

FirstNews

Issue 709 £1.99 17 – 23 January 2020

OUR TRUSTED NEWS GETS MORE THAN 2 MILLION READERS!*



P3 HARRY AND MEGHAN WAVING GOODBYE?



P16 CHERYL

P5 COULD CHOCS COST MORE?



PLAY THE LIVE FirstNews QUIZ



FIND OUT HOW ON P17

CITY OF THE FUTURE



PLANS to build a city of the future in Japan have been announced.

Called the Woven City, the prototype city will be built by car company Toyota on a 175-acre site at the base of Mount Fuji.

The idea is for the city to be a “living laboratory” where 2,000 residents and researchers will live full-time. They will test and develop technologies such as autonomy (things running themselves), robotics, personal mobility, smart homes and artificial intelligence.

The Woven City will have a fully-connected ecosystem powered by clean energy produced from hydrogen fuel cells.

Building will begin early next year,

says Toyota president Akio Toyoda.

He says: “Building a complete city from the ground up, even on a small scale like this, is a unique opportunity to develop future technologies. With people, buildings and vehicles all connected and communicating through data and sensors, we will be able to test connected AI technology.”

An important part of the city design is its community spaces. Neighbourhoods will feature natural, open spaces for recreation, while the large central park and plaza are designed to encourage the community to get together socially.

Buildings will be built mainly with

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

carbon-neutral wood and rooftops will be covered in panels to generate solar power alongside the electricity generated by the hydrogen fuel cells. Trees and plants will be woven throughout the city.

All homes will have the latest in human support technologies like AI, to check on people’s health.

Only self-driving, zero-emission vehicles will be allowed on the main roads.

It’s thought the Woven City could experiment with ideas that other cities will be able to expand on.



The future city will be built at the base of Mount Fuji



Shops will become changeable mobile retail units

2. QUICK NEWS

1. CAR PARK COLLAPSE

There were shocking scenes at an airport in Norway when a fire caused a section of its car park to collapse. The blaze destroyed hundreds of cars, stopped all air traffic and led to evacuations. Amazingly, no-one was reported to be hurt. Police confirmed that the fire at Stavanger Airport originated from an old diesel car.



2. COSTA BOOK WINNER

Jasbinder Bilan's *Asha & The Spirit Bird* has won the Costa Children's Book Award. The novel follows a girl's journey across the Himalayas to find her father.



3. FINDING HER VOICE

A disabled woman who lost her speech at the age of two has been given a voice after 32 years. The Tobii Dynavox can track Pauline Worrall's eye movements as she looks at letters. The computer then shows what Pauline 'types' on screen and says it out loud. She even got to tell Mickey Mouse she loved him on a trip to Disneyland Paris!



4. POLICE INACTION

A man in Bournemouth who called 999 after being attacked in his shop is still waiting for a response two months later. The police say they have to "prioritise the incidents they attend".

5. CHILDREN IN CARE

The number of children in care in England and Wales has reached a ten-year high. Data released by the Local Government Association shows that there are 78,150 children in care, a 28% increase since 2009. The LGA has warned the Government that the demands being placed on councils are too much.

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. INTO FILM AWARDS

This year's Into Film Awards, which celebrate young people involved in film, will be hosted by David Walliams. Nominees will be announced on 22 January, while the award show takes place in London on 18 March.

7. SCHOOL BREAKS LAW

An Islamic school in Birmingham has been unlawfully separating students by gender. Ofsted said the Redstone Academy was prioritising boys, giving them first choice for work experience and telling pupils that university is "not for females".

8. ROMAN REMAINS

The skeletal remains of 50 people from Roman times have been unearthed under the site for a new school. The excavation in Somerset dates the remains from 43-410 AD. Discoveries included ancient artefacts such as pottery and brooches buried alongside the bodies.



9. POLL RESULTS

Last week, we reported that there were concerns about Saturday jobs dying out, with teen employment falling by 48% in the last 20 years. We asked you: Would you like a Saturday job? 63% of you said YES, while 37% of you said NO.

COMMENT

First News Live! user dealli feels that "it would be cool to earn money for myself and learn what it's like to have a job," while quantumkid thinks the "weekends are for having a break".

10. ANIMATED OSCAR

The 2020 Oscar nominations have been announced. The contenders for Best Animated Feature are *I Lost My Body*, *Klaus*, *Missing Link*, *How To Train Your Dragon 3* and *Toy Story 4*.

11. ART AUCTION

A painting by artist David Hockney is expected to make up to £30 million pounds at auction. *The Splash*, showing a dive into a California swimming pool, will be up for sale next month.



12. WAFFLE FRENZY

Social media went into a frenzy with the news that a new speedy food hack has been discovered to cook Birds Eye Potato Waffles. Instead of putting them in the oven, Birds Eye says they can be toasted, recommending two 'pops' on a medium to high setting for the perfect taste and texture.

13. RUN LIKE A WALLY

The eighth annual *Where's Wally?* fun run will take place at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 15 March. Families can sign up now at literacytrust.org.uk/WheresWally.



14. GULLS GO GOOD?

Good news for the residents of Scarborough! Reports of "gull-muggings", where birds attack people or steal their food, have declined. There were 25 reports in 2019, around a 50% drop from the previous year.



