made the difficult decision to donate Keira's organs after she died. Her organs have saved four lives, including that of Max, who received her heart.

● Hi, Joe. Tell us a little bit about Keira.

She was a very easy child. If all my children were like her, life would be an absolute doddle! She was into her horses; she loved her horses. She loved animals and nature and life in general to be honest.

● What campaigning have you done for the law change?

We set up a charity called **Inspired by Keira**. We've spoken at school assemblies as well. We spoke at one school and the kids were going home, talking to their parents and wanting to know if they were organ donors. It's not something you hear about in your life. When Keira was in hospital, it's not something I'd ever thought about.

● Was the idea of Keira helping to save other people reassuring?

Extremely... extremely. I think it helps with the healing process quite a lot, especially when you receive the letters from the families. It's like a relief that she has gone on to benefit other people and that her life wasn't completely wasted.

● How did you find out that Max had received Keira's heart?

We received a thank you card from Max, then went up to see him and his family. It was like we'd known each other for years. They're like a second family to us now. On Max's first heartiversary [the day he received Keira's heart], we met up and celebrated with a big heart-shaped cake. It was nice for us, as we weren't down in the dumps – we were celebrating for Max. You have to focus on the positive sides.

● What if someone doesn't want to donate?

It's all down to the individual. Lots of people say the Government will harvest organs and they don't get a say, but that's not the case. Which is why it's important to educate, as people are getting the wrong end of the stick. If it's something that you disagree with, you just opt out. A family contacted us who were dead against it. For the mum, it was the idea of what her children would look like after. We said: "You wouldn't know, they look untouched." Now they are all organ donors. They just had unanswered questions. I think the majority of it is that people just don't understand it properly.

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE UK?

● **Wales** has used 'deemed consent' since 2015. So if you don't register a decision, you will be considered as an organ donor.

● **Scotland** is opt in, but will be changing to opt out in March 2021.

● **Northern Ireland** remains opt in. In 2016, the Northern Ireland Assembly decided not to make any changes to organ donation laws.

Inspired by Keira is a charity that promotes organ donation and helps families who have lost children. Visit inspiredbykeira.co.uk to find out more.



Channel 4

“DO SOMETHING THAT BRINGS YOU JOY!”

KEITH Lemon and Anna Richardson are the hosts of a brand-new reality show that’s all about craft. Step inside *The Fantastical Factory of Curious Craft*, where crafters from around the country battle against each other to create a work of art for a celebrity to take home.

● **This show comes at a great time, since everyone is staying at home. Do you think it will encourage some budding crafters?**

Keith: We’re evil geniuses who know about time, just like Walt Disney, who brought out Disney+ just at the right time. I think it’ll give people something to do if they are interested in doing craft and making things out of nothing. It’s a lovely programme.

Anna: I’m getting quite fed up with seeing endless features about coronavirus. It’s all misery on telly, but this is bright, bubbly, fantastical and magical. What is so nice about it is that they’re ordinary people on the show who just happen to be able to do something creative and out of the ordinary. It’s family viewing; you can have everyone watching this and thinking: “I can do that, let’s have a crack.”

● **Most people start crafting when they’re in art lessons, so can you remember anything you made at school?**

Keith: I’ve still got my portfolio from school that I took to get into art college. I’ve still got it and it’s so funny because I thought it was good then. My mum tells everyone about a drawing of Dracula I did. I was drawing some zombies and I became zombie obsessed and I scared myself with my drawings. What a dingbat.

● **Keith, do you think a lot of people will be surprised that you’re a crafter?**

Anna: When they first told me that Keith Lemon was doing this show, I thought: “What has Keith Lemon got to do with crafting?” Then you learn that actually he is a master crafter.

Keith: All of my mates that know me, were like: “This show was made for you.”

Anna: Members of the public would never know that. You see a much softer, kinder, more interested, calmer side to Keith than you would have previously. I think it is a totally different personality that you’ll see, especially when it comes to the judging. You’ll see that Keith really knows what he is on about. He’s really knowledgeable.

● **How did you find the judging?**

Keith: Judging was hard. I often watch *The X Factor* or whatever else and think: “What an easy job.” I thought it’d be easy, but it’s not, it’s really hard. I remember a couple of times I blamed it on the master crafters we have on the show, because I didn’t want to send someone home. It’s lovely when someone wins, but when you send someone home it’s so hard.

● **One of the crafters said that crafting had helped him overcome depression. Has it helped you in any way?**

Keith: I don’t think it has helped me as such. Or maybe it has and I just don’t know it. I guess it relaxes me when I’m making things or drawing things. I just feel like I’ve beaten the world when I make something out of nothing. I have nothing and then something appears that you have made and it’s really exciting. Sometimes you make things and it’s rubbish, so you just throw it straight in the bin. That’s happened to me a couple of times in the last few days actually.

Anna: I can’t believe half the things he has made. I’ve been into Keith Lemon’s house and I have seen shelves and shelves and shelves of these incredible creations that he has made.



Channel 4

● **The crafters have to make something for a celebrity guest, so were there any funny moments with the celebs?**

Keith: Katherine Ryan was funny; she fell in love with a giant cat house someone made. Mel B is always funny; she always makes me laugh. We made Spice Girls finger puppets too, which was lovely.

Anna: The interesting thing about the celebrities is that they kind of stop being celebrities when they come into this space. They become sort of quiet and more themselves because they are genuinely interested in what people are making for them. At the end of the day, they are going to take one of those creations home with them. They all still have them too, which is great.

● **Do you have any tips for budding crafters?**

Keith: Always have plenty of PVA glue!

Anna: For people like me who are total beginners but are really interested, then my tip would be to go on some of the crafting websites to get kits and supplies. Kits are really good for beginners.

Keith: Just enjoy it too. Do something that brings you joy when you are doing it, and then afterwards you can go: “Look what I’ve made!”



Channel 4

The Fantastical Factory of Curious Craft airs on Sundays at 8pm on Channel 4

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



BOREDOM BUSTERS!

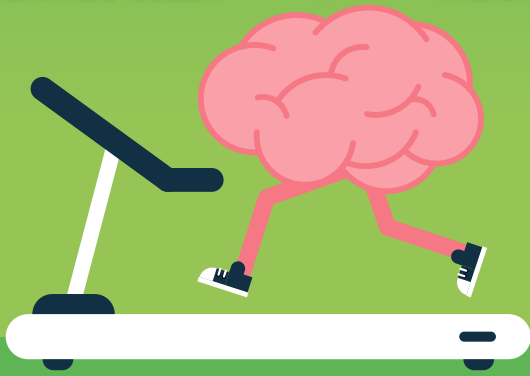
BY now you might be an absolute pro at keeping busy at home, but just in case you're not, we've packed the next few pages with things to do! You could try to solve our bonkers brain teasers, give the First News Photo Challenge a go, then lose yourself in our puzzles. Once you've done all that, check out the First News website for even more stuff to do!

BRAIN TEASERS

1. WHAT CAN YOU HOLD IN YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT NOT IN YOUR LEFT?

2. WHAT HAS TO BE BROKEN BEFORE IT CAN BE USED?

3. WHAT'S JUST AS BIG AS YOU, YET DOESN'T WEIGH A THING?



ANSWERS TO THE BRAIN TEASERS IN ISSUE 724:

1) A cold 2) A towel 3) A needle, or a storm 4) Wet!

