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News

COP27

7

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

THE WORLD CUP WIGGLE!

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

ENGLAND footballer Jack Grealish kept his promise to a young fan after scoring in England's 6-2 win over Iran in their opening World Cup game.

Jack celebrated his first World Cup goal with a very special move for 12-year-old Finlay, who has cerebral palsy.

The famous footballer and Finlay met a few weeks ago. The young Manchester City fan had written a letter to his hero: "I wish there were more people in the world just like you who treat people with disabilities the same as anyone else," he wrote to Jack, whose sister Holly also has cerebral palsy.

"It makes me really happy when I see that you, a famous footballer, knows what it's like to live with people with cerebral palsy. You're my hero and the best big brother to your sister."

In the letter, Finlay wrote that it would be his dream to meet Jack, so the Manchester City and England star went along to one of City's disability football sessions to meet him. It was then that Jack promised to dedicate his next goal celebration to Finlay.

Jack told Finlay: "I just want to say a big thank you for the letter that you wrote to me. It really touched me. I'll do a little celebration for you, all right?"

Finlay first asked Jack to do 'the worm'. But, when Jack said he didn't think he could do that, the pair agreed on a dance with Jack wiggling his arms.

Little did the two know that Jack's next goal would be for England at the World Cup! After scoring his goal, Jack looked straight into the camera, broke into a dance and started spreading his arms before wiggling them around – just as he promised!

England
star keeps
promise to
young fan



Sony Pictures

23

Introducing new
Matilda movie star



Upside Foods

9

Meat grown by
scientists!

Prince William cheers on two teams



Prince William says he's cheering on both England and Wales in this year's World Cup. The prince presented the England squad with their shirts for the footie tournament, which upset some people who thought he was siding with the team. Many argued he should be supporting Wales too, after he recently took over the title Prince of Wales from his dad, King Charles III. The prince said it would not be right to "suddenly drop England to support Wales," and so he's supporting both nations instead. He added that an England versus Wales World Cup final "would be the best".

The benefits of beans

A new campaign, called 'Beans is How', has been set-up by the Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Hub, to boost the number of people eating beans. Beans are cheap to produce, and are rich in protein. Plus, they release 90% fewer greenhouse gases than some animal proteins. However, just 21g of beans are eaten per person, per day, compared to 112g of meat. It's hoped the campaign will change that.



Ninety-five-year-old named Latin Grammys best new artist

Angela Álvarez, a Cuban American, who started her musical career when she was 90 years old, has become the oldest winner ever at the Latin Grammys, after being awarded best new artist. Álvarez has been performing and writing music for her family for decades, but only recorded her music for the first time five years ago. Dedicating her win to Cuba, Álvarez said during her speech: "I did not give up – I always fought, I promise you – it's never too late."

Official River Thames bathing spot fails bacteria test

The only official spot on the River Thames where people can swim has been found to be polluted. Tests, completed on the section of the River Thames, called Wolvercote Mill Stream, and two miles outside Oxford, found unsafe levels of bacteria linked to sewage. Claire Robertson, an Oxford Rivers Project officer, said: "We are disappointed, but not surprised, by these results. Thames Water released untreated sewage into the rivers around Oxford for 5,600 hours in 2021."

Twitter in turmoil

Twitter employees have walked out after the company's new owner Elon Musk demanded an 'extremely hardcore' work culture. The billionaire sent a late night email to staff saying he expected "long hours at high intensity". He then gave them an ultimatum (a choice) to either work longer days or leave the company. Musk's tough leadership style hasn't gone down well, with hundreds of employees believed to have quit. Musk also re-activated former US President Donald Trump's account. At the time of writing, Trump (who recently announced he was running again for president – see page 3) hadn't yet returned to the social media site.

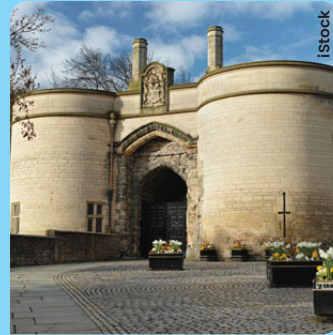


New Doctor Who companion revealed

Actress Millie Gibson has been announced as the new companion for the 15th Doctor, who will be played by Ncuti Gatwa. Announced live during this year's *Children in Need* show, Millie said she will be playing a character called Ruby Sunday, and was in "total disbelief and beyond honoured" to be joining the show. Millie previously played Kelly Neelan on the ITV soap *Coronation Street*. Their adventures together will begin late next year, following the 60th anniversary special, which sees David Tennant return as the Time Lord, and Catherine Tate back as his companion.



Nottingham Castle closes following £33m improvements



Nottingham Castle has closed its doors to the public, just one year after £33 million was spent on improving the site and bringing in new visitors. The Nottingham Castle Trust, which looked after the site, said it was "saddened and hugely disappointed" to be closing, and that visitors were "significantly below" the 300,000 a year they had hoped. Pavlos Kotsonis, who works for Nottingham council, said they will work to "reopen the castle as soon as possible".

Thor actor to take acting break over Alzheimer's risk

Actor Chris Hemsworth (pictured), who plays Thor in the Marvel films, says he is taking a break from acting after learning he is at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, which causes severe memory loss and difficulties thinking. Hemsworth learnt that he was at risk during the filming of a Disney+ documentary series called *Limitless*. In the show, which explores ways to live longer and healthier, the actor had his genes tested. It was found that he was between eight and ten times more likely than normal to develop the disease. In an interview, Hemsworth says he hasn't quit acting, but made him want to "take some time off".



Black Friday warning

Consumer group *Which?* has warned that some of today's (25 Nov) Black Friday deals aren't real discounts. The group looked at more than 200 of last year's Black Friday offers, and found that 98% of them were cheaper or the same price at other times of the year. *Which?* also found that some businesses were temporarily raising prices before Black Friday, so that sales seemed better on the day. Black Friday comes from the US, where it is the busiest shopping day of the year.

Schools lose 'outstanding' status

Hundreds of schools in England have lost their 'outstanding' status, after being reinspected by Ofsted. The Ofsted organisation, which reviews how well schools are doing, said that only 17% of the 370 schools that had previously been graded 'outstanding' would keep their ranking. Until 2020, schools graded outstanding by Ofsted didn't need to be inspected. On average, the 370 top-rated schools in the UK had last been inspected by Ofsted 13 years ago. School leaders have said that Ofsted's new inspections aren't fair and that schools are being downgraded if their pupils are unable to name rivers or history dates when asked by inspectors. Ofsted have said that many of the schools who have been downgraded may not actually be worse, but that the outstanding rank was now more "challenging" to achieve.

Mining on Sami land



Climate activist Greta Thunberg's charity has donated £158,000 to the indigenous Sami people of Sweden, who are fighting to stop a mine from being opened on their land. In March, the Swedish government gave a British mining company permission to open an iron ore mine on the Sami people's reindeer herding land, if they consulted with the Sami people. The Sami people say that the mine would destroy grazing areas for reindeer and that the money will help them to continue resisting the mine.

Solomon Island earthquake

A strong 7.0 magnitude earthquake in the Solomon Islands, near Australia, triggered tsunami warnings. Buildings were shaken, and damaged but, at the time of writing, no injuries or deaths were reported.

Extra donations for clothing charity

Clothing company Frugi has announced that it will donate an item to the charity Clemie's Clothes (who give items to those families who need a little extra support) with every item sold at sale price, until 29 November.





SEVEN ULTRA MARATHONS IN SEVEN DAYS



Sinfield ran seven ultra marathons, which are long-distance runs that are even longer than a marathon (26 miles 385 yards)

RUGBY star Kevin Sinfield has raised £1.5m for charity after completing seven ultra marathons in seven days.

The former player, now coach, set himself the epic running challenge to raise money and support for motor neurone disease (MND) charities. It came after his ex-Leeds Rhinos teammate and close friend Rob Burrow was diagnosed with the disease in 2019. MND affects the brain and nerves and there is no cure right now.

Sinfield started his marathon challenge in Edinburgh,

passing through Newcastle and York before ending up at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester 300 miles and seven days later! He crossed the finish line during half-time of the Rugby League World Cup final, in front of family, friends and fans.

Sinfield told BBC Sport he and his team "just wanted to be a great friend [to Rob] and if we all tried to be a bit of a better friend from time to time I think we would have a better place to live in".

Big names call for an end to factory farming

CHRIS Packham and Michael Morpurgo are among 208 well-known people to have signed an open letter calling for an end to factory farming.

This type of farming sees animals kept in tight conditions indoors under strict controls. It aims to produce more food more cheaply. Dr Nick Palmer, from Compassion in World Farming, says it is a "cruel and unnecessary practice" which is "causing a climate and nature emergency".

Now, celebrities are urging world leaders to make important changes to our food system and the way animals are kept.

The open letter reads: "The livestock sector produces more greenhouse gases than the direct emissions of all the world's planes, trains and cars combined. Our people, animals and planet cannot wait any longer."

It's hoped that leaders will come to an agreement on ending the practice and using alternative methods.

See our main story on page 9...



Trump to run for presidency

DONALD Trump has announced he intends to stand as US president again.

He made the announcement in Florida saying: "America's comeback starts right now."

Mr Trump said that "everybody was doing great" after his four years in office, "the world was at peace" and that he "kept his promises".

Yet, he remains a man who divides America after his four-year term as president ended with deadly Capitol riots on 6 January 2021.

Trump has continued to claim wrongly that his election defeat – which started the riots – was "stolen from him". He is also facing several investigations, including into his tax affairs and whether he took secret documents from the White House after he lost the presidential election last time.

Trump hopes to become the candidate for the Republican Party, standing against the Democrats, when America votes for its next president in 2024.

A WOMAN from Texas in the USA has set a new Guinness World Record for having the world's largest feet!



Tanya Herbert from Houston isn't just tall – she's 2.06m (6ft 9in) – but she can also boast the world's largest trotters! Her right foot measures 33.1cm (13.03in) long and her left measures 32.5cm (12.79in). Tanya said: "The most difficult part of having big feet is trying to find shoes that fit."

Tree surgeon rescues cat!

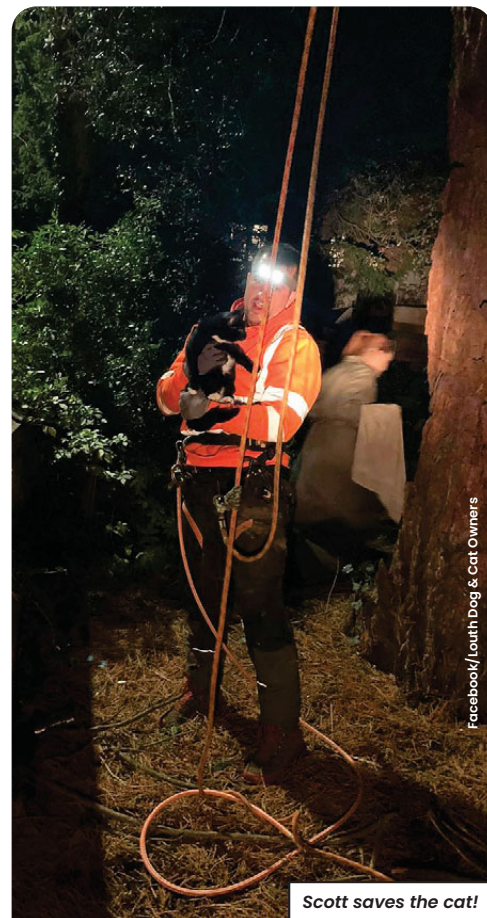
A TREE surgeon has been hailed a hero after rescuing a young cat who got stuck up a tree for two days.

The kitty, thought to be about two years old, ended up in a pickle when it got into the tree and couldn't get back down again. To make matters worse, heavy rain lashed the area for two whole days.

Debbie Pearson, administrator of the Facebook group Louth Cats & Dogs Owners, said: "People were suggesting calling the RSPCA or the fire brigade, and then some thought that a tree surgeon might do the job."

Thankfully, local tree surgeon Scott Short saw a post online and headed down to help. After locating the scared moggy, Scott was able to climb the tree and finally bring it to safety. The cat was wrapped in a towel and taken to James Street Veterinary Centre in Louth to be checked over.

The vets happily confirmed that the cat was microchipped and later reunited with its owner.



Scott saves the cat!



Kyiv, Ukraine



PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meet in Ukraine's capital. Rishi Sunak made a surprise visit to Kyiv to meet the Ukrainian president. It was Rishi Sunak's first visit to the country since becoming prime minister last month.

Salisbury, UK



Preparation for the festive season gets underway with the suspended art installation *Disco Mecanique* by David Batchelor. The display is made up of 120 glittering spheres that explore colour and space. The exhibition opens on 28 November.

Washington, DC, USA



THE US Capitol Christmas tree is unloaded and moved into position. This year's tree is a 24-metre red spruce from the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina.

Catalonia, Spain



The lack of rain has caused extreme drought in most of the swamps of Catalonia. La Baelles swamp is at an all-time low – around 31% of its capacity. Where once there was water there is now parched land.

Mumbai, India



THE Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus building is lit up blue on the eve of World Children's Day. Originally known as Universal Children's Day, World Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international unity, awareness among children worldwide and the improvement of children's welfare.