15. BLOOD DONOR DRIVE

The NHS has launched a campaign to encourage more men to donate blood. In 2019, 41% of new donors were men, while 59% were women. It might not seem a huge imbalance but male blood tends to have more iron in it, which is needed for some blood transfusions (giving a sick person some healthy blood).

16. HOCKEY HOAX

Russian ice hockey fans were left confused after celebrating victory at the World Junior Championship, only to discover later that they had lost. Confusingly, two TV stations aired finals between Russia and Canada. While one was the live game, where Russia lost 4-3, the other was a repeat from 2011, when they had won 5-3!

17. WHAT'S UP, DOC?

An advert for a doctor to become a partner in a Southampton GP surgery failed to get a single response in a whole year. Staff at the surgery said they had lost four partners in four years, with some doctors leaving because of the stress of having more and more work to do.

18. YOUTH PHOTO COMP

The Royal Horticultural Society is looking for nature photographs from under-18s. The competition closes on 31 January. Turn to page 24 for more information, as well as some top tips from last year's winner.

19. DRESS DISASTER

Some quick thinking saved a live broadcast, as the zip on a presenter's dress burst open just before going on air. Liz Beacon, who co-presents BBC Points West, said that colleagues used gaffer tape and bulldog clips to fix the outfit! Viewers were none the wiser.



20. LABOUR LEADER

Nominations for the next Labour Party leader have closed and five candidates are in the race. They are Emily Thornberry, Sir Keir Starmer, Rebecca Long-Bailey, Lisa Nandy and Jess Phillips. It will be announced who will replace Jeremy Corbyn on 4 April.

3. BIG NEWS

A RIGHT ROYAL RUMBLE



Harry and Meghan's decision has been the biggest story of the week

EVEN with all of the huge events going on in the world, the one that's got everyone talking involves a couple who want to change jobs and move house.

With anyone else, it'd hardly be front page news, but it's a different story when you're the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who have said that they want to step back from their roles as senior members of the royal family.

Harry and Meghan say that they want to become financially independent, although it's unclear how they plan to make money. There are also lots of decisions to be made around their security, as they have said that they want to spend a lot of time in Canada, but it would be unusual for British police to provide protection overseas for long periods of time.

The couple have been upset by lots of stories in the media about them, and a statement on

their new website (sussexroyal.com) criticised the accuracy of the journalists who cover the royal family. They said that they want to use their website and social media sites to provide more information directly to the public instead.

It's also clear that they want more privacy, as they also talked about wanting to have "space to focus on the next chapter" of their lives.

WOW! Scientists say that a slime mould found trapped in amber is 100m years old and is identical to species still living today!

PLANE TRAGEDY

IRAN'S government has had to deal with huge protests in the last week, after the country announced it had accidentally shot down a passenger plane.

Crowds of people gathered in the streets of Tehran and other cities to protest against Iran's leaders. A tragic mistake led to the deaths of all 176 people on board the plane, including 82 Iranians. It was shot down shortly after it took off from Iran on its way to Ukraine. Most of the passengers were going on to Canada, and a total



Crowds face off against riot police in Tehran

of 63 Canadian citizens were killed. Many of them were scientists, doctors and students. Hassan Rouhani, Iran's president, said that "human error" was responsible for the "great tragedy and unforgivable mistake", although Iran had denied for several days that it was responsible for the crash.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



WE are fascinated by the "future city" that is being built in Japan.

It is a fantastic living experiment that will, hopefully, teach us a lot about how we can all live in a more environmentally-friendly way – not just in the future but even now. The rest of the world will be watching to see the discoveries that are made.

Let us know your thoughts about how life could be in the future at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk.

GOOD WEEK FOR...

GREEN ENERGY

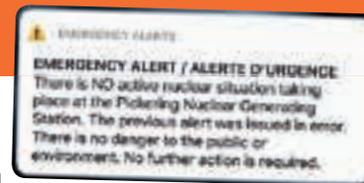
CO-OP Energy has launched a new energy scheme that sources power directly from 90 local renewable-energy projects across the UK. All electricity sold through the Community Power Tariff is produced by local wind and solar projects.



BAD WEEK FOR...

ONTARIO

MILLIONS of residents of the Canadian state of Ontario received a government alert on their phones, warning of an "incident" at a nuclear power plant. After brief confusion and panic, another alert admitted that it had been a mistake during a training exercise.



BETTER THAN A BUS?



A parade of traditional horse-drawn carriages in Paris

AN interesting row has broken out in France, pitching environmental action against animal rights.

It started when councillors in Rouen approved a plan to replace a school bus with a horse-drawn carriage. Even though the scheme would reduce emissions and the carriage has an electric motor to help it up hills, one couple said it was cruel and started a petition against it. Stessy and Manu Tritz say that horses shouldn't have to "sacrifice their wellbeing" for environmental improvements and that "animal exploitation cannot be a solution" to mankind's problems.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Is a horse-drawn school bus a good thing or not?
first.news/polls

SUBSCRIBE FOR HOME – TRY 3 ISSUES FOR £1* CALL 0330 333 0186

subscribe.firstnews.co.uk *followed by £19.99 every three months by Direct Debit

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



Getty

IMAGES taken during the ongoing wildfire crisis are projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House. The projections are to show support for communities affected by the fires around Australia and the firefighters who have been defending them.

TAGAYTAY, PHILIPPINES



Getty

LIGHTNING strikes as a column of ash surrounds the crater of the erupting Taal volcano. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has raised the alert level to four out of five, warning that a hazardous eruption could take place at any time.