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

THE FIRST NEWS PHOTO CHALLENGE

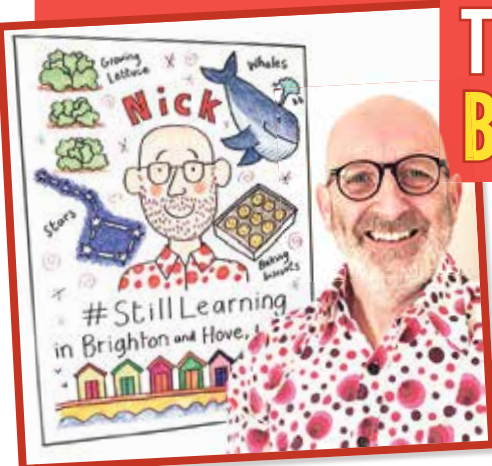
WE want you to recreate this famous photo, which made headlines years ago, using anything you can find in your house!

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: Prince Charles salutes at the 60th anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 2005



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

THIS WEEK'S HEROES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST BOREDOM



A BUNCH of brilliant people and places are doing their bit to entertain us! This week, here's what we've been enjoying.

● Theirworld has launched a new campaign, entirely aimed at helping parents and carers find things to do!

To launch the campaign, the charity has teamed up with author and

illustrator Nick Sharratt. They want you to draw a special poster showing that, despite everything, you're #StillLearning. To find out more, head to theirworld.org/campaigns/still-learning.

● Our friends at Into Film have launched their own Home Learning Hub that's full of fun, film-based activities! Along with all the great stuff on their site, they are also launching a new home film-making competition, and want you to make a film about nature in your neighbourhood. To find out more and enter, head to intofilm.org.



GET CODING IN LOCKDOWN

NOW is a brilliant time to do some coding! You've probably tried it at school, so why not give it a go at home? Here's how we recommend that you get started.

● **Firstly**, you'll probably need a computer or a laptop. While a tablet or smartphone will work, it's a lot easier to code with a keyboard and mouse!

● **Once you're set up**, head to projects.raspberrypi.org where you'll find loads of wonderful tutorials on various different coding languages. Some of these will require having a Raspberry Pi mini-computer, but there are plenty that don't.

● **Get coding!** We recommend giving Scratch a go, since it's a lot friendlier than some of the other languages out there.



FIRST NEWS' POSITIVITY PLACE



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

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

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

WIN! KID NORMAL

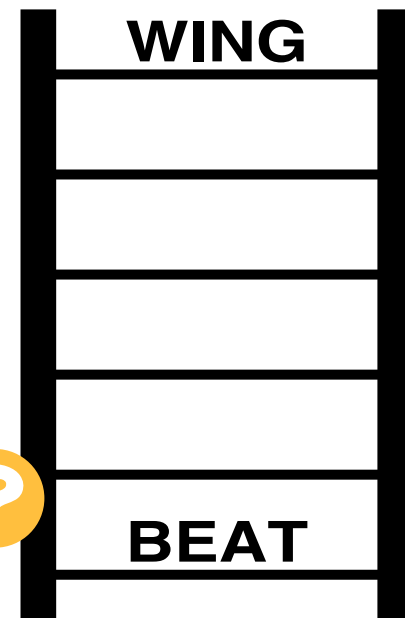
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

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?



	6	7	1	3	4	2	8	
			2	7	6			
	4		8		5		7	
	3						5	
		9	5		2	4		
	8						1	
	1		9		8		2	
			6	4	1			
	9	8	7	2	3	1	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! SHAKE OFF GAME



CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win a Shake Off game. Pop on your team's sweatband and unit, and shake off against your opponent. The more you shake, the more you score. Highest score wins! The spinner decides where you and your opponent must wear the unit (wrist, ankle, bum or waist), and how you must move (jump, run or freestyle). When you're ready, press the timer and start shaking!

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

ACROSS

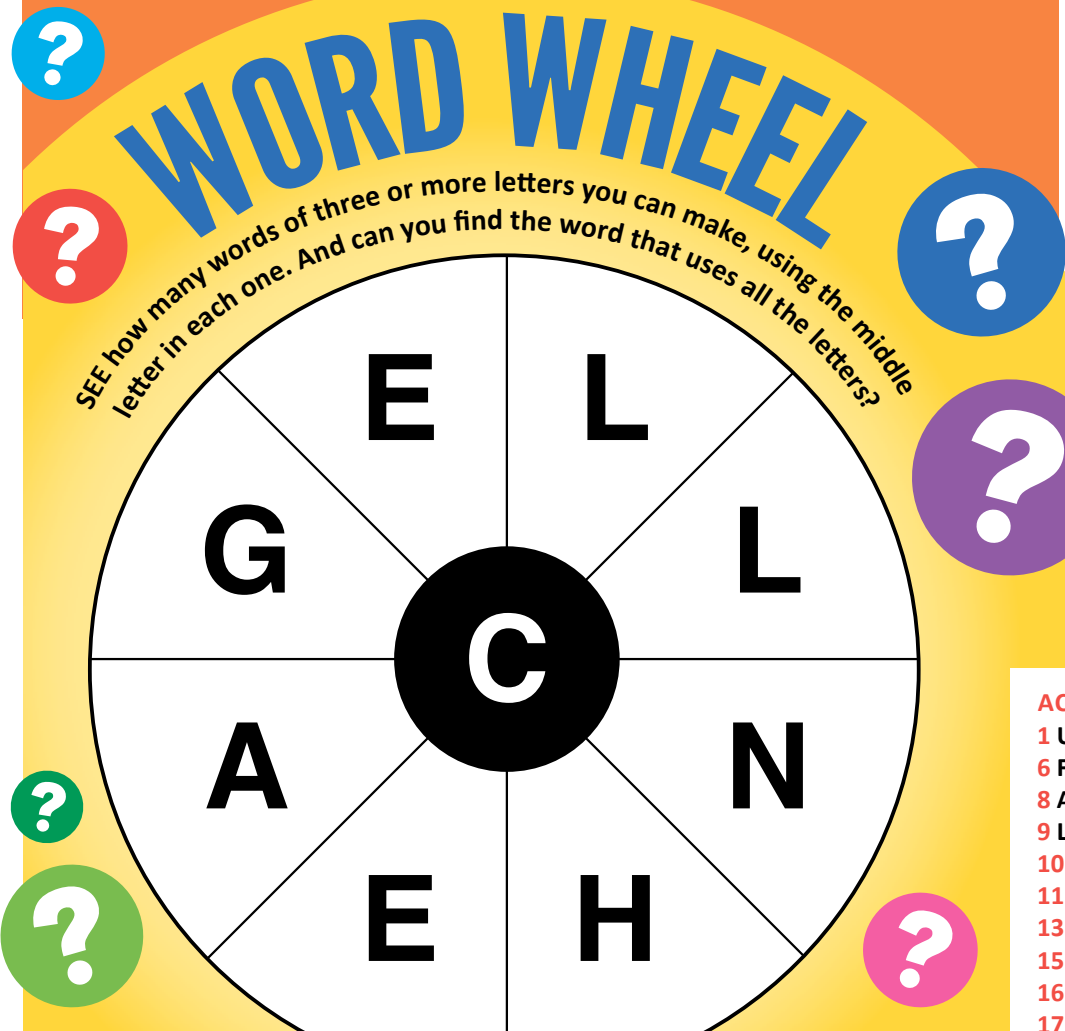
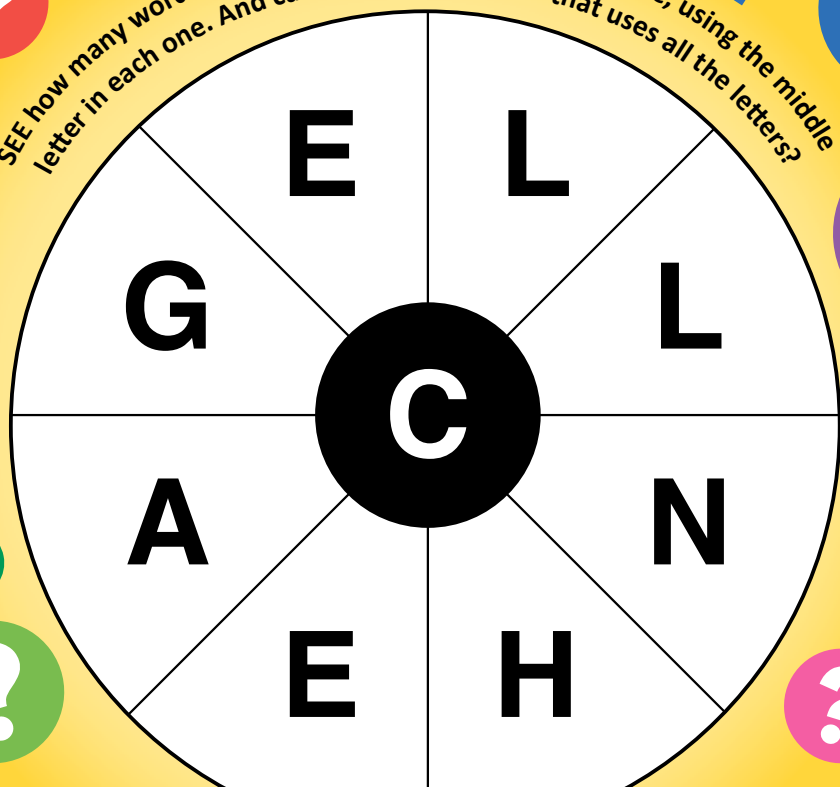
- 1 US musician (6,5)
- 6 Friend (4)
- 8 An arm or a leg (4)
- 9 Large vehicles used for transporting goods (7)
- 10 Living thing that grows in soil (5)
- 11 Strength (5)
- 13 Sincere; real (7)
- 15 At any time (4)
- 16 Change direction (4)
- 17 Very dangerous (11)