Sydney, Australia



MEMBERS and supporters of the Iranian community gather during a rally. Iranians across the globe continue to rally to stand in support of protesters in Iran who have demonstrated for weeks following the death of Mahsa Amini in September.



GO GREEN! MESSAGE TO WORLD CUP FANS

FOOTBALL fans are being encouraged to try three climate-friendly habits during the World Cup to help protect the environment.

The three suggested habits include:

- 1) Reducing your shower time to four minutes.
- 2) Having two veggie days per week.
- 3) Turning your thermostat (heating) down by one degree.

Figures show that, if all of the UK's World Cup fans took part in the challenge, they'd have the power to reduce carbon pollution by the same as more than 900 million kilos of carbon dioxide – that's the same as taking nearly half of Leeds' cars off the road!

The call to action comes ahead of the world's biggest football-climate campaign, *Green Football Weekend*, which takes place in February 2023. The campaign will see more than 80 of the UK's professional football clubs and their fans coming together to tackle climate change. They'll be making their weekend fixtures 'greener games', improving their on-site recycling, serving veggie food and supporting sustainable travel to games. Schools and community groups will be running special Green Football Weekend activities, too.

You can find out more at: greenfootballweekend.com.



EDITOR'S COMMENT



THERE have been a lot of negative stories surrounding the FIFA World Cup, especially around host country Qatar's human rights record. Plus our front page two weeks ago questioned claims that this World Cup was going to be carbon neutral. But it was fantastic to see England player Jack Grealish's tribute to a young fan back in Manchester on football's biggest stage (front page) during England's opening game. The power of football can't be ignored and its platform to be a force for good is terrific.

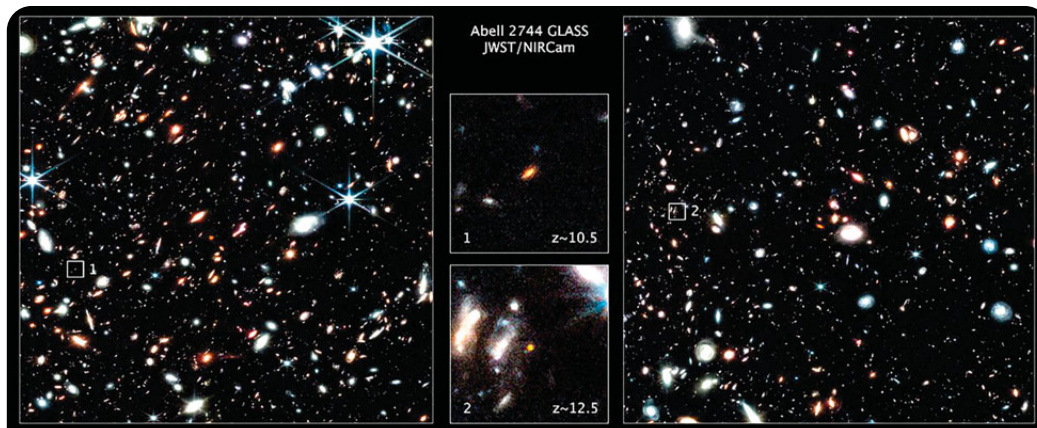
UK space launch



SPACEPORT Cornwall has been given the go-ahead to host the UK's first ever space launch. The Civil Aviation Authority said that the site in Newquay can have a licence and therefore be used for sending satellites into space. The first mission is set to be launched by Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit company later this month, or in early December.



Earliest known galaxies found



Abell 2744 GLASS
JWST/NIRCam

1 z~10.5
2 z~12.5

TWO of the earliest galaxies ever found can be seen in these pictures from the James Webb Space Telescope.

The main image shows the giant galaxy cluster Abell 2744. Researchers looked at all the data and found two really bright galaxies 'hidden' billions of light years behind the cluster. You can see close-ups of these in the two middle pictures above. The top galaxy existed about 450 million years after the Big Bang, which happened 13.8 billion years ago, while the bottom one existed about

350 million years after it.

Researcher Paola Santini said: "These observations just make your head explode. This is a whole new chapter in astronomy. It's like an archaeological dig, and suddenly you find a lost city or something you didn't know about. It's just staggering."

The extreme brightness of the galaxies is confusing to astronomers, and finding out why could help their understanding of how galaxies are formed.

Indonesian earthquake fallout

AN earthquake on the Indonesian island of Java has killed hundreds of people and injured more than a thousand.

At the time of writing, at least 268 people were believed dead after the 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit the town of Cianjur. Rescuers have been looking for survivors among the rubble of collapsed buildings.

Ridwan Kamil, Governor of West Java, has said that more than 2,200 homes have been damaged and at least 13,000 people have had to leave the surrounding area since the quake.



Mariah Carey



THE pop star's bid to be known as the official 'Queen of Christmas' has failed. Mariah applied to trademark the nickname, but has been told no by the US Patent and Trademark Office. It means she can't legally stop others from using the title. Mariah is linked with Christmas because of her smash hit festive track, *All I Want for Christmas Is You*.



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GOVERNMENT LAYS OUT PLANS TO HELP WITH RISING COST OF LIVING

CHANCELLOR Jeremy Hunt has spoken about the “difficult decisions” he plans to make that he says will help Britain’s economy and people dealing with the rising cost of living.

Mr Hunt, who is in charge of the country’s money, said he would raise taxes on the energy companies that are making “extraordinary profits”. He says that this will raise £55 billion between now and 2028.

More people will have to pay the higher rate of income tax now, which is money the Government gets from people’s wages. Before, anyone earning over £150,000 a year had to pay 45p for every £1 they earn above £150,000, but now that applies to anyone earning over £125,140.

Owners of electric vehicles (EVs) will have to start paying something called vehicle excise duty from 2025. Mr Hunt said it would make things fairer but some experts say it could put some people off buying an EV at a time when the Government wants people to make the switch.

The chancellor also said that two million low earners would be better off as he has raised the lowest rate they can be paid by 9.7% to £10.42 an hour. Pensioners and those on benefits will also see a rise in how much they get, while the NHS is due to get an extra £8bn and schools will get £2.3bn.

However, school leaders say that the extra money still isn’t enough. Dr Mary Bousted, from the National Education Union, said: “Any additional funding for our schools will meet some of their desperate need. However, the money announced by the chancellor will not be sufficient (enough) to prevent schools from having to make cuts.”

After the announcement, the Office for Budget Responsibility said they think the plans will lead to the biggest fall of living standards on record. The Government body says that the average household will be 7% worse off in the coming years, while the number of people without a job is expected to rise by more than 500,000.



Jeremy Hunt

Do more to stop childhood drinking, says British doctor

A BRITISH psychologist has said that children’s doctors need to do more to stop kids having problems with alcohol in the future.

Although it’s against the law for those under 18 to buy alcohol, it is not against the law for five to 17-year-olds to drink alcohol at home with their parents, but it’s not recommended.

Dr Aric Sigman says that doctors should be campaigning for the legal at-home drinking age to go up. He suggests that putting off the age that kids have their first taste of alcohol could cut the chance of them having problems with drinking in the future.

Alcohol use has been linked to more than 200 different illnesses and injuries. Dr Sigman also points out that it is a leading factor around the globe for people dying early and disabilities among 15 to 49-year-olds.

Do you think kids should be allowed to drink alcohol?

Let us know at first.news/polls



LGBT+ rights row over Qatar World Cup

PLANS for many European football team captains to wear OneLove armbands during their World Cup matches have been stopped by governing body FIFA.

The armbands were going to be worn by, among others, England captain Harry Kane and Wales captain Gareth Bale in support of LGBT+ rights. It is against the law to be gay in Qatar.

However, a group statement from seven European football associations said FIFA had made it clear that players wearing the armbands could be booked or even forced to leave the field of play.

Arguments continue

Another argument surrounding the Qatar World Cup saw a comedian divide opinion by appearing to shred £10,000 of his

own money. Joe Lycett was cross that ex-England footballer David Beckham is being paid by Qatar to be an ambassador for the World Cup. He said he would give the £10,000 to LGBT+ charities if Beckham stepped down from his role, and support LGBT+ people, or shred it if Beckham didn’t.

When he didn’t get a response from Beckham, Lycett filmed himself throwing £10,000 into a wood chipper. He later said that he hadn’t really shredded the money and that the stunt was “to get people talking”.

Lycett revealed he had already donated the money to LGBT+ charities before he began the stunt. However, he did go on to shred the cover of a gay magazine that Beckham had appeared on back in 2002.



Harry Kane wearing the OneLove armband

Scientists find out why poo floats

A NEW study thinks it’s got to the... erm, bottom of why some poos float and others sink.

Whether your poo is a floater or a sinker is down to the bacteria in your gut and how much gas they make. Nagarajan Kannan and his colleagues at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota tested loads of mouse poo to confirm this.

Germ-free mice (mice without gut bacteria) were bred and it turned out their poos were always sinkers. They even injected gut bacteria into some of those poos and saw that they started to float!

Kannan says for humans, whether your poo floats or sinks is down to lots of things like what you eat and the environment you live in. He says they don’t yet know if it’s healthier to do a floater or a sinker.





WORLD LEADERS AGREE HISTORIC DEAL AT COP27



by editor in chief Nicky Cox

TALKS through the night led to a historic agreement at the end of the COP27 climate change conference.

Nearly 200 countries signed up to a deal at the meeting of world leaders to help those who are worst hit by climate change.

Richer nations cause most of the greenhouse gases that are warming up the Earth. Yet, poorer countries are the ones that suffer the worst effects of climate change. Leaders from those countries have been asking for help for years. At last, a new fund to support them has been agreed.

The fund will help poorer countries cope with things like rising temperatures and sea levels. The plan is for the money to come from richer, developed nations and go to developing nations.

Time for richer countries to pay up

The UK is one of the nations that has been burning coal, oil and gas for around 200 years, contributing to the Earth warming up. But we will not be hit by climate change as much as some nations which could be almost wiped out

by sea level rises. Many of those countries have not been responsible for the release of harmful gases, yet up until now, have been paying the price for the damage caused.

The Egyptian hosts of COP27 are being congratulated for getting this agreement. The issue has caused arguments at the United Nations COP talks since they started 30 years ago.

Why does climate change matter?

The world is now about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the 19th century, and the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has risen by 50%.

Scientists say that, if we don't act, global warming could lead to more and worse heatwaves, rising sea levels and the loss of some animals and plants.

In 2015, leaders from 195 countries signed the Paris Climate Agreement. This was a commitment to keep the global temperature increase "well below" 2°C. Experts say we cannot go above this rise to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

World leaders at COP27 are saying now that they aim to limit the average rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C by the year 2100.

Recent floods put a third of Pakistan underwater. Eight million people had to leave damaged homes, 1,500 hospitals and clinics were wrecked, crops were destroyed – all at an estimated cost of \$28 billion (nearly £24 billion) in damages



Why does the UK use so much gas?

THE UK relies much more on gas than other European countries who use more heat pumps, shows a new study.

Electric heat pumps capture heat from outside and bring it inside to warm a building. The Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) said the UK is far behind

Europe with just 280,000 heat pumps installed compared to countries like France (3.1m) and Norway (1.3m).

They used Estonia as an example, which has 25 times more heat pumps per 100,000 people than the UK. They say if the UK matched Estonia's heat pump usage, we could cut our gas use by a lot.



NATIONAL TREE WEEK – 26 November – 4 December

The UK's largest celebration of trees and woods. Thousands of trees are planted to mark the start of the tree planting season.

MOBO AWARDS – 30 NOVEMBER

A host of musicians will be honoured at the famous award ceremony, which celebrates music of black origin.

MORE than three million people in the UK store their crisps in the fridge, a survey by fridge maker AEG found. Two out of five people (40%) admitted they would be happy to eat fridge-chilled crisps, if they were offered them. This baffled us, so we asked you, have you ever eaten crisps from the fridge? A huge 89% of you said NO!



No never, if I did I would be sick.

– **kadey.mc**

No, I just eat them from the cupboard.

– **nuggetwirl**

Yes, when my mum makes my lunch the night before.

– **foxgirl**

Eating crisps from the fridge is just weird!

– **hell0th3re**

I have never eaten crisps from a fridge and do not think I want to!

– **catgirl228**

I never have but if I was offered I would say yes.

– **scarlet10**

I like crisps room temperature. Not from the fridge all chilly and cold. Brrr!

– **potterwolf**

I don't get why you would eat crisps from the fridge! They are made to be eaten at room temperature.

– **bonniebill**

Join in the conversation
and cast your vote!

Vote at first.news/polls

**BELFAST****Lower speed limit makes little difference, says report**

Introducing 20mph speed limits on urban roads in Belfast has not improved road safety, says a new report. The speed limits were put in place on 76 roads across the city back in 2016. Researchers looked at data from before and after the limit, and found there had been little change to the number of accidents or people being injured. The roads did experience less traffic, but that didn't mean the drivers slowed down. The study suggests other factors, such as speed bumps, would need to be introduced to tackle the problem. But Mary Williams from the road safety charity, Brake, said 20mph limits are "life-saving". Wales only recently announced it would be adopting the same limits on restricted roads (those found in busy areas).