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND



Getty

A TWO-WEEK-LONG celebration of the Chinese New Year will take place from 21 January to 9 February. The 2020 festivities will be extra special for China and Scotland, as the official date for Chinese New Year coincides with Burns Night on 25 January.

LONDON, UK



Getty

PEOPLE ride on the underground without their trousers on 12 January. Originating as a prank on the New York subway, the No Trousers Tube Ride has become an international annual event.

NEW DELHI, INDIA



Getty

A VIEW of the moon during the lunar eclipse on 10 January. At the maximum eclipse, 90% of the moon's disc was partially shaded by the Earth, which caused a changing shadow across the moon.

YALOVA, TURKEY



Getty

FLAMINGOES are seen stretching their legs on the Hersek Lagoon, known among locals as the Bird Hotel. The lagoon is known for the large number of birds that migrate there during the autumn and winter months. This year has so far seen the arrival of 1,500 flamingoes.



3 ISSUES FOR £1
SUBSCRIBE.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

FARMERS FIGHT BACK WITH CHOC SHOCK

FARMERS in Ghana and Ivory Coast have teamed up to get a better deal for the cocoa they grow, which could lead to the price of chocolate going up.

The two African countries produce around 60% of the world's cocoa, but many cocoa farmers live in poverty and the industry is still regularly accused of using child labour.

The new partnership will mean that chocolate companies will have to pay much more for their cocoa. Instead of paying around £2,000 per tonne, they'll have to fork out £2,300 instead. However, much of the cost will be passed on to sweet-toothed consumers – or it could lead to smaller chocolate bars if companies don't want to raise their prices.

Chocolate is a multi-billion pound industry, but most of the profits go to companies in rich countries where the cocoa is turned into chocolate. Some cocoa farmers have tried growing other crops as well, which gives them another way to make money. It also means there is less cocoa produced overall, so the big companies have to pay more for it.

Although the price increase will be bad news for our wallets, it's probably good news for our waistlines and our teeth! And good news for the farmers, too!



WOW!

Figures released last week show that 2019 was Earth's second-warmest year on record, and the warmest ever in Europe.



Cocoa farmers in Ivory Coast opening cocoa pods

IS BORIS GETTING BREXIT DONE?

THE prime minister's promise to "get Brexit done" has passed its first hurdle, as his Brexit bill was voted through the House of Commons by 330 votes to 231.

Although it still has to get through the House of Lords, that's not expected to be a problem.

The UK is on course to leave the EU on 31 January, followed by a transition period lasting until 31 December. During that time, the Government will have to work with the EU to decide what our future relationship will be like. Many experts think it isn't enough time to sort everything out and say that Mr Johnson will have to accept some parts of a deal he doesn't like, or end the transition period



The PM with Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Commission

without a deal, which most experts still say would be a bad idea.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (pictured above with Mr Johnson) has said a comprehensive trade deal by the end of 2020 would be "impossible".

FAMILIES NEEDED

THE charity Barnardo's needs more foster families to look after older children, siblings, BAME (black, Asian, and minority ethnic) children and those who are disabled.

There are many reasons why a child might need to leave their family for a foster home, and it could be for a few weeks, months or maybe even years. But foster families know that they are making a difference and helping a young person out when they're at their most vulnerable.

Barnardo's Fostering and Adoption Week runs from 20-26 January and you can find out more at tinyurl.com/fosteradoptlearn.



TEEN INTERN DISCOVERS PLANET

MANY interns might find themselves fetching coffee or taking notes in meetings to start with, but a teenager at NASA did something a bit more exciting.

After three days on the job, 17-year-old Wolf Cukier noticed something that looked suspicious. "At first I thought it was a stellar eclipse [when one star blocks another], but the timing was wrong," said Wolf. "It turned out to be a planet."

The planet that was discovered by the New York teenager is seven times the size of Earth. It also has two stars, one of which is bigger than our sun!

Wolf was using NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) for the first time, which looks for changes in the brightness of stars.

The planet is now known as TOI 1338b but we think Planet Wolf would be a cooler name!



CHILDLINE HELPS THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN EVERY WEEK. IF YOU EVER FEEL WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING IN THE NEWS OR YOU JUST NEED TO TALK, YOU CAN VISIT WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK OR CALL THEM ON 0800 11 11.

6. HOME NEWS

DENBIGH

● Formula 1 hopeful

A 14-year-old girl who dreams of working in Formula 1 has been offered a place at a specialist engineering academy. Libby Chapman was part of a school team who made it to the F1 in Schools world finals in Abu Dhabi. More than 300 young people designed model cars in teams and, later, Libby was offered one of ten places at the Unilever Williams Engineering Academy. The academy identifies and mentors talented young engineers.