DOWN

- 1 See-through (11)
- 2 Loud scream (4)
- 3 Cries out like a lion (5)
- 4 Popular flower and part of the eye (4)
- 5 Game also called ping-pong (5,6)
- 7 Not as old (7)
- 8 Merciful; forgiving (7)
- 12 Hit with the fist (5)
- 13 Found in cells and made of DNA (4)
- 14 Currency in France and Spain (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. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 726** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 21 May 2020**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon*?



WORDSEARCH

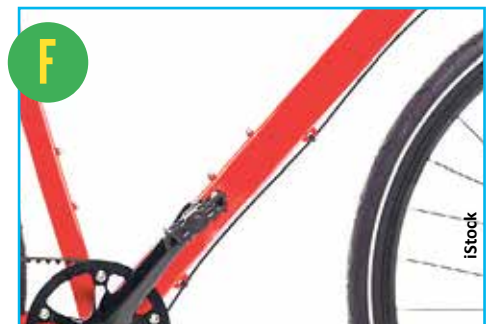
CAN you find the words below in our *Harry Potter*-themed wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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

- Magic
- Golden Snitch
- Wand
- Quidditch
- Dumbledore
- Hermione
- Hogwarts
- Gryffindor
- Dobby
- Ron
- Muggle
- Snape

WHAT ON EARTH?

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: witch's hat is bigger, brush has been removed, witch is purple, vines are missing, hat is larger.
Word wheel: celebrity.
Word ladder: soil, foil, foal, foam, form, farm.
What on Earth: pelican, robin, budgie, peacock, kingfisher, parrot.

8	6	7	9	1	3	2	4	5
5	1	9	4	8	2	7	6	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	9	8	1
4	7	2	1	3	5	8	9	6
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HOME LABORATORY!

SCHOOL may be closed, but there are still loads of fun science experiments you can carry out in the comfort of your own home!

Our friends at the Science Museum in London have come up with another brilliant bit of 'kitchen science' for you to try out, but make sure you ask a grown-up for help!

Juggling-ball trick

Learn about gravity and forces by aiming to get the juggling balls into the glasses without touching them.

What you will need:

- Three juggling balls
- Three hollow tubes
- Three glasses
- Cork-based place mat
- Water

1. Arrange the glasses in a triangle formation, then half-fill them with water.
2. Balance the board on the glasses with the cork side facing upwards.
3. Next balance the plastic tubes on the board, open end up and directly over the glasses. (You can check you have done this correctly by looking at the board at eye level from the front and the side.)
4. Balance the three juggling balls on top of the three tubes.
5. Hit the board hard with one horizontal swipe and see what happens...

What's the science?

The place mat has a smooth side and a rough side. The smooth side is face down on the glasses and slides over them with little friction. The cork side is face up and grips the tubes, dragging them along, as there is more friction between the surfaces. The juggling balls are heavy and gravity pulls them down into the glasses. The water stops the juggling balls breaking the glasses. This demonstrates the first part of Newton's first law of motion, which states that objects remain at rest or travelling at constant speed unless a force acts on them to change their motion.

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

istock

FIRST NEWS QUIZ

FirstNews QUIZ

HAVE a go at our First News Challenge! Why not set yourself and your friends or family a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? Good luck! See how well you did by using the answers at the bottom.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT THIS WEEK?

1 The animated TV series *Sazae-san* first aired in what year?

2 What does Rob Arnold use to create his sculptures?

3 What does Lomunyak mean in the Maa language?

4 How many cards did Vishnu Vasu use to create his card tower?

5 A £5 million fund will be used to support male and female players of which sport during the lockdown?

6 Where has Banksy's latest artwork appeared?

7 Thanks to a collaboration with NASA, who could become the first actor to film in space?

8 Andy Serkis raised £280,000 after completing a live, continuous reading of which book?

1) 1969 2) plastic found on beaches 3) Lucky 4) 5,450 5) tennis 6) Southampton General Hospital 7) Tom Cruise 8) *The Hobbit*



National Walking Month is organised by Living Streets, the people behind the UK's biggest walk to school challenge. The charity also runs Walk to School Week, which is usually in May. However, with schools closed to lots of pupils across the UK, this will now take place in October during International Walk to School Month.

Instead, the charity has produced lots of activities to help keep you and your family moving and having fun during May and beyond.