**WALES****Free tree scheme is back!**

Families living in Wales are being invited to collect free trees as part of a plan to help the climate and nature. The scheme was introduced by the Woodland Trust in March and is back for a second time now! It encourages people to visit tree giveaway hubs, pick up a tree and plant it in their garden. More than 50 collection hubs have been set up, with 295,000 trees available from now until March 2023. Welsh government Deputy Climate Change Minister, Lee Waters, said: "Trees are a lifeline to us and all of the amazing life that they support." The My Tree, Our Forest scheme will form part of the National Forest for Wales.

NORTHERN IRELAND**Air Ambulances Young Person of the Year**

Eleven-year-old Ellie Smyth (above, in red) has been crowned Air Ambulances UK 2022 Young Person of the Year. The annual awards celebrate the amazing skills and commitment of those working with, and in support of, the air ambulance community. Ellie scooped the young person award after raising £16,000 for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland (AANI). Ellie sadly lost her dad in a road traffic accident when she was eight, and she's been a big supporter of AANI ever since. Last year, she decided to organise a black-tie gala event to raise funds. Ellie attended all the planning meetings, decided the theme, designed the invites and found prize donors for a raffle.

UK**Schools lacking libraries**

One in seven primary schools does not have a library, says a new report by the Primary School Library Alliance. That means that around 750,000 children in the UK don't have access to books at school. The report showed that there are far more primary schools in the north of England without libraries – 18% said they don't have one in the north east and 16% in the north west – compared to 6% in the southeast of England. Author Cressida Cowell, who is a National Literacy Trust Ambassador, said: "How can a child learn to read for the joy of it if their parents cannot afford books, and their primary school does not have a library? We must work together to change this story and put a library and a librarian in every school."

GWYNEDD**Mount Snowdon gets Welsh name**

Mount Snowdon and Snowdonia National Park are to be known by their Welsh names, Park authorities have agreed. They took the decision after 5,000 people signed a petition calling for the change. Within the National Park, Snowdon will now be known as Yr Wyddfa (pronounced "Er with-va"), and Snowdonia National Park will be known as Eryri (pronounced "Eh-ruh-re"). Naomi Jones, head of cultural heritage at the Eryri National Park Authority, said: "By referring to our most renowned landmarks by their Welsh names we give people from all over the world the opportunity to engage with the Welsh language and its rich culture."



Mount Snowdon will be known as Yr Wyddfa

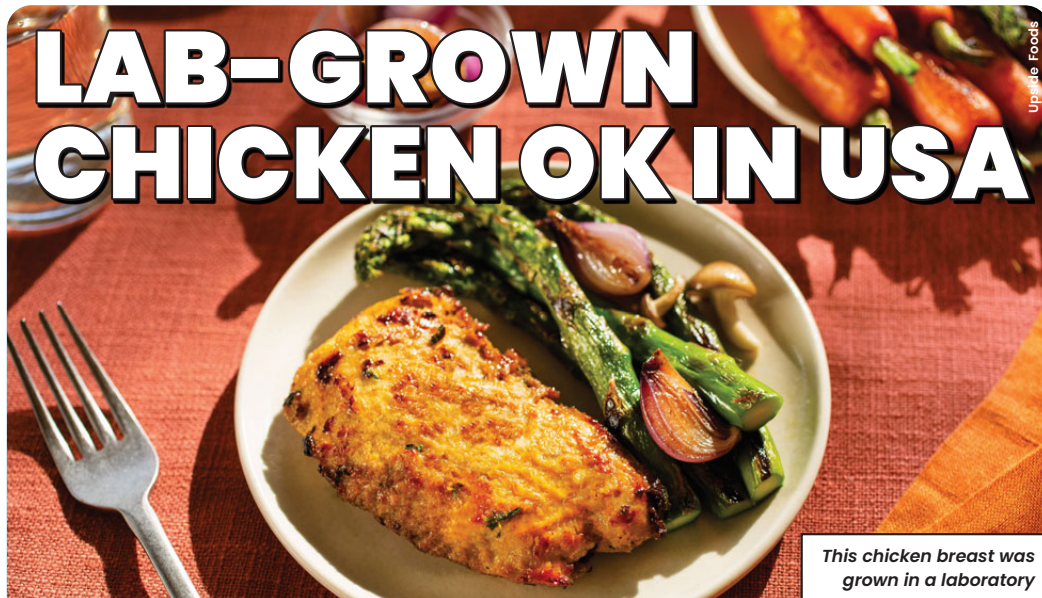
NORFOLK**Hunt for mystery card owner**

A blogger from America is trying to track down the owner of a Mother's Day card she found in a book. Alice de Sturler from Virginia found the handmade card tucked away inside an Agatha Christie novel she bought online. It simply reads: "To mum, love from Kit." Alice said she now hopes to reunite the card with its mum, who she believes comes from Norfolk in the UK. The book features a Norfolk Library Service stamp, showing it was last borrowed on 24 January 2020. A social media appeal has failed to find the owner as yet, so the mystery continues.





LAB-GROWN CHICKEN OK IN USA



This chicken breast was grown in a laboratory

AMERICAN authorities have approved the sale of chicken grown in a laboratory.

It is the first time a meat product grown in a lab has been cleared for humans to eat in the USA.

The country's food and drug administration (FDA) has given its approval for a company called Upside Foods to take living cells from chickens and then grow them in a lab, in order to produce a meat product.

It means no animals will be killed for the meat, reducing animal suffering and the meat industry's impact on the environment, too.

The FDA has also said it is "engaged in discussions with multiple firms" about approving other lab-grown meat and seafood products. Singapore is currently the only country in which lab-grown meat can be legally sold, but this decision by the FDA may now lead to lots of other countries doing the same.

Lab-grown meat uses much less water than the traditional meat industry and gives off fewer carbon emissions. Earlier this year, a study in Finland looked at the environmental impact of lab-grown meat and food made from insects. Scientists studied the use of water, land and potential carbon emissions. They found that switching meat, dairy and other animal products for alternatives could reduce these environmental impacts by more than 80%.

Right now, there are more than 150 companies around the world working on meat products grown in a laboratory. Food experts think it will become a very big

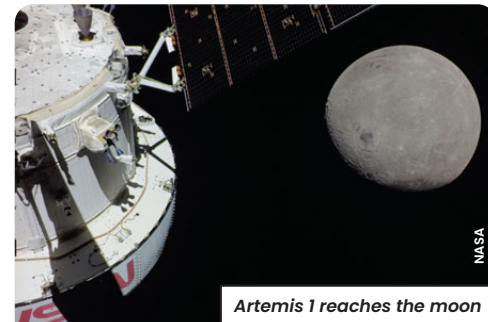
business in the near future.

Our eating habits have a direct impact on the future of the planet. The global production of food is responsible for a third of all greenhouse gases caused by human activity. Raising animals for meat is responsible for most of this, while about 70% of all fresh water supplies on Earth go into the meat industry.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Stem cells – cells that can develop into many different types of cell – are taken from a single chicken. These cells will go on to produce the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of traditionally farmed birds.
2. These cells are grown in a laboratory, fed with special feed that contains lots of things including sugars, salts and vitamins.
3. The cells and cell feed are placed in a vessel called a cultivator. Over time, they grow into tissues. In the cultivator, the tissue can be formed into any shape – including traditional chicken breasts or drumsticks.
4. After about three weeks in the cultivators, the tissue is now meat ready for "harvest" – which means it will be inspected, prepared, packed, served and gobbled up.

Third time lucky for Artemis 1



Artemis 1 reaches the moon

NASA'S Artemis 1 mission, containing the most powerful space rocket ever, has finally launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

There had been several delays to the moon mission in the past few months. The most recent launch, in October, was cancelled because of a hurricane. Previous attempts in August and September were scrapped due to technical faults.

The Artemis programme aims to eventually send humans back to the moon by 2025, more than 50 years after the last mission.

Artemis 1, which is the test rocket and the Orion spacecraft, took off from NASA's launch site at Cape Canaveral, Florida at 1:47 in the morning (6:47 in the UK). The 100m-tall Artemis vehicle climbed skyward with a mission to hurl Orion, the astronaut capsule, in the direction of the moon.

This mission is just a test-drive, so no humans are on board. But three mannequins and a soft Snoopy toy are being carried in Orion, which will travel for 25 days before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on 11 December. It has already travelled the 385,000km to the moon, and will now orbit several times before coming back to Earth.

December marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 17, the last mission to take astronauts to the lunar surface. NASA is calling this new programme Artemis because that's Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology.

NASA is set to break new ground by sending the first ever female astronauts to the moon. So far, only white males have been up there. A later mission will send the first person of colour to the moon.

Earth water evidence

A SPACE rock that landed in the UK could help scientists to understand where Earth's water first came from.

A common theory is that Earth had no water billions of years ago and some scientists think water came when icy meteorites crashed onto the planet.

The Winchcombe meteorite (right) crashed onto someone's driveway last year. The rock is 4.6 billion years old, making it the oldest meteorite ever found in the UK.

Scientists were able to work out where in the solar system it came from by using a mix of special meteor cameras that followed its path, as well as cameras on people's homes and cars that captured it landing on Earth.

A new report from Dr Ashley King says that the Winchcombe meteorite came from somewhere near Jupiter and the water inside it is close to Earth's water.

Dr King said: "Meteorites like Winchcombe are a pretty good match [to] the water in the Earth's oceans and suggests asteroids were the main source of water."



This report is from the Science Museum in London

THIRTY years ago, the first SMS (text) message was sent in the UK.

SMS stands for Short Message Service. On 3 December 1992, 22-year-old Neil Papworth sent the very first message from a computer. The SMS said, quite simply, 'Merry Christmas'. A year later, Nokia introduced an SMS feature that beeped to signal a new message.

At first, texts had a 160-character limit. This led to the evolution of text speak, such as LOL, to keep messages short. It wasn't until 1997 that texts could be sent to each other over multiple networks. Nowadays, millions of messages of best wishes are sent all over the world over the festive period – and all year round!

You can find out more about 200 years of communication technologies in the Information Age gallery at the Science Museum in London.



An early mobile phone and its chunky charger!

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP



USA



Fires lead to e-bike bans

E-bikes, which are bicycles with electric motors powered by rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, have caused fires across New York. In 2022 so far, the city has seen 200 lithium-ion battery fires, and six related deaths. Some building owners are now banning residents and their guests from keeping e-bikes in their homes. Ash Lovell, a director at PeopleForBikes, told news organisation *Axios*, that "most fires are linked to batteries that don't meet safety standards", and that people should only use industry-certified batteries in their e-bikes.



FRANCE

Reunited after 78 years

A 99-year-old British veteran who shared his food with a young girl in France during World War Two has been reunited with her 78 years later. While in Normandy in June 1944, Reg Pye, who was 21, spotted a 14-year-old girl staring at him as he ate his evening meal – bread and jam, and tinned fish – and gave her the bread and jam. The next morning, Mr Pye found some milk, and a picture of the young girl with a written message on the back, which he's kept in his wallet ever since. A volunteer from Taxi Charity for Military Veterans heard Mr Pye's story, and ran a social media campaign to help reunite the pair. The girl, named Huguette, is now 92. On meeting, Mr Pye showed Huguette the picture, and gave her another jam sandwich!



AUSTRALIA



Deliveroo quits the country

Food delivery company Deliveroo has announced that it is leaving Australia. The company, which is based in the UK, blamed tough economic conditions, and said that it was a "difficult decision" to take. In recent months, Deliveroo has been under pressure to improve conditions for its riders who deliver food, and faced competition from other delivery companies. The news has meant that around 14,000 riders and 150 staff members have suddenly lost their jobs. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said during this year's election campaign that he would work to improve the rights of workers if his party won. Some have said that Deliveroo are leaving because these new laws will mean that it would cost more to run the company, because they'd have to treat their workers better and pay them a minimum wage.



BRAZIL



New president pledges to protect the Amazon

At the COP27 climate summit, Brazil's president-to-be, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (above, centre), has said that "Brazil is back" on the world stage, and that "climate change would have the highest priority for his government". He also pledged to protect the Amazon's indigenous people. Under the current president, Jair Bolsonaro, many laws protecting the rainforest and indigenous people's land were removed.



ETHIOPIA

Food aid arrives

Lorries carrying food aid have entered the war-torn northern region of Tigray for the first time since a peace deal was agreed. War between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front had cut communications between the region and the rest of the world, and stopped fuel, food and medicine from making it in. Researchers working in Belgium say that several hundred thousand people in Tigray may have died since the conflict began.



A man flies the Ethiopian flag



NEW ZEALAND

Lowering the voting age

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (right) has announced that New Zealand's politicians will vote on whether to lower the national voting age from 18 to 16. The announcement came shortly after the country's Supreme Court said that not allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote was a form of age discrimination (unfair treatment). For the voting age to be lowered, 75% of lawmakers would need to agree. Ardern said that the vote will take place in the next few months.



ELLYANNE HEARS HOW FARMERS ARE DEALING WITH DROUGHT



THIS is the third report in our series about the six children who feature in a new Sky Kids show for COP27 called *Six Ways To Save Our Planet*. They each explore some of the solutions to the huge problems facing our planet. This week, we hear from 13-year-old Ellyanne Wanjiku Chlystun from Kenya about tackling drought.