BIRMINGHAM

● City car ban proposed

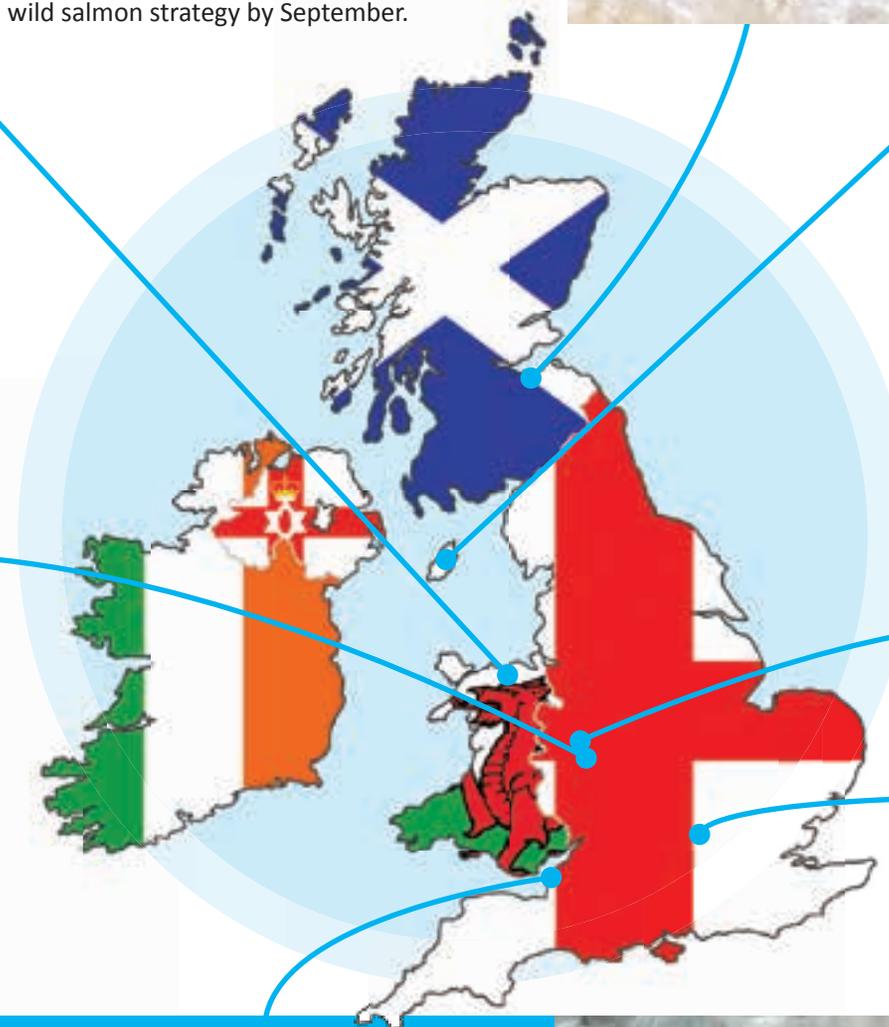
Birmingham city council is looking to reduce pollution in the city centre by cutting back on private car journeys. Under the plans, cars wouldn't be allowed to drive through the city. They would be able to go into it from certain areas but would have to go back out to a ring road to get to other parts of the city. The council said it wants to encourage greater use of public transport, walking and cycling.



EDINBURGH

● Salmon nearing "crisis point"

Fisheries experts are arguing for salmon conservation to be made a top priority. Conservationists and politicians will be discussing strategies at an event in Holyrood. Dr Alan Wells, the chief executive of Fisheries Management Scotland, said that low catch figures in recent years confirmed that "this iconic species is now approaching crisis point". The Scottish Government has said it will develop a wild salmon strategy by September.



ISLE OF MAN

● Carbon-neutral plan

The Government has released an action plan for lowering carbon emissions on the Isle of Man. This includes a commitment for 75% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2035. The plan also includes planting a woodland of 85,000 trees and repairing peatland.

WOLVERHAMPTON

● Town of the Year fail

A Town of the Year prize funded by the Government got off to a shaky start by launching in Wolverhampton – which has been a city for 19 years! Communities secretary Robert Jenrick, who was born and educated in Wolverhampton, was said to have toured the city's "town centre". The mayor, Claire Darke, said: "Are they that out of touch that they did not bother to look it up?"



BRISTOL

● Fish smell syndrome

A woman with a rare disorder that makes her smell like rotten fish has spoken about the problems it causes her. Paula Thomas has trimethylaminuria (TMAU), which means her body can't break down certain foods. She described the smell created by the disorder as "living with a death sentence". She has missed her daughter's school play to avoid crowds and been made to get off buses because of it.



There is no cure for trimethylaminuria

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



● Ancient trees felled

Contractors working for HS2, the high-speed railway being built between Birmingham and London, have admitted working on a nature reserve without permission. Mark Vallance, reserves manager for the landowners, said he was "livid" after discovering that trees had been chopped down and habitats for bats destroyed.

NEWS IN NUMBERS

91 miles per hour was the speed at which the Queen's granddaughter was caught speeding. Zara Tindall has been banned from driving for six months.

£4m is the amount of money in a Government fund for farmers affected by severe flooding in 2019. The fund has been doubled and expanded to cover wider areas of the UK. Farmers can apply for up to £25,000 in help.



A farm in Lincoln surrounded by floodwaters last November

892 is the number of people who died due to the summer heatwaves in England last year. Public Health England said that more than 3,400 (mostly elderly) people died in England over the last four years because of extreme temperatures.

£15,000 a month is how much it will cost you to rent a whole private island in Poole Harbour. It's thought that Round Island was home to a notorious pirate in the 15th century. Arrrr!



7. BIG NEWS



SUGAR DOWN, SALT UP

BRITISH children are consuming less sugar than they used to, but some products are getting saltier.