WHY WALKING IS WONDERFUL

Health experts tell us that children should be active for at least one hour every day to keep fit and healthy. But one in five boys and one in six girls of primary school age don't achieve this. This is contributing to one in three children leaving primary school either overweight or obese.

Finding ways to move more is incredibly important, which is why walking is so great. Walking is one of the easiest ways to fit some more movement into your day, which is why we want all children who can walk to school to be able to do so.

When you're physically active, it's good for your mind too. It can help you feel more alert and ready to learn, whether that's at school or your temporary home classroom.

Also, the more we walk, the fewer cars there are on our roads. This helps reduce air pollution, road danger and climate change. Some people think that children are more protected from dirty air inside the car, but that isn't the case. And there is also evidence that being physically active outweighs the air pollution risk.

If you're usually driven to school, think about switching to walking when you return and join millions of children taking steps to be part of the clean air solution.



WALK THIS MAY

MAY is National Walking Month, a special chance to celebrate the joys of walking and being active. It's really important that we keep moving to stay healthy and happy, now more than ever.



STAYING SAFE AND ACTIVE

Each week during lockdown, Living Streets has been releasing new activities for children to do to keep your walks fun, fresh and exciting – and most of all, safe.

From scavenger hunts and I Spy games, drawing challenges and exploration tasks, there are activities for all ages.

During National Walking Month, the charity is encouraging adults to #Try20 – walk for 20 minutes every day as part of their daily exercise. There are 20 tips to help people do this, including activities for families and for people who are exercising in the home.

You can download a #Try20 checklist and see how many your family can tick off!



Living Streets has been campaigning to make it safer to walk for 90 years! Its first campaigns led to the creation of the UK's zebra crossings and speed limits.

FACTS AND STATS

55% = the Government target for the number of primary school-aged children walking to school.

70% = the number of pupils that walked to school a generation ago. In England, the number of pupils who walk to school now is just 51% (in Scotland and Wales, it's less than half).

23% = the number of people on the school run during peak-time traffic. However, 95% of households live no further than a 20-minute journey on foot from the nearest primary school.

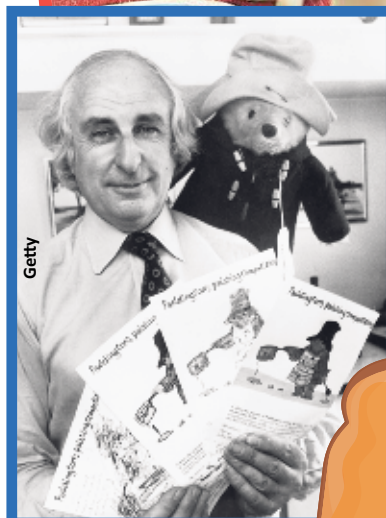
2,000+ = the number of schools taking part in WOW – the year-round walk to school challenge from Living Streets.

30% = the average reduction in cars driving up to the school gates at WOW schools.



BEAR-Y GOOD FUN!

PADDINGTON, the bear who loves marmalade sandwiches and often finds himself in a bit of a pickle, is back! The brand-new animated series, *The Adventures of Paddington*, is released this week. Check out these fab facts about the famous bear!



The first Paddington Bear story was written by Michael Bond in 1938 and it was called *A Bear Called Paddington*. The story was inspired by a toy bear that Michael bought for his wife. He named him Paddington because they lived close to Paddington train station.

Paddington Bear comes from Peru, and got his name from the London train station where he was found by the Brown family, wearing a label reading: "Please look after this bear. Thank you."

Since the first book was published, Paddington has become a worldwide phenomenon, with toys, stage shows, exhibitions, theme park attractions and ice shows all about the bear.

Paddington's favourite food is marmalade sandwiches. Yum!

There's a life-sized statue of Paddington Bear under the clock tower on platform one at Paddington Station in London. It was designed by sculptor Marcus Cornish and was unveiled by Michael Bond on 24 February 2000. There is also a Paddington Bear shop at the station.

Actor Ben Whishaw provides the voice of Paddington in the new animated series. He also voices the bear in the two live-action *Paddington* films that have been made.

Take That star Gary Barlow has written the theme tune for *The Adventures of Paddington*. He told us why he got involved...



● **How did you get involved in the project?**

A lovely man called David Heyman called me. Until then I only knew his name; never met him before. He told me the brief and I pretty much said: "That's not my game, never really done that before, there are other people much better than me that do that." Meanwhile in my head I can hear this little tune. So I said: "Give me a couple of hours and I'll send you something..." And that's how it all started.

● **What was your inspiration for the theme tune?**

It was the spelling out of the name. That gave me the idea for the whole song. I knew it was for kids, and I've watched my kids learn spelling from lovely rhymes and short sayings. Once I had that, the rest was easy.

● **Were you a fan of Paddington growing up?**

Big fan – it was one of the few cartoons I liked. You couldn't not like Paddington!

● **Why do you think he's still so popular more than 60 years on?**

I think anyone who's had a teddy bear loves Paddington. He's the voice of your teddy bear.

● **Will you be tuning in with the family to watch?**

Oh yes, whether they want to or not! Daisy has a personal interest, as the kids' choir on there is Daisy's class. We spent an hour in their music room last year and nailed the shout-outs!



The Adventures of Paddington: Volume 1 is out on DVD from 18 May

PICS OF THE WEEK

HARRY Potter fans can now watch their favourite celebrities reading the first book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Harry Potter himself, Daniel Radcliffe, is kicking off the *Harry Potter at Home* campaign by reading Chapter One: *The Boy Who Lived* from his home in New York.

Each chapter in the book will be read by a different famous face, with seven celebs announced so far, including Stephen Fry, David Beckham, Dakota Fanning and Eddie Redmayne.

The video of each new chapter will be posted on Tuesdays at www.harrypotterathome.com.



THIS WEEK

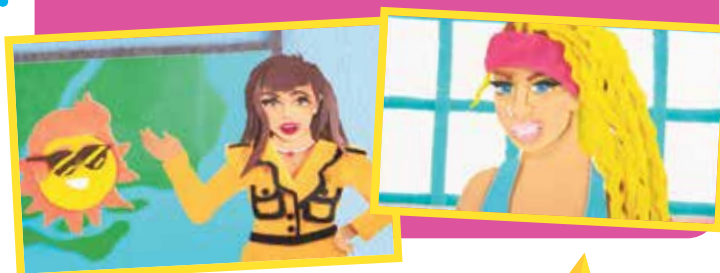


1 Tom Cruise could become the first actor to film in space, thanks to a collaboration with NASA. The plan is for the action star to film on board the International Space Station. NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine tweeted the news this week, adding: "We need popular media to inspire a new generation of engineers and scientists to make NASA's ambitious plans a reality."

2 TV presenter Clare Balding is writing her first non-fiction book for children, about making mistakes but not giving up. Clare said: "Having been to lots of schools over the years to talk to pupils, I've been struck by the confidence and creativity they have when they're very young. Often they lose their nerve when they start to worry about the consequences of failing." The book is called *Fall Off. Get Back On. Keep Going* and will be out next year.