Meet Ellyanne

Ellyanne is an environmentalist and one of East Africa's youngest climate change ambassadors. She started planting trees at the age of four and has now planted more than a million trees! She was nominated to receive 'Kenya's youngest Mashujaa' (meaning hero), an honour given to exceptional people by the Kenyan government.

She's sharing how tree planting could help grow crops in areas facing long droughts, which is when a region isn't getting enough rain and the land is becoming dry.

The problem

Kenya is facing its longest drought in four decades, which is affecting both people and wildlife. In eastern and northern Kenya, just a few hours drive from Ellyanne's city, land that used to be green and healthy, and producing food for the people who live there, has become dry and crops are failing.

This means that more than seven million people are starving in northeastern Kenya, with millions more suffering in neighbouring countries.

As Ellyanne explains, Africa has one of the smallest carbon footprints, but is becoming the biggest victim of climate change.

Ellyanne speaks to Tiffany Kariuki from World Vision, who explains that "lives will be lost" unless something is done to help get more food into the region.



Ellyanne in Kenya

The solution

In western Kenya, drought became so bad that the area was declared a semi-desert – but now it's green.

This is because farmers took action before it was too late, with the help of Ellyanne's favourite weapon to fight climate change – trees!

By planting crops around trees, the crops have a better chance of survival.

When a tree has become established, its roots can draw up water that's buried deep underground. They can also keep rainwater around them and collect things like minerals and organic materials that help crops.

Plus, the trees act as a canopy, protecting crops from the wind and the harsh sun.

Charities have trained more than 100,000 young farmers on how to bring their farms back to life.



A behind-the-scenes pic from filming in Kenya



A greenhouse for a women's group has dried up after running out of water

Getty



You can watch the whole *Six Ways To Save Our Planet* film in school or at home on the *First News* app and on [first.news/educationTV](https://www.first.news/educationTV), made easy by scanning the QR code.



SCHOOLS! Themed resources, created by the *First News* team around *Six Ways To Save Our Planet*, are available to download at [first.news/sixways](https://www.first.news/sixways).

SET UP YOUR OWN FYI NEWS CLUB!

START an FYI News Club, and you could create your own report for FYI, and get your story featured in *First News*. It's easy to get involved: just ask your teacher to go to [first.news/FYInewsclub](https://www.first.news/FYInewsclub) to find out

more about the FYI News Clubs.

Watch the show every week on the *First News* app, at [first.news/educationTV](https://www.first.news/educationTV), on Sky News and Sky Kids.



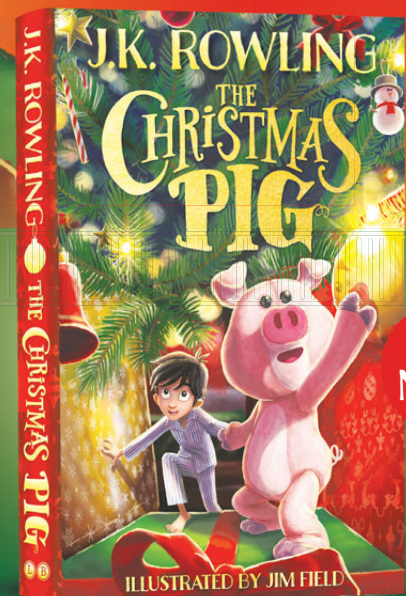
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OUT
NOW

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IT'S beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We're feeling fabulously festive here at *First News*, and we want you to join us in our merriment! To help you get into the Christmas spirit, over the next few pages you'll find our round-up of cracking Christmas entertainment for you and your family to enjoy this winter, starting with some truly...

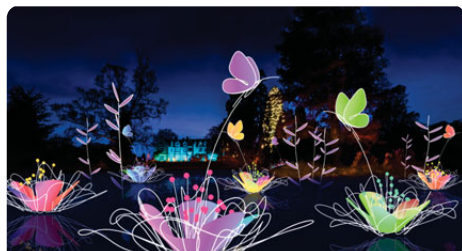
WONDERFULLY WINTRY ACTIVITIES

FROM sledging and crafting to ice-skating and sing-alongs, check out these Christmas crackers...

Get your glow on – Sussex

Go for a winter wander around the award-winning Glow Wild lantern trail at Wakehurst. It features 11 installations and more than 1,000 handmade paper lanterns inspired by the colours of nature.

tinyurl.com/GlowWild22



Take a Christmas tree trail – Bournemouth

This free festive trail, called Christmas Tree Wonderland, will feature lovely lights, trees from around the world, an 18m walk-through tree and a Christmas market.

www.christmastreewonderland.co.uk



Step into a Winter Wonderland – London

Jam-packed with festive fun, at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland there are rides, shows and Santaland, where you're transported to the North Pole. Yule not want to miss it!

www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com



Light up your life – Blackpool

The world-famous Blackpool Illuminations features six miles of dazzling lights and displays, using one million lamps and 500 designs and features – and best of all, it's free!

tinyurl.com/BPlights



Skate under the stars – Glasgow

Pretend you're on *Dancing on Ice* at the UK's biggest ice rink, Elfingrove. Set against the backdrop of Kelvingrove Museum, there's also a Snow Wheel and you can even hit the ice with the big man himself, Santa Claus.

www.itison.com/elfingrove



Play in the real snow – Staffordshire

Do you want to build a snowman? Then head to SnowDome for Santa's Winter Wonderland. Enjoy the snow trail, where you get to sled and play in real snow, then watch a show and go on to explore Santa's Christmas Village.

tinyurl.com/swwsd



Get musical – Belfast

Enjoy the classic Christmas movie *The Snowman* with the Ulster Orchestra at Waterfront Hall, Belfast and have a sing-along guaranteed to get you feeling festive.

tinyurl.com/BelfastSnow



Try some crazy crafts – Yorkshire

Get creative and join the elves at Ormesby Hall to make some awesome Christmas crafts. This is a free event, but you do have to pay the normal admission charges for the venue.

tinyurl.com/OrmCraft





CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

GET creative this Crimbo with some fun festive makes.

PEG SNOWMEN

Transform an old peg into a new festive friend!



You'll need...

- A wooden peg
- White paint
- Paint brush
- Orange felt or card
- Small pom-poms
- Black pen
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pipe cleaners

Be very careful when using scissors and glue and check with an adult first!



1. Paint your peg white. While you're waiting for the paint to dry, draw a triangle shape on the orange felt or card for the nose and cut it out.



2. Draw on your snowman's eyes and mouth, and glue on his nose.



3. Glue on pom-pom buttons and wrap the pipe cleaner scarf around the peg.



TRY THESE...



SWEET SNOWGLOBE

All you need is an old jar, glue, glitter, a Christmas toy like a tree or Santa, glycerine and water. First, glue your toy to the inside of the jar lid. Fill the jar with water, some glitter and 2-3tsp of glycerine, screw the lid on and you're done!



LOLLIPOP ORNAMENTS

Use old lollipop sticks to create new decorations for your tree. Just paint them, stick them together and decorate.



CUSTOMISE YOUR OWN WRAPPING PAPER

Got a spare potato? Then why not try potato printing to give plain wrapping paper a new look. Cut the potato in two, carefully cut out a Christmas tree shape, dip in green paint and print on the paper.

WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO READ THIS CHRISTMAS?

GETTING lost in a good book is brilliant at any time of the year, but when it's wet and windy outside during winter, it can feel especially special! But which book will you choose to read? It's a tricky one, but don't worry, we've got a handy-dandy guide to help you out, so that this Christmas, you're reading the perfect book for you!

If you're an animal lover...

● *Grimwood: Let the Fur Fly* by Nadia Shireen

The second adventure in the hilarious Grimwood series features our favourite funny fox cub siblings, Ted and Nancy, who return to fight for their forest home!



● *The Story of Greenriver* by Holly Webb, illustrated by Zanna Goldhawk

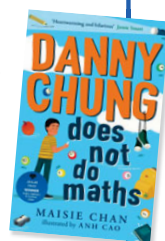
The waters are high and the animals of Greenriver are in danger. Can the beaver, Silken, and the otter, Sedge, save their home?



Seeking school-based silliness?

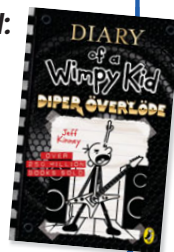
● *Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths* by Maisie Chan, illustrated by Anh Cho

When would-be artist Danny Chung is forced into sharing his room with his grandmother, his 'Nai-Nai', he's not happy. But he soon discovers that there's more to his Nai-Nai than meets the eye.



● *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Diper Överlöde* by Jeff Kinney

Book 17 of the brilliantly funny Wimpy Kid series is here, and it's just as entertaining as the others! Can Greg help his brother's band become rock 'n' roll legends?



Looking for legendary laughs?

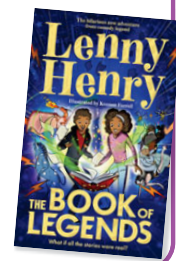
● *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good* by Louie Stowell

The diary of trickster god Loki, who finds himself trapped in the body of an 11-year-old boy. Absolutely packed full of fun!



● *The Book of Legends* by Lenny Henry, illustrated by Keenon Ferrell

Quests are no joke... but there are lots of jokes in this book! Join Bran and Fran as they face down evil princes, mud monsters and Viking armies.



For the wannabe wizards...

● *Hedgewitch* by Skye McKenna

Step into the wondrous world of Hedgewitch, the land of Faerie where an ancient evil will put the magical training of Cassie, Rue and Tabitha to the test.



● *The Book of Stolen Dreams* by David Farr, illustrated by Kristina Kister

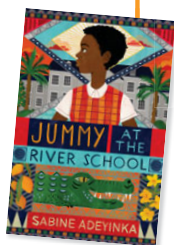
The race is on for Rachel and Robert, who must keep an astonishingly powerful book from the hands of the cruel Charles Malstain. An epic adventure.



A story set in someone else's shoes...

● *Jummy at the River School* by Sabine Adeyinka

Jummy has won a place at the River School, the finest girls' boarding school in Nigeria. But when her best friend arrives to work, not to learn, Jummy and her friends come together to help.



● *Project Fairy* by Jacqueline Wilson

Mab's mum is obsessed with fairies – she even named Mab after the Fairy Queen! Mab doesn't quite get it, but she knows that fairies make her mum happy, especially since her dad left. A magical story that deals with some tough topics.



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If you were inspired by *The Great British Bake Off* this year, then why not whip up some tasty festive treats for your family and friends this Christmas? Try these easy recipes to get you started.

CHOCOLATE CHRISTMAS PUDDING MUFFINS

THESE chocolate muffins are decorated to look like little Christmas puddings. Tasty and festive!

Always ask an adult to help when using hot ovens or hobs

Shopping list:

- 250g self-raising flour
- 25g cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 175g caster sugar
- 175ml milk
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 100ml vegetable oil
- 75g chocolate chunks
- 1-2 tsp vanilla extract
- 200g white chocolate

What to do

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C / gas mark 5 and line a 12-hole deep muffin or cupcake tray with paper muffin cases.
2. Sift the flour, cocoa and baking powder together, then stir in the sugar.
3. In a separate jug, mix the eggs, milk, oil and vanilla extract, then pour into the dry mixture and mix together.
4. Stir in the chocolate chunks; it doesn't matter if the mixture is lumpy. Then spoon into the cases.

5. Bake for around 20 minutes or until springy to the touch. Cool in the tin for 10mins, then transfer to a wire rack and leave until cold.

6. Melt the white chocolate then leave it to cool slightly until it starts to thicken. Spoon onto the top of the muffins, letting it dribble down the sides. Decorate with shop-bought decorations or make your own using red and green fondant icing.



All aboard for Christmas at London Transport Museum

From Friday 25 November

Book at
ltmuseum.co.uk
 Registered charity number 1123122

#LetsDoLondon



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

MAYOR OF LONDON

KIDS GO FREE





Melted snowmen

THESE cute festive biscuits are made with a shortbread recipe, but you could make cookies or gingerbread if you prefer!

Shopping list:

- 125g butter
- 55g caster sugar
- 180g plain flour

To decorate:

- 150g icing sugar
- Boiling water
- Round biscuit cutters

- Icing pens and decorations (we used shop-bought icing carrots)
- White marshmallows



What to do:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 5.
2. Beat the butter and sugar together until smooth. You can do this by hand or with an electric mixer.
3. Sift in the flour and mix together until it makes a smooth mixture – you don't want any lumps.
4. Tip the dough mixture out onto a work surface (dust it with flour first to stop it sticking) and roll out into a flat sheet around 1cm thick. Use a round biscuit cutter to cut out as many circles as you can, placing them on a lined baking sheet as you go. Re-roll any leftover dough and keep cutting biscuits until you've used it all up. Chill the biscuits in the fridge for 20 minutes.
5. Bake in the centre of a preheated oven for 8-12 minutes until a pale golden colour. You

don't want them to be too brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.

6. When the biscuits are completely cool you can decorate them. Sieve your icing sugar into a bowl and add boiled water one tablespoon at a time. Mix well. You want the icing to be thick but still spreadable. If you accidentally make it too runny, just add more icing sugar.

7. Spread a good dollop of icing on each biscuit and smooch it around. You want it to look a bit messy, like a puddle of melted snow. While the icing is still wet, pop one marshmallow on top of each. Leave to dry.