Experts have called the sugar tax on soft drinks a “huge success” after new research found that the average amount of sugar in drinks had been lowered by almost a third.

Packed lunches are getting less sugary too. A study, comparing packed lunches in 2006 to those in 2016, found that the amount of sweets and chocolate in packed lunches has fallen by 10%, and the amount of sugary drinks has fallen by nearly 15%. However, there were also lower levels of vitamins and minerals in packed lunches, with only 20% of kids having any vegetables.

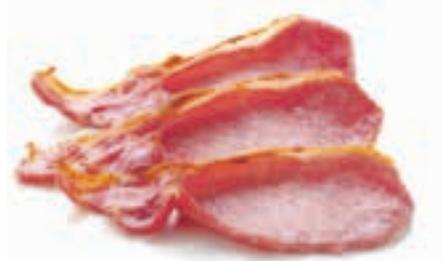
John Maingay, a director at the British Heart Foundation (BHF) said that there’s good news, but it’s not quite enough.

“It’s very encouraging to see the positive impact... However, children are still consuming more than twice the maximum sugar allowance.”

The BHF is now calling for the sugar tax to include milk-based drinks, such as chocolate milk and milkshakes.

While we might be reducing the amount of sugar we’re eating, many foods still have too much salt in.

A recent survey by Action on Salt found that 86% of the 171 bacon products they looked at had as much salt as seawater!



NEW LESSONS FOR NATURE LOVERS

by **Aaron Henderson**

The head of the OCR exam board has confirmed that a new GCSE in natural history is being created.

The idea for the new GCSE came from broadcaster and nature writer Mary Colwell and is being backed by Green Party MP Caroline Lucas.

The nature writer said that the GCSE would teach students about the many different species of plants and animals that we’re lucky enough to share our home with, and could be taught in schools from 2021.

Tim Oates, a director of research at OCR explained why the exam board had decided to back the new plan.

“This is not a temporary priority,” he said. “This is

one where it’s important for the education system to respond to the kind of requirements that are emerging in respect to environmental awareness.”

Oates said the GCSE had received an “overwhelmingly positive response”, which he said reflected the “huge groundswell of concern” for the environment.

Before being taught in schools, the GCSE will have to be approved by the Government.

A Government spokesman said that “the Department for Education has not made any commitment to introducing a GCSE in natural history, but would consider any proposal” from OCR.

BITESIZE NEWS

THE Department for Education revealed this week that school exclusions rose by nearly 30,000 between 2016/17 and 2017/18.



SLANG BAN IS BARE NAFF

A NEW study has found that banning slang from schools can put pupils off learning.

Linguistics expert Ian Cushing travelled the UK, interviewing teachers and visiting schools that punished students for using words such as ‘bare’, ‘peng’ and ‘proper’, or for using incorrect grammar such as “she were doing it wrong, Miss!”

He found that students who were told off for using incorrect grammar were less likely to take part in lessons.

Cushing explained that his research didn’t mean that teachers should bin their rule books completely, however.

THE PEOPLE VS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

FRANCE’S President Macron has put together 150 random French citizens to help him decide how best to fight the climate crisis.

Everyone from 16-year-old school pupils to carers, shuttle-bus drivers and retired rail workers are all part of France’s new Citizens’ Convention on Climate.

The idea is that the people will represent “the diversity of the French population”, and make sure that the solutions created to fight the climate crisis work for the entire country.

According to Macron, the group will have serious power and will genuinely shape the president’s policies.

Later this month, the UK will begin hosting its own citizens’ climate assembly in Birmingham.

A group of 110 people will take part in a debate to decide on policies that will be recommended to the Government.

The assembly will be guided by a team of top climate experts.



“Standard English has its place for things like job interviews, but kids are very good at switching between informal speech and formal speech depending on the context [situation],” he said. Rather than banning slang, Cushing said that students need to be taught why formal English is important, why people take it more seriously, and that using non-standard English isn’t ‘incorrect’, ‘wrong’ or ‘inappropriate’.

Bare good news if you like slang!

8. WORLD NEWS

USA

● Island earthquakes

Last Wednesday, another round of earthquakes struck Puerto Rico, killing one person and injuring several others. For the last few weeks, quakes have been shaking the island, destroying homes and power supplies. Experts said the earthquakes could cost Puerto Rico's government up to \$3.1 billion (£2.4 billion). The island nation is still recovering following Hurricane Maria in September 2017, which left huge parts of the island without power for months.



NORWAY

● Safer streets

In 2019, no-one was killed by dangerous driving in the city of Oslo, which is home to 675,000 people. This is because of Oslo's Vision Zero programme, led by mayor Raymond Johansen. Over the last three years, all car parking spaces have been removed from Oslo city centre, private vehicles have been banned from dozens of streets, and almost 40 miles of bicycle lanes have been added. Johansen said that "car traffic will always be a part of the city, but drivers should act as guests. Humans are taking back the streets from cars."



NEPAL

● Mount Everest is turning green

The world's warming climate has meant that plants are growing higher up the slopes of Mount Everest than they have in the last 25 years. By studying green regions in satellite images taken by NASA from 1993 to 2018, scientist found that plants are likely to move further uphill as the climate warms, which may affect how water from the Himalayas flows into nearby rivers.



NEW ZEALAND

● Climate curriculum

This year, every school in New Zealand will give students the opportunity to learn about the climate crisis and ways in which they can take action. However, resources will only be available to secondary schools, even though children much younger than that want to learn more. It's hoped the lessons will help students with feelings of eco-anxiety.