3 Little Mix have used a mixture of animation and home footage shot in isolation as the official video for their new single, *Break Up Song*. The song is out now and has an '80s vibe. Check out the animated versions of Perrie and Jesy!



TWINKLE



THE Kidz Bop star tells us what she's been getting up to during lockdown...

Your new single, *Dance Monkey*, features lots of fans. Why did you feature them?

We love our fans and we love to see all the fans and their families dancing at home together, so we thought it would be so fun to have one big virtual dance party! We asked for submissions from fans to show us their best dance moves at home with their families.

What do you miss about working as a Kidz Bop Kid while we're all at home?

I miss dancing together with the other Kidz Bop Kids, but it's been really fun to film music and dance along to videos at home too. The other Kidz Bop Kids are some of my best friends, so we are always texting each other and keeping up with what we're doing.

What other things have you been doing to keep yourself busy?

Once I'm finished with my schoolwork, I have really enjoyed learning new dance moves and new songs with my family. We just filmed an a cappella version of *Dance Monkey* with the US Kidz Bop Kids – it was so fun to film – that's on our YouTube page now.

Which songs do you wish that Kidz Bop could cover next?

Whenever we record a song for Kidz Bop, they are always some of our favourite songs, so I can't wait to see what's next! My favourite song right now is *Wings*, the Little Mix song.



Do you prefer singing or dancing?

I love to sing, and dance, but right now my favourite is dancing, because you can make up choreography, even at home. We learnt all-new choreography for our upcoming tour, which is now happening in March and April 2021. Learning all the dances was sometimes challenging, but working with the other Kidz Bop Kids made it easier and so much fun!

We're all staying at home at the moment, but what are you most excited about doing when we're allowed out again?

I am most excited to see my friends and I'm excited to be able to perform again for our fans. I want to say thank you so much for the support and we hope you're enjoying dancing and singing along at home with us!

The new album, *Kidz Bop Party Playlist!*, is available digitally now through Universal Music On Demand

IA DIFFERENT RAMADAN

DURING the month of Ramadan, Muslims around the world traditionally gather to celebrate and break their daily fast with friends, family and fellow worshippers. However, this year's celebrations will have to change, as Salik Ahmad explains.



A Muslim in Bangladesh prays while protecting himself from the coronavirus

'Self-isolation' is something that most of us didn't even know about until the lockdown began around 40 days back. But it is not a new concept in human history; people have been doing it for centuries. Islam teaches that, more than 1,400 years ago, a man called Muhammad got away from the hustle and bustle of his city, Mecca, and self-isolated in a cave. While he was there, he prayed and meditated continuously for 40 days. At the end of it he saw a blinding white light with a voice that said: "Read, in the name of thy Lord who created you."

Muslims believe that Prophet Muhammad's experience during the Arabic month of Ramadan in the cave was the beginning of something remarkable. "Read" was the first revealed word of the Quran (Muslims' holy book). It is a coincidence that many of us have been reading a lot to pass time during the current lockdown. Anyway, thus began the journey of Islam. For the next 23 years, the Quran was revealed chapter by chapter and repeated in the holy month of Ramadan.

The holy Quran tells Muslims to fast during Ramadan as a mark of gratefulness. We fast from dawn to sunset. Only healthy adults are required to fast, but children get to share the benefits, like a nice meal in the evening, going to the mosque, meeting friends more and spending more time with their family.

At the end of Ramadan is Eid [this year it's 23-24 May]. Eid is a celebration where we exchange presents and have a delicious feast and generally have a good time.

The coronavirus has changed everything about Ramadan. We can't go to mosques and be social. We can't spend time with friends, and Eid will be at home. It will be fun but not as fun without friends. My family's plan for Eid is to have a barbecue while me and my sisters play on my slip-and-slide and trampoline (hopefully it won't rain).

Muslims are required to be even more caring to others during Ramadan. It is heavily connected with charity. So, one thing that isn't different this year is the charity aspect. The youth group I'm part of have been helping people around the world.



Family and community are important aspects of Ramadan



Salik at last year's Eid (the festival that marks the end of Ramadan) with his sisters, Sadiya (left) and Sabeeka (centre)



In normal times, people gather for iftar, the evening meal that breaks each day's fast during Ramadan

This year, older members of the group have been delivering food packages to people who need them, doing shopping for vulnerable people and helping NHS workers.

If you know anyone who needs help, they can call the helpline number (0333 880 6619) or contact them via www.muslimsforhumanity.org.uk. Along with my family and others, I have been using this time to pray that the coronavirus pandemic comes to a swift end and our lives are protected. May we go back to a better world soon.



HM Government



WE CAN HELP CONTROL THE VIRUS IF WE ALL STAY ALERT



Stay at home as much as possible



Work from home if you can



Limit contact with other people



**Keep your distance if you go out
(2 metres apart where possible)**



Wash your hands regularly

And if you or anyone in your household has symptoms, you all need to self-isolate.



Stay alert

THE POWER OF PLAY



BASED in London, Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is one of the world's leading children's hospitals. It formed in 1852 and is dedicated to children's healthcare and finding new and better ways to treat childhood illnesses. To help people adjust to this new, temporary 'normal' we're living in, GOSH Charity and the Play team are sharing the Power of Play, a range of free, expert resources, tips and activity ideas to enjoy at home. As well as fun ideas such as creating a fairy house and starting your own band, there's also advice to support your mental health.



Funded by the GOSH Charity, the Play team works with children and young people being treated at GOSH to help them prepare for their treatments and procedures, creating a fun and positive environment through play. They are the largest hospital Play team in Europe, helping hundreds of patients every week deal with their treatment and recovery. Experts in all things play, they create fun, specialised sessions for each child, helping them to feel calm and in control about what's happening to them.

But it's not just children in hospital who benefit from play. Play is a simple, everyday part of our lives but, in times of crisis, it has its own superpower. It can help

children deal with any anxieties they might have, from missing friends at school to feeling worried about what's going on. That's why we launched the Power of Play.

Sian Spencer-Little, Deputy Head of Play Services at GOSH, says: "Play in isolation offers young people an opportunity to connect and form relationships, even when they are in a small space in one place. Offering a window of normality, play provides a safe distraction to encourage imagination and communication."

TOP TIPS FOR TRICKY CONVERSATIONS

For anyone who isn't sure how to have conversations about COVID-19, here are some tips for talking about things in a calm and reassuring way:

- Acknowledge feelings
- Base all conversations on facts
- Make plans and do active things to make everyday activities more fun



CREATE YOUR OWN BUG



Designing your own bug can give children a sense of control back, which is so important in this unsettling time. Use whatever craft materials you have

at home to give your bug a colour, shape and personality. You could use LEGO, empty boxes, things from the garden or simply do a drawing.

CHILLY CREATIONS

Create your own ice sculptures using everyday objects. First, get a tray with a deep base and lots of different shaped containers – plastic bottles, food containers or even rubber gloves. Putting the containers in the tray, fill each one half-full of water. Add some extra objects such as seashells, flowers or beads – anything you can find! If using a rubber glove, tie an elastic band around the opening to avoid leaks. Carefully place it in a freezer overnight. Once frozen, remove it from the freezer and allow to stand for 20 minutes before playing.