8. When the icing is set, use your icing pens to draw a face on each marshmallow, followed by buttons and arms. There are no rules here, just decorate as you like! You could use different types of sweets to make scarves, hats and other accessories.

Krispy lollies

CRISPY, gooey treats that are fun to make and even more fun to decorate.



Shopping List:

- 45g butter
- 300g mini marshmallows
- 180g Rice Krispies or similar
- Lolly sticks
- Baking paper
- Shaped cookie cutters (we used trees and gingerbread men)

To decorate:

- Melted chocolate or candy melts (available from Amazon, Hobbycraft and specialist baking shops)
- A selection of sweets and cake decorations

What to do:

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a low heat. Add the marshmallows and cook gently until they're completely melted – make sure you stir continuously.
2. Take the pan off the heat and add the cereal, mixing together until well coated.
3. Dip your hands in a bowl of cold water (it will be easier to shape the mixture, but food-

safe gloves also work) and press the mixture into the cookie cutter shapes, using the baking paper as a base. Then carefully press the shapes out onto the baking paper.

4. Press a lolly stick into the base of the lollipop and leave to set until firm.

5. To finish, dip into melted chocolate or candy melts and decorate as you like!



Are you ready for an RSPB adventure?

Come to RSPB nature reserves this winter and meet our very special visitor! Robin's the star of the Aardman film **Robin Robin**, available to watch now on Netflix.

Every year, Robin and her family go on a Big Sneak to find food for the winter. Why not bring your family for their own Sneak adventure on our Robin Robin trails, from 26 November? Robin has recorded special messages for you along the way, and there are activity packs to keep little ones entertained too.

Find your next adventure at

rspb.org.uk/robinrobin



NETFLIX **AARDMAN**

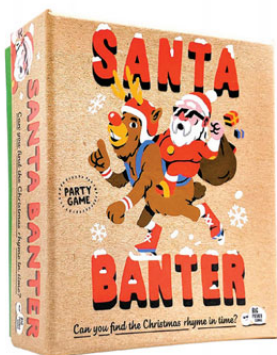


FANTASTIC GAMES TO PLAY OVER CHRISTMAS

GATHERING together to play a game is a classic part of Christmas! Here are a few of our favourites for the festive season.

Santa Banter

This brilliant rhyming game from the creators of Obama Llama will have you shouting out all sorts of weird and wonderful Christmassy rhymes. From "Three wise men visiting Big Ben" to "Santa Claus watching Star Wars". Your job is to describe or mime these rhymes, with your team shouting out as many as they can!



Board games

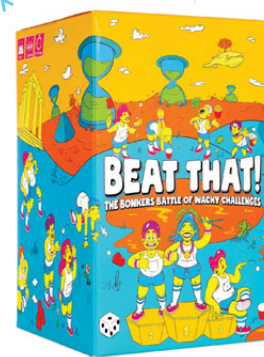
Outfoxed!

For up to four players, this board game sees you working together to catch the fox who has stolen Mrs Plumpert's prized pie! A different sort of game that's easy enough to understand, so that younger siblings can play too!



Beat That!

Beat That! has 160 challenges for you to complete, alone or against the other players. That could be bouncing a ball over a stack of cups, or singing a song with a drink in your mouth! These games are sure to have you laughing like Father Christmas himself. Ping pong balls, cups, chopsticks and tape measures are all included. A great game for all the family!



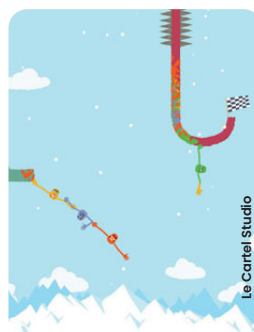
Just Dance 2023

Burn off those mince pies and get dancing! In *Just Dance*, you've simply got to copy the dancing character on screen. Plus, the 2023 edition of the game has online multiplayer, so you can dance with friends and family wherever they are in the world!

Videogames

Heave Ho

We're not sure we've ever laughed as much as the first time we played *Heave Ho*. Supporting up to four players, you've got to make your way to the end of a level, trying not to fall to your death as you grab onto your teammates. Very difficult, very silly and very much fun!



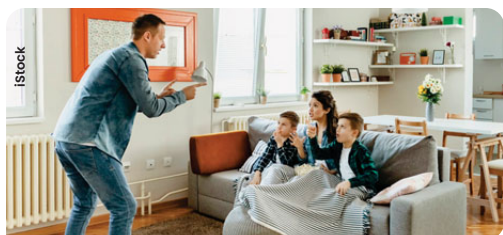
Mario Party Superstars

Challenge up to three other players in this videogame/board game mash-up for the Nintendo Switch. Make your way around a virtual board, collect coins through minigames and find the most stars to win! Featuring courses and minigames from other Mario Party games, there's fun to be had for both newbies and veterans of the series.



Charades

Is it really Christmas if you've not played a game of charades? Should you not have played before, the idea is to act out a word or phrase without speaking. Once someone has successfully guessed what you're doing, they're up next! Need a suggestion to start the game? Here's a fun one: banana!



Indoor games



Who Am I?

All you need are a few Post-it notes for this one! Everyone writes the name of an animal, object or famous person on a sticky note and puts it on another player's head, without them seeing! Then, the Post-it wearer asks the other players 'yes or no' questions about who they are. First one to figure it out wins!

Human Christmas Tree

Once you've finished with the presents, or dinner, or maybe if you just have a few spare decorations, why not try this silly game? Pick one person to be the judge, and then split into teams. One person in each team is the human Christmas tree, and it's up to the others to decorate them the best, using whatever they can find, in just one minute! Bonus points for whoever looks the most like a Christmas tree!



A MAGICAL FESTIVE SEASON AWAITS!

Bring your family along to a sleigh-full of shows at the Royal Albert Hall this Christmas.

HOME ALONE IN CONCERT

Saturday
10 December

See this classic Christmas comedy on the big screen while the score is performed by a live symphony orchestra.



MY CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRAL ADVENTURE

Sunday 11 December

Calling Santa's little helpers! Join us for a magical journey through festive classical music. Santa has lost his map and we need to help him find his way.



BSL STORYTIME WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS

Friday 9 – Saturday 10 December

Father Christmas and his Head Elf, Crumpet, will be inviting little ones to join them for a storytelling session with a BSL interpreter. Plus, all kids will get a gift to take home!

BSL sessions are available. Please use code BSLSanta when booking.



THE NUTCRACKER

Wednesday 28
– Saturday
31 December

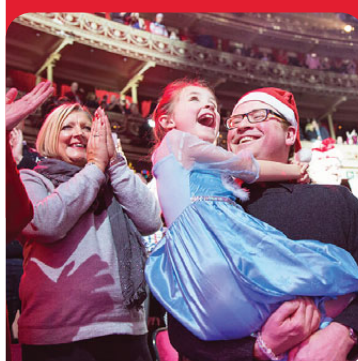
It's not Christmas without *The Nutcracker*! This enchanting ballet, with dazzling projections and characters, will keep both grandparents and the kids entertained.



CAROLS AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Saturday 17 –
Saturday 24 December

Want to treat the whole family? Invite everyone to the finest sing-along carol concert of the festive season with a great mix of carols – old and new!



Find out more at royalalberthall.com/Christmas

15 
MORE HISTORY TO MAKE
Royal Albert Hall



CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT GAME

amazon.co.uk £3.69

Add a touch of magic to your Christmas with this Christmas treasure hunt game and help Santa find his missing reindeer. Hide the clues around the house, and then send your family and friends off to find them. Each card finds one reindeer. Solve the clues and find all the reindeer to save Christmas.



Family fun

CHRISTMAS MONOPOLY

Iwantoneofthose.com £25.99

Get the festive season started with this special Christmas Edition of Monopoly! Will you choose to play as Rudolph, a snowman or Santa himself? While decorating the tree and doing your Christmas shopping, travel around the board collecting your favourite things, from Santa and his reindeer to a full festive feast.



TRADITIONAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE KIT

lakeland.co.uk £14.99

Spend a winter's afternoon making this fairytale-style gingerbread house. Each gingerbread house part is pre-baked and ready to be stuck together with white icing. All you need to do then is build your house and decorate it. Everything is included, from the foundations up.



BRILLIANT BATH BOMBS

theworks.co.uk £7.00

Why not use this kit to make your own bath bombs and give them as presents? There are four in the kit for you to make with the help of an adult, along with a colourful instruction booklet for you to follow.



Grown-ups

SHRINK KEYRING KIT

adandishop.co.uk £9.95

This kit includes everything you need to make your own tiny little keyring gift. Use the pens to write your message or draw something, then put it into the oven (with the help of an adult) and watch as it shrinks down to a solid keyring that is bound to be loved forever!

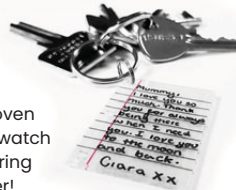


PHOTO JIGSAW

asda-photo.co.uk from £10.00

Make a personalised jigsaw puzzle out of a loved one's favourite photo, which they can do again and again, or put in a frame once completed.



SOCKS

thepresentfinder.co.uk £6.99

Who doesn't love a new pair of socks at Christmas? Make getting dressed in the morning a little bit more fun with these bright rainbow socks! Keep your toes toasty warm while waiting for summer to arrive.



Siblings

EARBUD CLEANING KIT

johnlewis.com £9.00

Keep your precious earbuds squeaky clean with this earbud cleaning kit. The kit includes 11 pieces to clean your earbuds whenever you need to. There are soft bristle brushes, cleaning swabs, a cleaning spray bottle, a soft brush, and anti-static cleaning wipes. Perfect for keeping your earbuds in the best condition.



STRETCH STAR WARS STORMTROOPER

amazon.co.uk £14.99

Star Wars Stormtroopers are now in stretch form! Stretch your Stormtrooper and tie them in knots! Then watch as it slowly returns to a normal size and shape! A perfect gift for any Star Wars fan.



CAT SELECTION BOX

petsplay.co.uk £5.40

Delight your furry cat friend this Christmas with a box of four different packs of natural treats. Treats include chicken breast fillet mini strips, duck breast fillet mini strips, salmon fillet mini strips, chicken and cheese duo bites.



Pets

SPROUT BALL DOG TOY

wilko.com £8.00

Make this festive season special for your canine friends with this cute Christmas sprout ball dog toy. How can you not like sprouts, especially when they're wearing a Christmas hat and squeaking?



CHRISTMAS DINNER PLATE TOY

petsathome.com £5.50

Treat your rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils and hamsters to their very own Christmas dinner with this fun dinner toy. With a wood dust turkey, rope carrot and parsnips, plus two types of potatoes, this will keep them busy for the whole festive season.



*All prices correct at time of printing



FASCINATING FESTIVE FACTS

WE hope you find these festive facts far more fascinating than any that can be found inside a Christmas cracker!

Although Christians celebrate Jesus' birthday on 25 December, no-one actually knows when he was born.

You're probably aware that Christmas traditions and stories vary from country to country, but did you know that in Italy, children receive toys from a kind witch called La Befana (right), who is said to fly around on a broomstick!

In Iceland, many children leave their shoes under the window, in the hope that they'll receive sweets from 13 mischievous trolls called the Yule Lads. If they've been good, they'll get the sweets, but if they've been bad, the Yule Lads will leave them a rotten potato!

Way back in 1645, Christmas was cancelled! When Oliver Cromwell and his army took over England they vowed to rid the country of what they saw as unnecessary pleasures, so cancelled Christmas. Charles II was soon returned to the throne and brought the holiday back!

It's thought that in the UK we buy 10 million turkeys at Christmas and 750 million Brussels sprouts!

For many people around the world, winter means Christmas, but for Jewish people, it means Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights. Since they're at similar times, you might think that Hanukkah is the Jewish version of Christmas, but you'd be mistaken, as it has nothing to do with Christmas at all! Hanukkah is an eight-night celebration of the story of a Jewish priest called Judah Maccabee, who led the Jews over 2,000 years ago. He and his followers won a battle against a Greek king who had taken over their temple. When they re-entered the temple they found only enough oil to light their lamp for one day. However, it's said that the oil lasted for eight days – exactly how long it took to get new oil, which they said was a miracle. Today, eight candles are lit over the Hannukah period in honour of that miracle.

In Ukraine, spiders are considered symbols of good luck and people decorate their trees with decorations that look like spiders' webs.

RSPCA

GREAT COMPETITIONS

AMAZING RSPCA

EXCITING RSPCA RESCUES

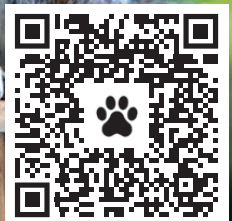


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ANIMALS?**





DECORATION DANGERS

THE festive season has officially begun, and while it's exciting to start putting up Christmas decorations, it's important to remember to make sure that your pets stay safe at this time of year.

Christmas trees covered in lights and pretty baubles look amazing to humans *and* to pets. It's important that you don't leave your pets alone with your Christmas tree. Dogs may want to play



iStock

with baubles and decorations, which can be especially dangerous if they're made of glass. Plus chocolate is poisonous to dogs, so if they manage to sneak chocolate decorations off the tree they could become very sick.