PHILIPPINES

● Eruption warning

As First News went to press, mass evacuations were taking place on the island of Luzon, after the Taal volcano began to spew lava. Around 25,000 villagers have been moved to evacuation centres, although authorities said up to a million more people may have to join them. Ash has covered homes, and residents living outside the immediate danger zone are being advised to stay indoors or to wear masks and goggles if they have to go outside.



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

● Measles epidemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that the spread of measles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has killed over 6,000. The DRC is also experiencing a deadly outbreak of Ebola, although this has killed less than half as many people. The WHO says that since the beginning of 2019 there have been around 310,000 cases of measles reported. An extra £30m is needed so the WHO can vaccinate vulnerable children against the disease.





OUR WORLD

NAME: FARHANA AND JANAINAH
LIVES: PHILIPPINES

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.CAREINTERNATIONAL.ORG.UK

FARHANA and Janainah, both aged 12, are best friends. They met in a temporary camp for displaced people in the Philippines after their home town was destroyed by a violent attack.

Two years later, many of those residents remain displaced.

Farhana and Janainah are missing a lot of school to help care for sick parents and earn money to support their families. The two best friends

lean on each other for support.

"We swim in the lake almost every day, we do picnics," Farhana says.

But life is full of uncertainty and goodbyes. "I feel sad every time a friend of mine is leaving," she adds.



THE BIG PICTURE

Getty

HUNDREDS of thousands of Hindus take a dip off Sagar Island, at the point where the river Ganges and the Bay of Bengal meet in eastern India.

Sagar Island and the river Ganges are holy places in Hindu mythology. Every year, Hindus visit the river before praying at the temple of Kapil Muni, an important figure in the religion.



17 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT GRETA THUNBERG



Getty

IT'S no secret that climate activist Greta Thunberg has changed the world. In August 2018, at 15 years old, Greta skipped school to stand alone outside the Swedish parliament, where she called on world leaders to do more to help the environment. Within a few months, the young campaigner had inspired millions to walk out of school and take action against the climate crisis. On 3 January, the Nobel Prize nominee and *TIME*'s Person of the Year 2019 turned 17 – so we thought we'd celebrate by sharing our 17 favourite facts about Greta!

- 1** Greta's full name is Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg!
- 2** Greta's mum, Malena Ernman, is famous in her own right! She is one of Sweden's most celebrated opera singers.
- 3** Greta's dad, Svante, is named after Nobel Prize winner Svante Arrhenius. Arrhenius is best known for predicting that changes in levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would make a big change to the Earth's surface temperature. That finding led to the conclusion that human-made carbon dioxide emissions cause global warming.
- 4** Greta has Asperger's syndrome, which can make social interaction hard. Someone with Asperger's might also focus on things more intensely. Greta said that she first learned about climate change when she was nine and it's been her "special interest" since.
- 5** Greta hasn't eaten meat since she was 12 years old.
- 6** Greta often talks to researchers while writing her speeches, to make sure that everything she says is scientifically accurate and easy to understand.
- 7** Greta is the first person born after the year 2000 to receive *TIME* magazine's Person of the Year award.
- 8** All the money that Greta makes from her book, *No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference*, is donated to charity.
- 9** Greta and 21 other youth climate campaigners will call for an end to the fossil fuel economy at this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- 10** This summer, a documentary about the Swedish climate activist, called *Greta*, will premiere on Hulu.
- 11** When a quiz show contestant was asked to name the young climate activist who wrote *No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference*, she guessed: "Sharon". Greta responded to the blunder by changing her name on Twitter to Sharon!
- 12** Greta, alongside 15 other youth climate activists, has sued five countries for not sticking to the Paris climate agreement.
- 13** She sailed from the state of Virginia in the US to Lisbon, Portugal to be at the COP25 Climate conference in Madrid. She was joined by a family of YouTubers and professional yachtswoman, Nikki Henderson.
- 14** In response to personal attacks, Greta said: "It's quite hilarious when the only thing people can do is mock you, or talk about your appearance or personality, as it means they have no argument or nothing else to say."
- 15** In the last two years, Greta has received more than 25 honours and awards for her activism.
- 16** Greta's dad has said that climate activism has made her "very happy".
- 17** Naturalist Sir David Attenborough said that Greta had "achieved things that many of us who have been working on [the climate crisis] for 20-odd years have failed to achieve".



FLIGHT OF FANCY

IS CARBON OFFSETTING JUST A WAY FOR RICH PEOPLE TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT HARMING THE PLANET?



Prince Harry and Meghan have been criticised for the number of flights they take for work and holidays. They have also travelled in small private jets, which have higher emissions per passenger

POLL OF THE WEEK

How many flights a year do you take?
first.news/polls

SOMETHING called carbon offsetting has been in the news a fair bit lately, as celebs and members of the royal family have defended their frequent air travel by saying their flights have been offset. But what does that mean, what do carbon offsetting schemes involve and why do so many people say they're a bad idea? And if they are so bad, what can we do instead that's better for the planet?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CARBON OFFSETTING?

To make up for environmental damage caused by harmful activities such as flying, people can pay some money to offset things like their flight's emissions. The idea is that you pay into a scheme that removes CO₂ from the air, such as by planting trees or providing new stoves to people in developing countries so that they can cook with cleaner fuel instead of chopping trees down for firewood.