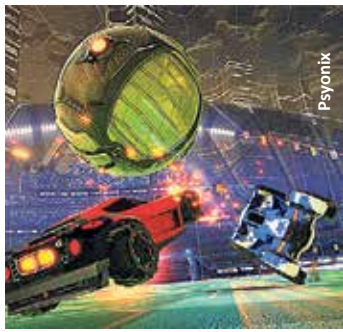
THE POWER OF PLAY

Giving children the power to cope with whatever life throws at them

gosh.org/play #powerofplay



The Play team is sharing a wealth of resources to help families across the UK. Visit gosh.org/powerofplay or follow GOSH Charity on social media to find free games, tips and resources to help you and your family through this uncertain time #powerofplay



BBC eSPORT

WHILE regular sports are paused, the BBC has started showing Rocket League matches on BBC Sport instead!

If you've not heard of *Rocket League* before, it's basically rocket-powered cars playing football and, for the first time, live matches of the game have been shown on the BBC Sport website, app and BBC iPlayer!

Ben Gallop, BBC Sport Head of Digital, said: "Rocket League is one of the most exciting eSports in the gaming world, and it's something that we're really pleased to be able to offer." "BBC Sport is constantly evolving, and a time like this gives us the chance to do even more with eSports, as well as looking ahead to see what's possible in the future."

You can watch the European Rocket League Spring Series matches on BBC iPlayer.

GOOGLING GAMES

THE number of searches for videogames and consoles has rocketed during lockdown.

Research from Uswitch has found that the number of people looking into videogame consoles has risen hugely in the last month.

They found that searches for 'PlayStation' have almost doubled, while Xbox saw the same amount of interest as it usually does around Black Friday and Christmas.

However, it was searches for 'online board games with friends' that increased the most, rising by a whopping 14,171%.



PC, PS4, XBOX ONE, SWITCH

MOVING OUT!

MOVING home isn't exactly fun. It's boring to pack ALL those boxes, and you've got to be careful with your fragile belongings. Fortunately, *Moving Out* is nothing like moving in real life!

In *Moving Out*, you work as a Furniture Arrangement & Relocation Technician (F.A.R.T.), to take people's belongings and put them in the back of a lorry. You can do this by carefully taking them through the house... or by simply tossing furniture through the window.

Now, it's worth mentioning that *Moving Out* is really meant to be played with more than one person, so the team behind the game have gone out of their way to make *Moving Out* as friendly to gamers and non-gamers as possible. Even non-gaming parents can play, with the help of 'assist mode'.

Once you've beaten a level, you can unlock 'arcade challenges' that are tough, but earn you funny new characters to play as.

We found that we laughed loads while playing *Moving Out*, especially when trying to lob a sofa from the top-floor window!



FIRST CAREERS

MAHASWETA SAHA
MARINE CHEMICAL ECOLOGIST



IF you like the sea, nature and science, Mahasweta from the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) may have your dream job!

● WHAT I DO

I am a marine chemical ecologist. In simple terms, my job is to eavesdrop when marine organisms talk to each other, understand how they communicate using different information-carrying chemicals (also called infochemicals) and how climate change can affect their communication, impacting their day-to-day activities.

● HOW I GOT MY JOB

I did my master's in marine science from India. Following that, I got a scholarship to do my PhD in Germany. This was followed by one grant and fellowship [a paid research role], which helped to fund my research and allowed me to establish myself as an independent scientist. I recently obtained a fellowship that helped me to start my position at PML.

● WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY JOB

Exploring the unknown is the best part of being a scientist. Due to my profession, I can travel around the world, meet new people and enjoy different traditions, food and culture.

● WHAT'S DIFFICULT ABOUT IT

Staying away from family for long periods



of time can be very challenging.

● WHAT SKILLS I NEED

Experience with different techniques of chromatography (a method that allows me to separate the different infochemicals from a mixture), microbiology, and running different types of tests to identify the infochemicals. I also need fieldwork skills to collect samples. Discipline, perseverance and hard work are the other skills I need as a scientist.

● USEFUL QUALIFICATIONS

A PhD in chemical ecology and two or three post-doctorates [jobs that you do after getting a PhD].

● WHERE YOU SHOULD START IF YOU WANT TO DO THE JOB TOO

You need to study marine science/ marine biology after your degree, then a PhD in marine chemical ecology. But the most important thing is to be passionate about what you do.



WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

GARDEN GAMES

GIANT PICK-UP STICKS BIGGAMEHUNTERS.CO.UK £27.99

Try to remove each stick in turn without moving any of the others. Rack up the highest score and claim the winner's crown. This game contains 30 painted wooden sticks and comes packed in a canvas carry bag. The sticks are coloured so you can divide players into teams to create a more competitive game or allocate different points to each colour stick.



4 IN 1 GAMES PICNIC MAT ARGOS.CO.UK £15.00

Take this colourful, reversible, splash-proof mat out into the garden or use it inside on a rainy day. Printed with four family-favourite board games, you'll have hours of fun. It comes with a handy storage pouch for the wooden game pieces. Set contains a fabric picnic mat, 25 wooden game pieces, two dice and instructions for four games.

TRADITIONAL GARDEN GAMES SPORTS DAY SET ARGOS.CO.UK £23.00

Create your own sports day with this fun set of games. Try for the perfect balance with the egg and spoon race. Be careful you don't fall over in the three-legged race. Practice makes perfect in the bean bag balance race. Who will win your sports day challenge? The set includes jumping sacks, plastic spoons and eggs, bean bags, plastic stakes, ankle straps, plus a start and finish line.



*All prices correct at time of printing

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WIN! Marvin's Magic AMAZING MAGIC TRICKS

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

It is proud to have won many accolades, has the best-selling magic sets and largest following of young magicians anywhere! Magic is normally based on dexterity, skill and many years of practice, but with Marvin's Magic, budding magicians can perform similar sensational effects in no time. It's professional magic made easy.

Six lucky winners will be able to entertain and impress their family and friends with Marvin's Amazing Magic Tricks, an incredible selection of 225 easy-to-perform magic tricks, guaranteed to keep young magicians entertained. The set contains Astounding Mind Reading Canisters, Amazing Magician's Magic Cards, Incredible Magic Block Escape, Magic Cups and Balls, Mystical Magic Cards and much more.

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

- What is the secret club for magicians called?
 a) The Magic Square b) The Magic Tube
 c) The Magic Circle



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

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY MAGIC

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 15. The closing date is 28 May 2020.

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 13 issues for £19.99

WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

**WORDS
FOR LIFE**

WHEN Ed Clarke isn't writing for kids, he is a film and television executive and producer, working with writers to make drama for grown-ups. Ed told us what books he liked to read as a child:

“ The books that have really stayed with me from childhood are *Danny, the Champion of the World*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Swallows and Amazons*; and *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen*. I think I mostly loved adventure stories with contemporary heroes. And those are the kind of books I try to write now too! ”



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



SIX 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 six parts of the story, head to:

FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL

SO FAR IN THE STORY...

After escaping child-snatching danger, Ferocity, the young spellcaster and her pet boggart, Guggalugs, are being led to the mysterious Perum Hollow by an odd boy called Trick. But why did he save her, and what is that mysterious metal piece in her pocket?