Cats love to climb and if there is a new tree to explore in their home, then they will want to climb it! Not only do they risk getting tangled in the lights and tinsel, they could even knock the whole thing down, hurting themselves and even you in the process.

Small animals like rabbits and guinea pigs like to chew, so make sure the cables for any lights are kept secure and tucked away to avoid them getting nibbled. And festive plants like poinsettias, holly, ivy, mistletoe and lilies are all toxic for pets, so you may want to think carefully before buying any for your home.

There are lots of tips on keeping your pets happy and safe over Christmas at [rspca.org.uk](https://www.rspca.org.uk).



iStock

Bird crime too high, says report



RSPB

AN annual report by the RSPB has found that raptors (birds of prey) in the UK are still being illegally shot, trapped and killed in high numbers.

The *Birdcrime Report 2021* found that in 2021 there were 108 confirmed incidents in the UK of raptors being hurt illegally, poisoned or killed. The bird species targeted included 50 buzzards, 16 red kites, seven peregrine falcons, three goshawks and four owls.

Experts fear this is just the tip of the iceberg, with many other attacks on birds going unreported. In the UK, birds of prey have been protected by law since the 1950s and are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making all attacks on these birds a crime.

Manta ray discovery

THE world's largest population of oceanic manta rays has been discovered off the coast of Ecuador.

Scientists identifying the manta rays found ten times the number usually found in groups of this species, with an estimated population of 22,000. Oceanic manta rays can usually be found in groups of between 1,000-2,000. Such small population groups can leave them

very vulnerable and sensitive to changes or threats in their habitat. Oceanic manta rays are the largest species of ray and can have wingspans of up to six metres.

They can be quite hard to study, so lots of photographs and location data for this report was submitted by scuba divers. The full report has been published in the scientific journal *Marine Ecology Progress Series*.



iStock



ACTOR Alisha Weir plays Matilda Wormwood in one of this year's biggest film releases, *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. We chatted to Alisha to find out more about playing such a well-known character.

● **Matilda is such a famous character, were you nervous about playing her?**

Yes, definitely, but I just thought that all I could do was my best. Matthew, the director, must have seen something that he liked in the way that I portrayed the role, so I just told myself to put myself in her shoes and play the best Matilda that I could.

● **What was it like being on set?**

I flew over from Ireland in February for seven months. Two months were for rehearsals and then for five months we were filming. I was quite nervous just to meet all the kids and all the actors because they are all so amazing. Everyone was really welcoming and all the kids were so nice. The two months of rehearsals really helped to get to know everyone and so when we went filming we kind of knew what we were doing. It was really exciting though, the first thing we filmed was Bruce's scene with the cake. It was really good because we were all together.



● **People always think film sets are glamorous, but some of the scenes in the film don't look very glamorous, what were they like to film?**

Ha! There are bits and pieces that are glamorous but some that are not. The assault course scene was definitely not glamorous because we got covered in muck and water, but it was really fun as we were all sprayed wet and muddy. It took about a week or two to film as we had to get cleaned between each scene. It was a lot of fun going on all the obstacles though, and my favourite was definitely the monkey bars.

● **The Trunchbull (Emma Thompson) is quite a scary character, what was it like filming with her?**

It was amazing because I have grown up watching Emma Thompson in all these films. It was nerve-racking at first, but honestly everyone was so amazing, they couldn't have been nicer to me. When we were filming with Emma it was like there were two different people. There was Emma and then there was Trunchbull and she would switch in and out of the two when they yelled action or cut. It was quite scary seeing Trunchbull for the first time!



MAGICAL MATILDA

● **Matilda loves school, do you love it as much?**

I like school! I started secondary school this year and I knew a few people going to my school, although not too many, but I have made lots of new friends. I really enjoy school and I don't dislike any subject, but in primary school I would say my favourite lesson was science.

● **You had to attend school while on the film set, what was that like?**

I got to do it with all the other kids, so that was amazing. It was completely different, but my teacher in Ireland sent me over the work that they were doing so I could keep up. The kids were all so kind and I loved doing it, it was something different but cool.

● **The songs in this film are so catchy, do you have a favourite?**

Well, I definitely love *Naughty* but I love *Quiet* so, so much. I got to go up in a hot air balloon, which was absolutely amazing. I also love how the scene goes from the assault course into that scene. It was a real

hot air balloon but we were filming in a warehouse so it only went up to the top of the warehouse. I definitely want to go on a real hot air balloon ride now!

● ***Naughty* is one of Matilda's big songs, have you ever done anything a little bit naughty?**

It was great to do that song because in the movie I got to turn myself invisible, I don't know where I would go but I think it would be so cool. I'd also like to travel back in time and forward in time. You could travel forward to see what your life would be and if something bad happens you could do something to prevent it. And also courage, like Matilda.

● **Matilda finds her superpower in the film, what superpower would you like?**

I'd love to turn myself invisible, I don't know where I would go but I think it would be so cool. I'd also like to travel back in time and forward in time. You could travel forward to see what your life would be and if something bad happens you could do something to prevent it. And also courage, like Matilda.

Although Matilda can move things with her eyes and that is her superpower, I think that courage is her main power.

● **This is your first major film role, how did you feel watching the finished film for the first time?**

I couldn't really believe it. I hadn't even seen little clips, I'd just seen the trailer, so then to see it all together was amazing. It didn't feel like I was watching myself, even though I knew I was watching myself. When I watch it I know there's nothing else I can do, so I just enjoy the film. I watch everyone else and every time I see it I notice something different. I love all the school scenes and I love Matilda's house, I think that looks really good on camera. I think viewers are going to like all the big dance numbers and all the big songs when all the kids are together!





THIS CHRISTMAS, Raymond Briggs' classic Christmas tale *The Snowman* will have been brought to life on the West End stage for the 25th year in a row. Ethan Sokontwe, one of the young actors to play the role of James, the boy, tells us what it is like performing in such a magical show.

What was the best thing about appearing in *The Snowman*?

Ooh, this is a hard one as there were many magical moments. It will probably have to be learning to fly with the Snowman and seeing everyone's faces of disbelief as we lift off.

What new things have you learnt while appearing in this production?

It's been a completely different experience to other work I have done as there is no script or singing involved! I had to use a lot of facial expressions and bigger movements to tell the story of James.

Do you remember the first time you encountered the story of *The Snowman*?

I remember listening to the original music by Howard Blake growing up and my mum used to read me the story during Christmas. When I was about six years old I went to Winter Wonderland where they had an immersive experience showing the film with a meet and greet. It was so magical and I felt like the story was really coming to life. Watching the story come to life made me feel like anything was possible.

When did you decide you wanted to be a performer?

I used to be really shy growing up, but it was going to



my first festival in Smithfield market that gave me the confidence boost I needed. After that day I spent a lot of time free-styling and watching buskers in Leicester Square – there's so much talent there, you can learn anything! I never went to a performing arts school but trained as a break dancer at Adrenalin Dance. I've always loved going to the theatre and I guess a lot

of my personality has come from that. My first acting experience was in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, it was my agent who believed in me, so I gave the audition a go and have loved learning everything about acting and singing ever since!

What advice would you give to kids who would like to perform?

Dream BIG and give everything a try! You never know what could be possible. Believe in yourself, stay disciplined and keep practising!

What would you dress your dream Snowman in?

There are a lot of funny costumes in the show so I would dress the Snowman like me with a bandana and make him a break dancing Snowman.

Where would you fly with your own magical Snowman?

In a magical world we would go to Antarctica and make our own ice kingdom where there would never be a sad ending.

What is your favourite thing about Christmas?

Seeing the city of London light up and decorated with all the festivities, with lots of special events and happy people.

Catch *The Snowman* at the Peacock Theatre in the West End for its 25th anniversary until Saturday 31 December 2022. Visit www.sadlerswells.com for tickets and more details.

FYI up for BAFTA gong

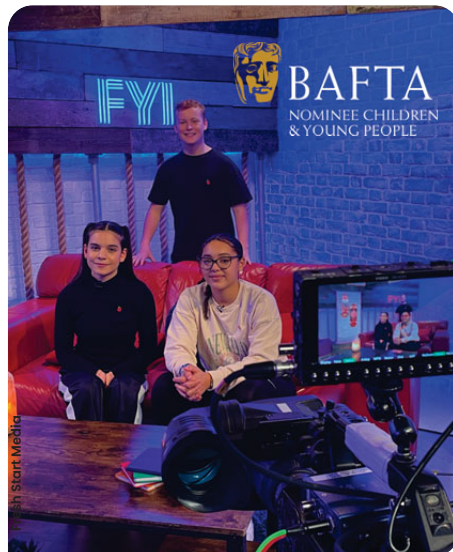
BAFTA has announced the nominations for its Children & Young People Awards, which are returning this Sunday for the first time in three years – and FYI is up for a prize.

First News partners with Fresh Start Media and Sky Kids on FYI, a news show presented by kids for kids. The weekly show can be seen on our online video channel first.news/educationTV or on our app.

The BAFTA awards are a celebration of the creativity of UK and international programming for children and young people spanning film, games and television.

FYI has been shortlisted alongside three BBC shows – *Crackerjack!*, *Steve Backshall's Deadly 60* and *Gym Stars* in the non-scripted category.

And the show's presenter, Braydon Bent, at the back of our picture, is up for Best Presenter, alongside Yolanda Brown, George Webster and Hamza Yassin, who is starring right now in *Strictly Come Dancing*.



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ANIMATION?

"I really like Pixar movies. I think *Ratatouille* is one of the best films ever made, I think the first hour of *Wall-E* is like a masterpiece and *Toy Story 3* is brilliant!"

DERMOT O'LEARY



THIS WEEK

1 Three online pantomimes have been launched for families, youth groups and schools to enjoy remotely this Christmas. Former *Blue Peter* presenter Peter Duncan first launched Panto Online during lockdown but has continued making online productions because they have been so popular. Tickets to stream all three shows are available now at pantoonline.co.uk.

2 Lewis Capaldi's hit song *Someone You Loved* has broken the record for the most-streamed song of all time, overtaking Ed Sheeran's *Shape of You*. The Official Chart Company announced the news as part of their 70th birthday celebrations.

3 *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol* is the second new film inspired by the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* to be released this year, following *Spirited* starring Ryan Reynolds. The Netflix animation is a supernatural musical adaptation with Luke Evans providing the voice of Scrooge. The film hits Netflix on 2 December.



HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

Amy Adams tells us what it is like to return to the character of Giselle in the exciting *Enchanted* sequel, *Disenchanted*.

● How does it feel to be back in the *Enchanted* world?

I'm so glad we get to revisit it at a time when we all need a little magic!

● What do you love about playing Giselle?

Giselle comes from this place of such extreme joy and optimism, and she understands that outside of that, there's an impact she can have on the world by just seeing the best in every situation. And that is such a beautiful thing to get to play.

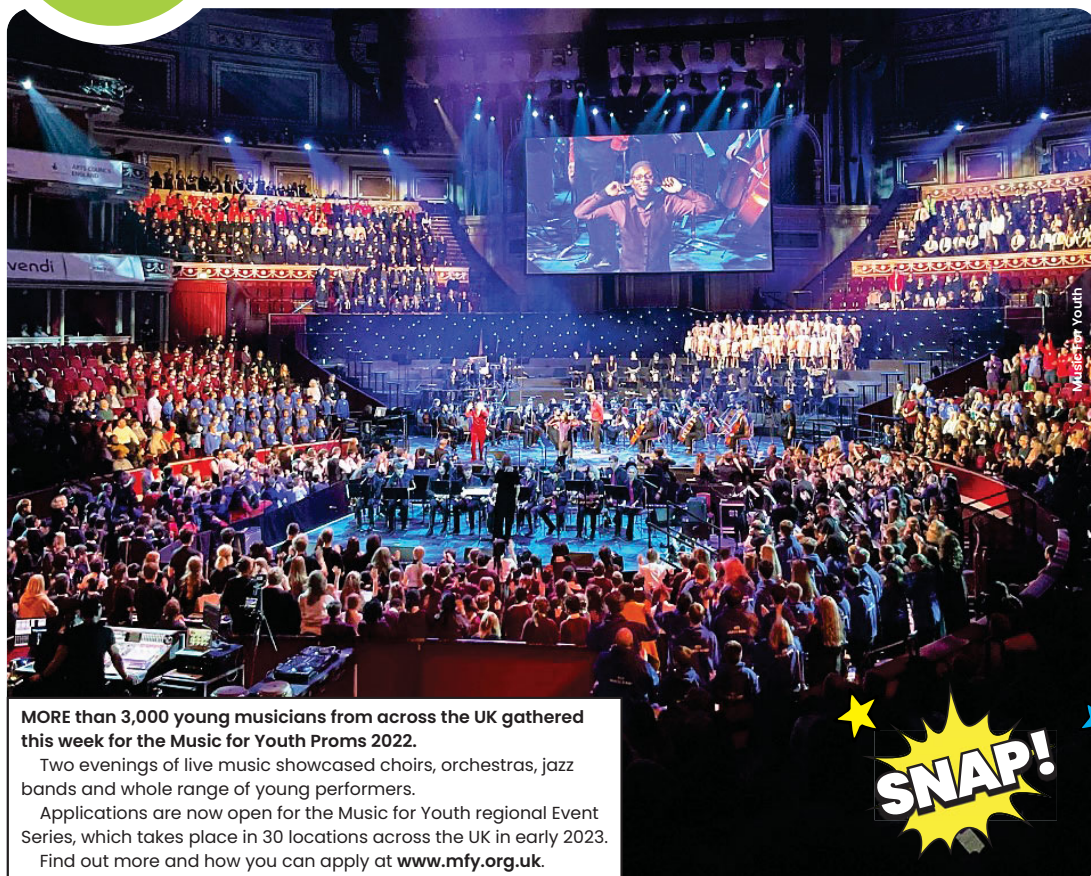
● What was it like filming in Ireland?