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

"In most cases, carbon offsetting just doesn't work," says Mike Childs, head of science at Friends of the Earth. "Some offsetting projects are also used by companies such as oil drillers who want to pretend they're doing good things, but are continuing to extract fossil fuels and cause huge damage to the planet. Think of it like this: offsetting is like trying to look after your teeth by paying someone else not to eat sweets."



"Jetting across the world is a privilege, not a right, and the best way to limit its impact is to do it less," *New Scientist* magazine has said

Dr Lucie Middlemiss, an associate professor in sustainability at the University of Leeds School of Earth and Environment, agrees. "It's kind of an economic fudge to make out that we're solving something when actually it's not really changing anything," she told us. "It suggests we can carry on doing what we're doing and just pay to clean up after ourselves. But there's also a really big justice issue because the people who can afford it get to carry on while everybody else just has to change, which reinforces inequality."

It's also not very easy to work out if an offsetting scheme works. Your cash might go towards planting trees, but then what?

"The forest might be burned, accidentally or on purpose, releasing all of the carbon at once," says Areeba Hamid, a climate campaigner for Greenpeace UK. "Or it might be turned into paper, or furniture, or various other things, each of which would release its carbon at a different speed. When we plant it we don't really know what will happen to it, or when."

"Since offsetting is voluntary, it won't work," adds Middlemiss, "because lots of people won't choose to do it. But also it suggests that it's the responsibility of the individual, when it's really a society-wide problem that governments can do something about."

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO INSTEAD?

The bad news for anyone who likes foreign holidays is that most people say the best thing you can do is to simply not fly. WWF told us that they see carbon offsetting as "the last step" and that you should first try to avoid or reduce harmful activities like flying and driving.

"Flying is quite interesting because not many people fly regularly," says Middlemiss.

In fact, 48% of England's population didn't take a single flight in 2018, and 20% of flights were taken by just 1% of the population.

"To make things fair, they're the people who need to start cutting down," Middlemiss says.

"To fight the climate crisis, we do need to be sucking carbon out of the air – by planting lots more trees – but this must happen at the same time as huge cuts to emissions," says Childs. "This is why we need things like more solar and wind power, and cleaner public transport."

"Another problem is that balancing a bad thing with a good thing adds up to zero, and keeps you where you are," says Hamid. "But where we are is not a good place. We need to move very quickly to a less polluting, lower-carbon place, and that means we need much less bad stuff, and much more good stuff, all at once. We need to plant lots and lots of trees, and do all the other sensible offsetting ideas, AND fly less, drive less and eat less meat. But if people start polluting more because they think offsetting makes it okay, then the offsetting industry might be encouraging more pollution and speeding up climate change."

"In the UK, long-distance train travel is hugely expensive, so one of the policies that would be really great is to subsidise train travel," says Middlemiss, which means she thinks the Government should pay to make it cheaper. "They could also make it easier to get to places like Spain by train, which is a nice trip. It tends to cost more, depending on how organised you are and how early you book, but subsidies for that kind of travel would allow people to do some really interesting things without flying."



Some offsetting schemes don't have the benefits they claim, and some turn out to be scams. Lots of tree-planting projects have failed or just not happened at all

DID YOU KNOW?

Worldwide, the average person flies once every 21 months. In 2000, it was every 44 months. Aviation is responsible for around 2% of global emissions, yet in 2018 the International Air Transport Association predicted that passenger numbers would double by 2037.

TRUST'S TREES ON EMISSION MISSION



THE National Trust plans to plant 20 million trees on its land to help achieve net zero emissions (see below) within ten years.

By 2030, the Trust says the new trees will cover an area one-and-a-half times the size of Manchester. Currently, 10% of the Trust's land is wooded, but they think this figure will be almost doubled to 17% by the end of the decade.

'Net zero' means that any carbon emissions are balanced by absorbing an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere.

Trees are considered a vital part of the fight against climate change, as they absorb a lot of carbon dioxide, as well as helping to prevent floods and providing habitats for wildlife.

The National Trust's director general said the organisation had "a responsibility to fight climate change", and that "people need nature now more than ever."

CROWDED SKIES



A clear view of the night sky is easier to find where there aren't many buildings

THE annual Star Count, when people look to the night sky to map the country's light pollution, will take place next month.

Organisers want you to become a citizen scientist by looking up at the sky on a clear night between 21-28 February. You'll be asked to count how many stars you can spot within the constellation of Orion. A constellation is a group of stars that form a pattern, and Orion is one of the most recognisable ones.

The data is studied and a map of where light pollution is affecting our vision of the night sky will then be published. The more lights there are on the ground, the harder it is to get a view of the stars.

In 2019, 57% of participants could see ten stars or fewer within Orion. This indicated severe light pollution, and it is estimated that only around a fifth of England is untouched by light pollution.

Astronomers' views of the night sky are also under threat from satellites. Tech companies such as SpaceX have plans to launch tens of thousands of satellites in the near future. These objects can get in the way of our view, both with telescopes and the naked eye.

There are around 5,000 satellites in orbit. SpaceX wants to launch a total of 42,000 satellites into space, most of which will provide internet connectivity for people on Earth. On the plus side, they have said they will paint the undersides of future satellites black, to make them much harder to spot.