PART SEVEN BY ELVI WREN, 9

Right before Ferocity's and Guggalugs' astonished eyes, there was a room beyond imagining.

Sharp, dazzling crystals hung from above like thick stalactites. As well as that, large, colourful, diamond-strewn lights filled the vast room with sparkling flecks of colour.

In the corner stood a twisted, round table carefully balancing a sea of different potions of all shapes and sizes: knobbly, bumpy, swirly and even some that were changing colour! Guggalugs stared at these ones, for he found them really quite fascinating, as all the colours slowly blended into each other.

Ferocity, however, had her eyes on something else; there was something shining in the corner of her eye, so she turned to have a closer look.

She slowly took out the piece of copper that was resting in her pocket and compared it to the one that was hanging on the wall. They both had jagged edges and looked a bit like puzzle pieces. "Come on!" said Trick, approaching Ferocity, as she held up her piece of copper and tried to fit the two together. "It fits," she murmured quietly.

"I thought you said I was meant to keep it hidden; how come he's got one?"

"I did... I didn't know."

Just then, a deep voice filled the room. Ferocity thought it might have been the tree itself. But limping towards them was an old figure stooped over a tall staff. "I was wondering when you would arrive."

Cressida Cowell said:

"Things are hotting up on the story front! I think the copper pieces fitting together is an interesting development."

YOUR READS!

LIGHTNING MARY ANTHEA SIMMONS

reviewed by Julia Kowal, aged 11

Fossils are key to our origin, fossils are silent evidence of life before.

Finding a fossil is like finding a missing puzzle. Not everyone is good at puzzles and finding missing pieces. Mary Anning was!

This book is a well-written life story of one amazing lady who had an extraordinary hobby.

Mary Anning was brave, dedicated and modest. She was not born into a wealthy family and lived in times when girl power did not exist. Everything she knew she learnt herself. Her life was a struggle, but her achievements are timeless.

If you love adventure books with historical characters and are not afraid of 'Devil's toenails' or 'ram's horn', then this is a book for you!



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.

PART EIGHT: BY YOU!

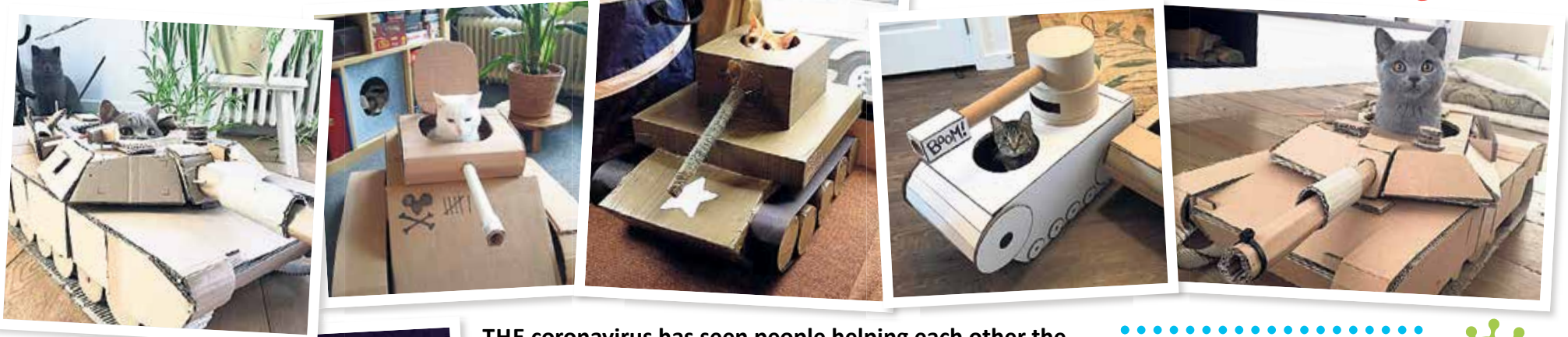
Well done to everyone who sent in their suggestions of how the story should continue. We enjoyed reading them all, and love how talented our readers are! If your story wasn't chosen this time, be sure to have another go. We could choose you to continue the story in next week's issue!



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

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

CHAAAAARGE!



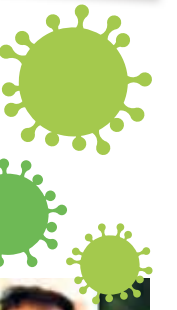
All pics: SoMeeOfficial/Facebook

THE coronavirus has seen people helping each other the world over. It has also seen people getting bored. Really bored. And when people get bored, they get creative. With this in mind, we present to you... cats in cardboard tanks!

People are getting more home deliveries due to lockdown and it looks like many have found the perfect use for the leftover cardboard boxes.

Any cat owner knows the pain of buying a brilliant new toy and watching your feline friend play with the box it came in instead. But at least by morphing the boring box into an awesome tank, you can enjoy watching their playtime too. And with Colonel Kitty in charge, your home will feel extra safe. Who needs guard dogs anyway?

EAT IT TO BEAT IT



YOU'VE got to eat it to beat it. That's the attitude of a Vietnamese chef who has created a 'coronaburger'.



Hoang Tung, from the city of Hanoi, has been making special burger buns that are stained with green tea and have points on them that look like the coronavirus.

Chef Tung, who works at Pizza Home, said: "We have this joke that if you are scared of something, you should eat it. That's why the coronavirus isn't scary any more after you eat a burger in the shape of the virus itself. That way of thinking spreads joy to others during this pandemic."

What do you think? Would you eat a coronaburger?



BUCKET BATH : TOWER OF CARDS



THE partner of a woman who missed having a relaxing bath got creative and made one for her... out of the bucket of his dumper truck!

Dave Eastwood and Helen Kettleborough have been living in their garage for the past two years while they build their house. They only have access to a shower, so Helen has missed her baths. Clever Dave decided to fill the bucket of his truck with water and shower gel for her. Helen relaxed with a glass of wine and described the soak as "absolute heaven".

A TEENAGER has recreated Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, with cards.

Sixteen-year-old Vishnu Vasu, from Bangalore in India, used 5,450 playing cards to build the 3.25m-high structure. It took him five-and-a-half hours of patience and steady hands.

Vishnu got into the Asia Book of Records for his incredible card tower, but he's still got a way to go before he beats the Guinness World Record.