Enniskerry was just beautiful and was a wonderful place to work, everyone was so welcoming. They turned Enniskerry into Monroville, which then became Monrolasia, and all the shop fronts were turned into a magical fairytale land.

Disenchanted is available to stream on Disney+ now.



SNAP OF THE WEEK



MORE than 3,000 young musicians from across the UK gathered this week for the Music for Youth Proms 2022.

Two evenings of live music showcased choirs, orchestras, jazz bands and whole range of young performers.

Applications are now open for the Music for Youth regional Event Series, which takes place in 30 locations across the UK in early 2023.

Find out more and how you can apply at www.mfy.org.uk.

SNAP!

FYI FOR YOUR INFO PRESENTER PICK

Keanna from FYI was lucky enough to attend the premiere of *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*...

"I was ecstatic to be part of FYI, interviewing the cast from *Matilda the Musical* at the premiere. The film is about a girl who tries to cope with her inconsiderate and selfish parents, who care little about her. Her detestable headteacher, Miss Trunchbull, also despises her. Under these circumstances, Matilda finds powers, which helps her to overcome her fears!

Standing among the sea of press eagerly waiting in the press area was amazing. The main star Alicia Weir, who plays Matilda, was dressed like an angel and was such an inspiration. The group of young artists who were cast as Matilda's friends in the movie were full of giggles and clearly enjoyed being part of the movie. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed making the movie, especially working with Emma Thompson. I can't wait to see *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* on the big screen.

Read our **Big Interview** with *Alicia Weir*, who plays *Matilda*, on p16.



Keanna interviews the cast on the red carpet



SINGAPORE TO HOST OLYMPIC ESPORTS WEEK



THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) has confirmed that it will host the first-ever Olympic Esports Week in Singapore, in June 2023.

The week will follow on from last year's Olympic Virtual Series, where competitors from around the world took part in "virtual and simulated sports including baseball, motorsport, cycling, rowing and sailing".

While it's a big step for the Olympics to engage with esports, there's disappointment that the

games included are all sports simulation games, and aren't more popular esports titles like FIFA, Rocket League or Fortnite (PEGI 12).

IOC President Thomas Bach said: "The first Olympic Esports Week marks an important milestone in our [plans] to support the growth of virtual sports within the Olympic Movement."

Details, including how to be part of the first Olympic Esports Week and Olympic Esports Series, won't be revealed until early 2023.

More LEGO Mario sets are on the way!



LEGO/Nintendo

NEW LEGO Super Mario sets are on the way!

January 2023 will see tonnes of new characters and two new ice-themed sets. There is also Series 6 of the collectible Mario Character Packs, with eight characters to collect.

Also due for release is the Creativity Toolbox Maker Set (above), which will cost £54.99, and includes "buildable trees, flowers, mountains, mushrooms, pyramids, a Checkpoint Flag and more" for you to decorate your LEGO sets with.

Videogames to feature at the Grammy Awards

FOR the first time, the Grammy Awards in the USA will include an award that's just for videogame music.

Until now, videogames were included in the "Score Soundtrack for Visual Media" category at the well-respected music awards.

While the new category was announced in October, the nominees for the brand new category were revealed this week.

Unfortunately, all the games nominated are for grown-ups, so you will have to wait a few years before you can play the game with the winning soundtrack!

WIN! A COPY OF SQUISH ON NINTENDO SWITCH

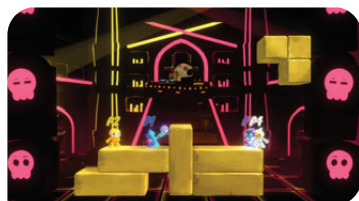
SQUISH from Numskull Games is a spooky, colourful and fast-paced party game where you and up to three gooey friends rave it up in an underground crypt as it collapses down on you.

Push blocks, dodge incoming hazards from all directions, and jump to survive the grave rave gone awry.

Squish your opponents while avoiding the dangers that come your way. The last Skelegoo standing takes it all!

Whether you're looking to squish other players directly or trying to survive until the end while partying on the sidelines, there are many ways to rave it up.

Squish is easy to learn, but hard to master!



Five winners will win a copy of Squish on Nintendo Switch.

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

Which pop star has fans called 'Little Monsters'?

- a) Pink b) Lady Gaga
c) Taylor Swift

Visit www.numskullgames.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY SQUISH

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 28. The closing date is 8 December 2022.

WIN! x6- LASER X Real-Life Infrared Gaming Experience REVOLUTION DOUBLE BLASTERS

LASER X is the greatest home laser tag game on the planet.

It's like having your very own laser tag arena! Play inside or out, day or night. The blasters in the Laser X Revolution Double Blaster set can fire over 90m with pinpoint accuracy!

Play Laser Tag with Friends: Gameplay allows unlimited players. The Laser X Revolution Double Blaster set includes two blasters and allows you to choose up to 20 separate team colours to light up your chosen blaster!

Make Amazing Trick Shots: Blaster beams go through windows and strategically bounce off walls and mirrors to strike rivals, while quick slide reload keeps the fun going. Advanced sensors allow an interactive voice coach to offer tips and tricks throughout the game. Blasters from the Laser X Revolution Double Blaster set are also compatible with all other Laser X gear.



We have six X6-Laser X Revolution Double Blasters up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What is the centre of an archery target called?
a) Bull's eye b) Hen's eye
c) Goat's eye

www.character-online.co.uk



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY LASER

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 28. The closing date is 8 December 2022.



The new set is recommended for people aged 18 and over because it's so tricky!

Tallest ever LEGO set

LEGO has unveiled its tallest ever model set – a 149cm (4.9ft) Eiffel Tower!

The new set features 10,001 pieces and fans can build all sorts of features including three observation platforms, lifts, an office, a broadcast tower and a French flag – just like you'd get at the real landmark!

LEGO designer Rok Žgalin Kobe said: "During the build you'll uncover interesting, novel LEGO building techniques that bring the tower's architectural features to life in LEGO bricks."

That's if you fork out for the \$629.99 (£531) price tag!

The Eiffel Tower was constructed from 1887 to 1889 and was the centrepiece of the 1889 World's Fair. It didn't receive good reviews at first, but is now one of the most famous structures in the world.

MIMICKING LYREBIRD MOCKS LION ESCAPE



DID YOU KNOW?

During the lyrebird's mating season, males will build high mounds of dirt, which they use as stages to show off tails to a female!

WORKERS at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia, are being made fun of by a lyrebird who is perfectly singing the zoo's alarm sound, just weeks after five lions managed to escape from their enclosure.

The zoo, which is still investigating how the four lion cubs and one male lion escaped, is now being constantly reminded of the escape by the lyrebird's eerily accurate call.

Lyrebirds are one of the animal kingdom's best copycats, and the lyrebird at Taronga Zoo is copying both the alarm sound and the "evacuate now" warning that plays when there's an emergency. It even has an Australian accent when it says it!

A lyrebird expert has confirmed that the alarm sound being sung is in fact the fire alarm and that the lyrebird has been singing it for a while.

We're sure that the zoo handlers will still be shaken by the sounds for years to come, reminded of the day that the lions escaped.

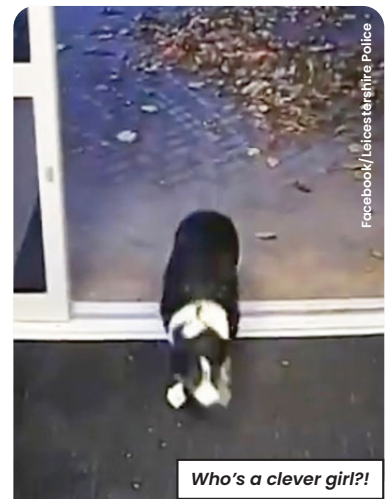
Lost dog walks into police station

A DOG who ran away from her owner during a walk has handed herself into the local police station!

Rosie the border collie clearly knew she was in trouble when she wandered off and got lost. A little while later she turned up at Loughborough Police Station to confess her sins!

Staff were bemused when Rosie was caught on camera walking through the station's automatic doors.

In a post on Facebook, they said: "Our staff fetched some water for Rosie, and made fast friends with plenty of fuss. Thankfully she was wearing a collar, so a 'lead' was available to contact Rosie's owner, who was delighted she had been found safe and well."

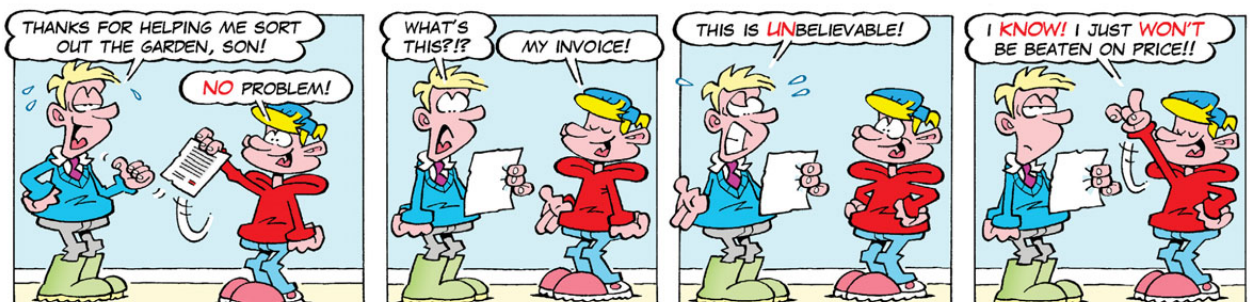


JOKE OF THE WEEK **haha ha**

What has a head and tail but no body?
A coin!



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





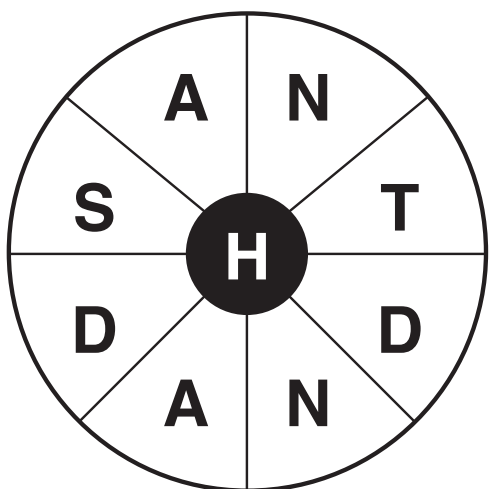
SUDOKU

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

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

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?



HOW TO ENTER:

Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 858** in the subject box and include your contact details. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 1 December 2022**.

COMPETITIONS: You can enter *First News* competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. 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 only open to those aged 17 and under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of *First News*, *First Group Enterprises Ltd*, *Reach plc* and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be 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 location 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.

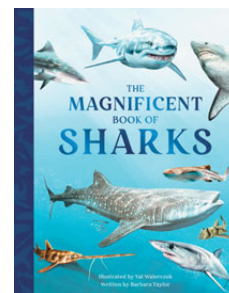
WIN! *The Magnificent Book of Sharks*

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

Send in your answers and five readers will win a copy of *The Magnificent Book of Sharks*. Get up close to sharks with

intriguing facts and beautiful illustrations. Discover why the lantern shark glows in the dark and how the epaulette shark "walks" on land!

Available from bookshop.org.