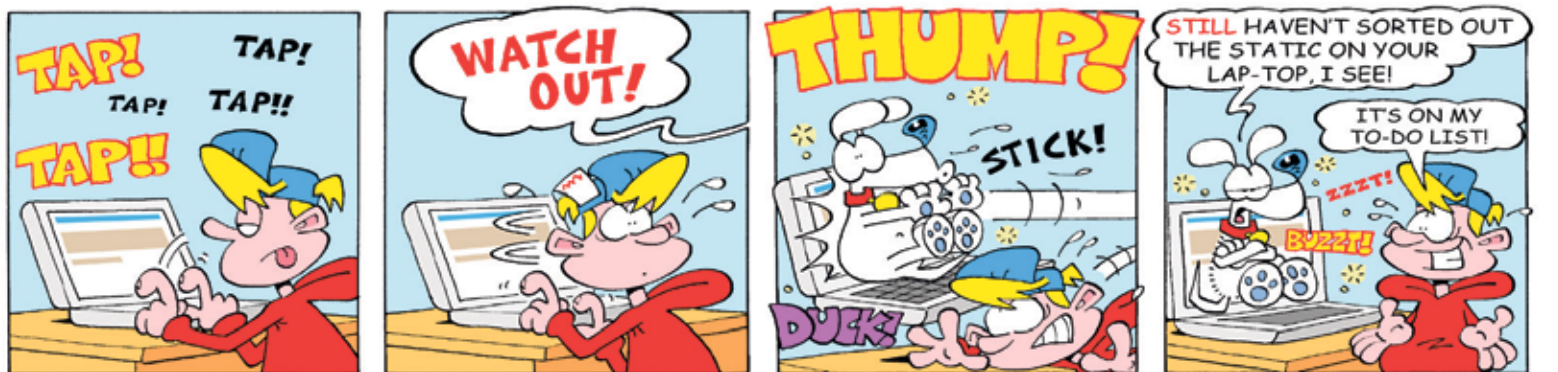
"Every time I make a structure, I keep it for 2-3 days or until I feel like making a new one. It needs a lot of patience, perseverance and motivation," he said. "For me, it's a passion. I hope to break the Guinness record of 7m."



kscs.bangaluru/Facebook

Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



SCOUTING SIBLINGS

by Peter James, 4th Formby Scouts

SCOUTS are supposed to be prepared for anything and our Scout Law states that we must have courage in all difficulties. COVID-19 is certainly a difficulty, but our pack has joined with others around the country to maintain our spirit and continue our Scouting activities (with a bit of a twist).

My brother and I started by setting up a camp in the back garden; we even toasted marshmallows on the firepit. Afterwards we camped out. It was still a bit chilly in March, but not as cold as our Wintercamp in Northumberland back in January!

Then Bear Grylls, our Chief Scout, challenged us to 'Hike to the Moon' to raise money for Children in Need and Comic Relief. Did you know that 11 of the 12 people who have walked on the moon were Scouts?

The moon is about 240,000 miles away, and together with our friends and family, Scouts around the country walked more than that distance around their gardens and houses.

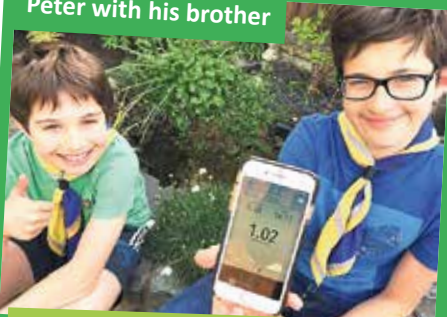
A real team effort, with lots of money raised!

Last Thursday, we dressed in our full uniform and stood at our gates in noisy salute to say thank you to our NHS. This upholds another Scout Law, to show respect for others.

Last week, 4th Formby Scouts joined an attempt at a world record for the largest virtual camp. We could sleep anywhere except our beds, and we had to do something 'Scouty' as well. We've cooked our dinner outside in the rain – that's very Scouty indeed!

Thank you to our Chief Scout, Bear; to John our leader; and to all the Scouts around the country for keeping our spirits up and our minds busy.

Peter with his brother



Outdoor cooking

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

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

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

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

PLAYING FOR KEY WORKERS

by John and Toby Lavers

WE are two brothers from Plymouth who play the cornet in a band called Soundhouse Brass.

Our conductor gave us a challenge: learn and play *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* during the clap for carers and key workers.

Last Thursday, we played outside when everyone was clapping. We live next to a nursing home, so the carers could hear us playing our cornets.

It felt sensational to know that a key worker might hear us playing, but a bit scary too!

Our mum is a nurse on the premature baby unit, so we were thanking her as well!

We think all the key workers are doing a brilliant job. This week's challenge is *You'll Never Walk Alone!*



John and Toby

Our band normally meets on a Thursday, so it's nice that we can still play with them, even if we can't see or hear them!

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

CLIMATE VIDEO

by Mia Bhute, Green Street Green Primary School

A FEW months ago, Y6 wrote a letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson about climate change, as part of our English lesson.

Our teacher had the great idea to partner with LitFilmFest and turn it into a video for everyone to see, so they can become aware of the issues our planet is facing.

Soon we started grouping the best facts together to make the perfect script. We have highlighted a few solutions that would help.

We came up with many filming tricks to make it appealing. We practised and filmed a five-minute video at school.

The purpose of the video is to remind people that we need to act fast and to push the Government to help more. In addition we sent letters with our concerns to the local supermarkets and Bromley MPs.

We raised a few ideas with the school council as well, to make our school more

sustainable. They included:

- keeping a chart to switch the class lights on/off
- keeping doors and windows closed to conserve heat
- having a monthly review for new ideas and checking up on energy savings

We were due to have a premiere at the IMAX cinema in London before the lockdown was implemented.

We are hoping this video reaches as many people as possible, so they can all lend a helping hand to solve the climate change crisis.



Yr 6 pupils

SCHOOL NEWS

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

20 October is when cycling's Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) will begin, but stages in Portugal and the Netherlands have been cancelled. Organisers say the route will have to be modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2019 race was won by Primož Roglič of Slovenia (below).



1 June is when professional sport in England could return. The UK Government has announced this is the earliest possible date sporting events such as rugby union (below) could resume. But it depends on how low the COVID-19 infection rate is, and whether athletes and coaches are happy to return.



800 professional tennis players will benefit from a new fund set up to support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many tennis pros are very wealthy, hundreds rely on their match fees to make a living. The £5 million fund will be split between male and female players. Professional tennis is suspended until 13 July at the earliest.



South Korea's K-League has kicked off without spectators



FOOTBALL matches in South Korea resumed last week – the first league to kick off again after being suspended due to COVID-19.

The K-League season was meant to start on 29 February but it was delayed due to the spread of the new coronavirus. South Korea's government followed World Health Organization advice, operating a large-scale system of testing for the virus. This has helped them keep the number of infections down, and so the authorities allowed the football league to start on Friday 8 May.

But it's not a case of "business as usual". Matches are played in empty stadiums, players' temperatures are checked and coaches and substitutes wear face masks. Big goal celebrations are banned and players are warned not to talk to each other or to the referee up close. Pre-recorded crowd noise is being played through speakers inside the stadium to create a bit of atmosphere.

There are 1,100 K-League players and staff, and they

have all tested negative for COVID-19. However, if anyone is found to have the virus, the entire team will not be allowed to play for two weeks.

The first match of the season saw the reigning champions, Jeonbuk Motors, beat Suwon Bluewings 1-0 with a goal scored just six minutes from time by Lee Dong-Gook, who is aged 41.

As First News went to press, Germany's Bundesliga was due to restart on Saturday 16 May, despite two players at one second division club testing positive for COVID-19. The entire Dynamo Dresden squad and coaching staff have been ordered to self-isolate for two weeks.

Only four football leagues have continued playing throughout the pandemic: those in Belarus, Burundi, Tajikistan and Nicaragua.

CLASSIC SPORTS PIC OF THE WEEK



England players celebrate after Lucy Bronze scored their third goal in a 3-0 win over Norway in the 2019 Women's World Cup quarter-final