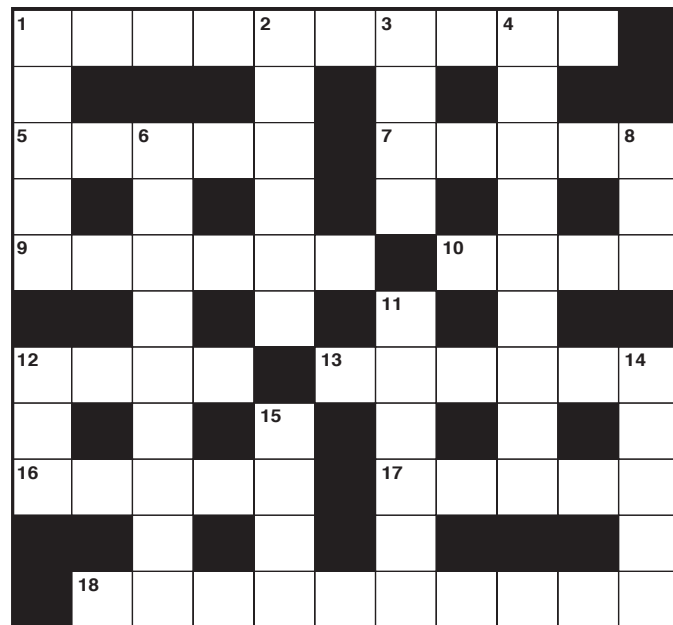


ACROSS

- 1 Way in which things are dissimilar (10)
- 5 Supermarket passage (5)
- 7 E.g. November or December (5)
- 9 Colour; citrus fruit (6)
- 10 Broad (4)
- 12 A reflected sound (4)
- 13 Say no to (6)
- 16 Ranked (5)
- 17 Thoughts or concepts (5)
- 18 Book of words and meanings (10)

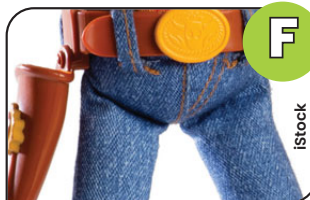
DOWN

- 1 _____ Malfoy: an enemy of Harry Potter (5)
- 2 Come out (6)
- 3 _____ Raducanu: British tennis star (4)
- 4 A bug with many legs (9)
- 6 Type of pasta in thin strings (9)
- 8 Shade of a colour (3)
- 11 Country in southern North America (6)
- 12 Hearing organ (3)
- 14 Delicious to eat (5)
- 15 Correct or change something (4)



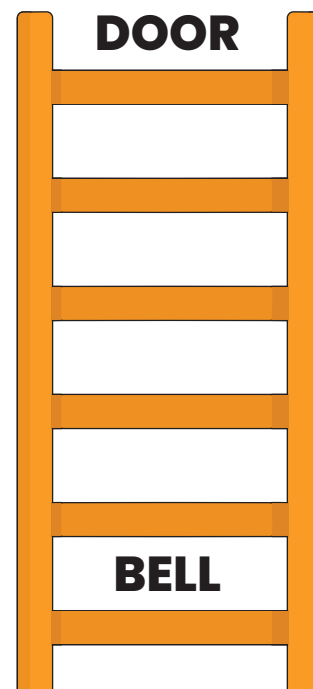
WHO ON EARTH?

All of these are toys of cartoon characters. Can you guess who they are?



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.



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

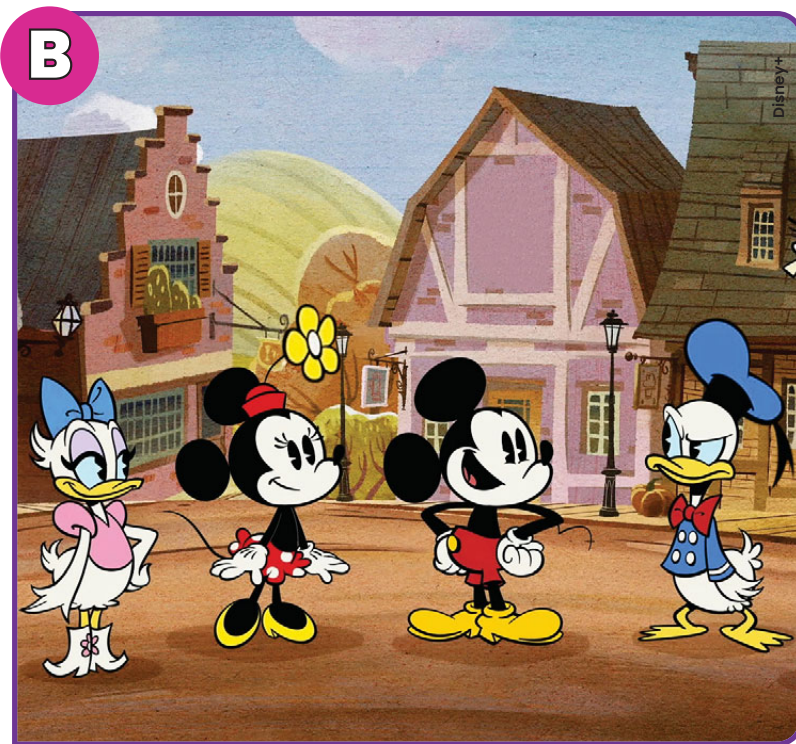
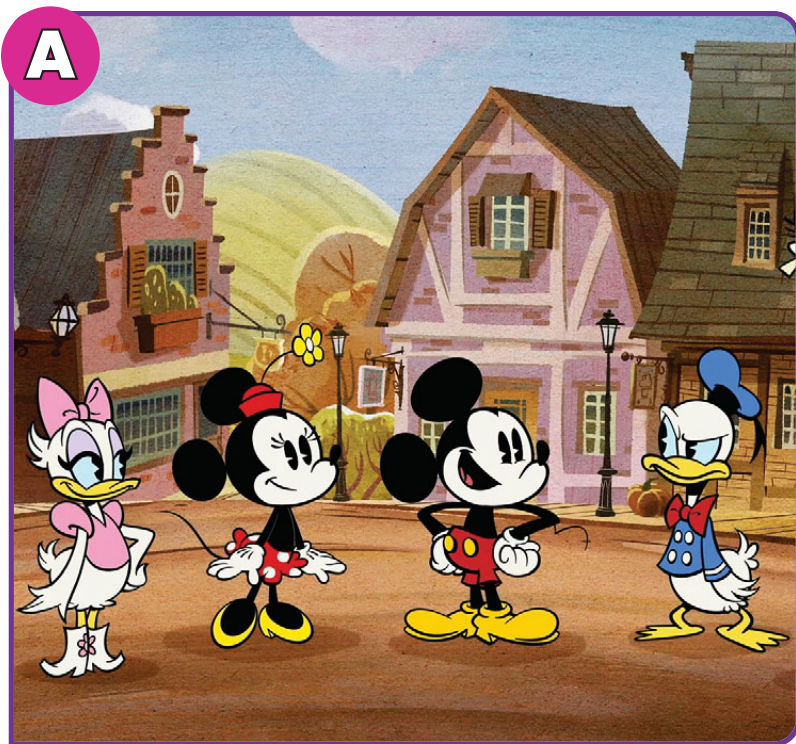
Spot The Difference: earrings are longer, lips are now blue, jewel in crown is missing, brooch is bigger, window pane pattern has been removed.
Word Wheel: entertain.





SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Wonderful Autumn of Mickey Mouse*?



WIN! A STABILO CHRISTMAS BUNDLE

MAKE Christmas sparkle with this stunning collection of goodies from STABILO!

Packed full of amazing favourites, winners will be equipped to create their own decorations, design their own cards and have a wonderful Christmas getting arty.

Included in the bundle are the incredible metallic Trio DECO pens that create magical glitter effects on paper, cardboard and wood – ideal for spreading the Christmas joy.

Alongside these, winners will get hands-on with a bumper pack of 18 woody 3 in 1 pencils, great for creating stunning festive window displays.

Also included are the amazing aquacolor colouring pencils and Cappi felt-tip pens from STABILO, helping to complete every budding artist's colouring collection.

We have four Stabila Christmas bundles up for grabs.

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

What colour is the holly berry?
a) White b) Green c) Red



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ARTY

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 28. The closing date is 8 December 2022.

WIN! A CATAN FAMILY GAME FROM asmodee

WE'VE teamed up with Asmodee, the leading distributor of table-top games and accessories in the UK to provide six lucky winners with a copy of this fantastic game – CATAN!

Share the classic board game of trading and development with the whole family!

Build settlements and roads, gather resources and negotiate trades with your rivals, and buy development cards to add value to your provinces in a game that's simple to learn but provides countless hours of fun.

But beware! You never know when someone will block your way or if the robber will strike and steal your hard-earned goods! Are you the best trader, builder, or settler? Will you master Catan?

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

What did the Romans build to transport large amounts of water over long distances?
a) Pipes b) Aqueducts c) Barrels



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY CATAN

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 28. The closing date is 8 December 2022.



CAREERS WEEK

by Iriana

CAREERS And Ambitions Week was fun and engaging. I feel like I have my whole future sorted out, from start to finish!

Each day, we learnt something new and exciting, from gender stereotypes to how to calculate tax on a payslip.

Careers And Ambitions Week is something that should be repeated in the future for many years to come.

Now that I know about tests like GCSEs and A levels and how to apply to university, I understand how important they are.

I particularly enjoyed the Careers Fair where we got to speak to a range of people with different jobs.

I had the amazing chance to talk to a theatre technician, an artist, a vet, a dog trainer and a dance teacher, and they all opened up my mind to interesting vocabulary and skills that I didn't even know existed. I now feel more prepared and ready for what is ahead of me and how I can accomplish it.

Overall, Careers And Ambitions Week has been one of the best theme weeks I have participated in.



Iriana visiting the careers stands

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

WRITE in to let us know what you've been up to! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? Raised money for charity? Whatever it is, we love hearing about your adventures, so why not share your experiences with *First News* readers?

Email your report (and any pictures you want to share) 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.

First News Digital

GIVE THE GIFT OF NEWS THIS

Christmas

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN WHO ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND THEM, YOU CAN TRUST FIRST NEWS TO REPORT THE FACTS, INSPIRE CONVERSATION, FUEL CURIOSITY AND SPARK DEBATE.

First News is the UK's award-winning newspaper for children, full of news stories, interviews, puzzles and polls. It helps develop your child's world view and allows them to interact with the news in a positive way. Available weekly both in print and digitally, *First News* is loved by kids, trusted by parents and recommended by teachers!

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Tom Halliwell lifts the Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup trophy after England beat France. Team Captain Halliwell scored the last try of the match, which finished 28-24.



Novak Djokovic takes a shot as he beats Casper Ruud to win his sixth ATP Finals title. Only Roger Federer has won the same number.



Mark Sykes receives his first cap for the Republic of Ireland, in a victory against Malta. He is the first player who was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to play for the Republic team in 76 years.



Arsenal's Beth Mead (left) and Manchester United's Hannah Blundell battle for the ball. Arsenal were beaten 3-2, ending their run of six victories in this season's WSL.



The Phryges, based on Phrygian caps, are unveiled as the mascots for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The caps were popular headwear in revolutionary France.



QATAR'S COLOSSAL CUP COSTS

AFTER weeks of controversy, the 2022 World Cup has finally kicked off in Qatar, but the focus is still split between sport and human rights.

Qatar is one of the world's richest countries, which has helped with the phenomenal costs of hosting this tournament. The cost to Russia for the previous World Cup was \$11.6 billion (£9.8bn) and Brazil spent \$15 billion (£12.6bn) to stage the 2014 event. To get tournament-ready, Qatar has spent an incredible \$220 billion (£185bn) – the biggest amount ever, by far.

Money had to be spent on building new stadiums, airports and a metro system. Thousands of migrant workers were brought in to ensure everything was ready for the start of the tournament. The World Cup traditionally begins with a lavish opening ceremony, which also costs millions of dollars to stage. Unusually, this was not broadcast on BBC1, which chose instead to highlight the treatment of the migrant workers, and



Bukayo Saka

that being gay in Qatar is considered a crime punishable by death.

Following the ceremony, the first game saw the hosts take on Ecuador. With Senegal and the Netherlands also in the group, Qatar might have seen this match as their best chance of attaining some points. However, they failed to register a shot on target and Ecuador took advantage with Enner Valencia scoring two goals.

England and Wales have also opened their accounts in Group B. It was Wales' first game at a World Cup for 64 years, and they found themselves losing 0-1 to the USA at half-time. With time running out, Gareth Bale salvaged a point with a well-taken penalty in the 82nd minute.

England's first opponents were Iran, whose players didn't sing the national anthem, to support protests against the Iranian government. The match saw England score three goals before half-time. Bukayo Saka netted his second after the break, with Iran's Mehdi Taremi also scoring a brace. It was a convincing win for England, finishing 6-2.



Gareth Bale

The Wizards of Oz rule!

AUSTRALIA competed in not one, but two Rugby League World Cup finals. Could they do the double?

The Australian women's team were favourites to win their match after demolishing Papua New Guinea 82-0 in the semi-final. They were also reigning champions, although their opponents New Zealand have appeared in every World Cup final. Despite this, the Kiwi Ferns were no match for the Jillaroos, scoring just one try and losing 54-4.

The men's side, also reigning champions, had bested New Zealand in their semi-final, narrowly beating them 16-14. Their opponents were Samoa, who had overcome England in their semi-final.

Again, it was Australia who were dominant, leading 14-0 at half time. Samoa raised their game in the second half, but were still no match for the Aussies, who finished 20 points ahead at 30-10.

With both trophies heading back to Australia, the next World Cup is in 2025 in France, so at least the other nations only have to wait three years to try again!



Australia's Julia Robinson (left) and Lauren Brown celebrate Cup final success

7

frames in a row were won by Mark Allen, after he was trailing 1-6 to Ding Junhui in the UK Championship snooker final. Allen lost the next frame but was soon back in control and clinched the match 10-7. The spectacular comeback resulted in Allen's first UK Championship title and a £250,000 prize.



15

years after his first F1 appearance, Sebastian Vettel completed his final race for Aston Martin at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The German legend notched up 57 pole positions in his career, with 53 wins. His four years with Red Bull between 2010 and 2013 saw Vettel win four consecutive World Championships. Only three other drivers have won more titles.



19

points separated England and New Zealand with ten minutes left to play in an enthralling rugby union international at Twickenham. Trailing 25-6, England scored three late tries, courtesy of Freddie Steward and a couple from Will Stuart (below). Coach Eddie Jones said: "All of a sudden, someone blows some magic dust."



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