You can find out more about getting involved in Star Count 2020 at tinyurl.com/StarCount2020.

JUPITER ATTACKS



A FORMER NASA scientist thinks Jupiter may be hurling dangerous objects towards Earth.

For many years, experts have talked about the Jupiter shield theory, which says that the gas planet's huge mass has acted as an enormous shield in space, deflecting comets and asteroids away from Earth.

But Kevin Grazier, a planetary scientist, has different ideas. He has published research that shows the theory that Jupiter shields us has been "laid to rest", and that the planet is just as likely to send comets towards Earth as bat them away.

When Earth was forming, the comets and asteroids that were flung here were actually very helpful, because they brought the elements required for life to flourish.

Grazier's new study says that a group of icy objects called Centaurs are transformed by Jupiter into comets that could threaten Earth. Using a simulation, Grazier found that Jupiter attracts objects from the outer solar system and hurls them towards us. But the gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn, do still protect Earth from objects caught between them.

Grazier warned: "I think we now just have to pay more attention to what's happening a bit farther away in Jupiter's neighbourhood."

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

INNOVATIONS

A NEW type of genetic test is able to quickly diagnose rare diseases in poorly children.

The 'whole exome sequencing technique' can show what is wrong in a sick baby or child within days. It identifies several unusual but life-threatening conditions in one simple test by finding mutations in a youngster's genes. It also doubles the chances of a diagnosis being made.

The test will soon be available on the National Health Service in England. It means that babies and children can get the treatment and support they need much more quickly than at present.



Our genes are made from DNA, and are like a blueprint for how our bodies grow and work

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from our friends at the Science and Industry Museum.

MARIE-ANNE Pierrette Paulze was born on 20 January 1758 in France.

A skilled illustrator and engraver, Paulze collaborated with her husband, Antoine Lavoisier, a leading 18th-century chemist.

As well as working in the laboratory, Paulze used her illustration skills to create diagrams of her and Lavoisier's work, which were featured in the publications of their experiments. Using her languages skills, Paulze also translated key chemical texts of the time. Together, their work laid the foundations of modern chemistry and the chemical elements as we know them today.

The diorama pictured above was built by the Wellcome Institute. It is based on a sketch made by Paulze showing an experiment on breathing. If you look closely you can see Paulze writing in her notebook.





617,527
is the number of empty buildings in Great Britain as of September 2019.

IN a poll of over 1,000 First News readers last year, affordable housing was revealed as a key concern for young people. With the Government reporting an increase of 165% in the number of rough sleepers since 2010, it's clear something has to be done. People sleeping in tents is increasingly common in Britain, suggesting many homeless people don't expect a change in their circumstances anytime soon. As the sight of people living on the streets becomes normalised, we look at what can be done and what is already being done to tackle homelessness in Britain.

WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

Although the first thing you might think of when you hear the word 'homeless' is someone on the street, the definition is much wider than that.

Homelessness includes those who are:

- living in temporary accommodation like shelters, hostels and women's refuges
- 'hidden homeless', such as those staying with friends and family or living in unsuitable housing such as squats
- living on the streets, whether in tents, cardboard box homes or simply in a sleeping bag.



Cardiff, Wales

IS IT GETTING WORSE?

Jasmine Basran, the Policy and Public Affairs Manager at homeless charity Crisis, says: "In the last ten years, we've seen homelessness rise in Great Britain. More people are forced to sleep on our streets or live in unsafe places like cars, tents or on the sofas of friends with no privacy."

Up and down the country, it's not hard to witness homelessness. People camp out in church grounds in Wales, Leeds town centre has tents pitched in dark corners, and tents cluster in an underpass opposite the Westfield mega-mall in London.

While it's known that the 'hidden homeless' are difficult to count, statistics for those in temporary accommodation are readily available. The most recent Government statistics say that, as of March 2019, there are 84,740 households in temporary accommodation in England alone, a rise of 77% since December 2010. Those households include more than 126,000 children.

"Our research shows that if the Government doesn't act, the number of people who are homeless will double in the next 20 years," says Basran.

WHY ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS AND WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Gordon MacRae, Assistant Director for Shelter Scotland, says, quite simply, that "there is a shortage of homes that people can afford to live in". Calls from Shelter and Crisis both suggest focusing on the building of affordable and social housing.

MacRae believes the UK Government should reconsider cuts to social security, in particular the benefit cap. He points out that the cap means the maximum number

of children a family can claim money for is two. As a result, "some families with three or more children have seen the benefit that pays their rent cut to as little as 50p a month. Homes cost a lot more than the price of two Freddo bars!"

Many experts say that Government cutbacks to social care, youth services and benefits has spurred the increase in homelessness. Other factors that contribute include poverty and unemployment, issues with drugs or alcohol, mental health problems and violence in the home.



IS THERE HOPE? WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The prime minister, Boris Johnson, announced that £260m would be put towards tackling homelessness in the UK. This is undoubtedly good news, but the Government and local councils must ensure they have a thorough plan for what must be done. Money is not a solution unless it is used properly.

Until something more concrete is announced, much of the hope is coming from the ideas and actions of ordinary people. As well as the work of big charities like Crisis and Shelter, there are countless small initiatives around the UK.

Here are just a few great examples of grassroots movements doing great work:



Change Please trains homeless people to work at coffee vans and pays them the London Living Wage (£10.55 an hour)



Haircuts4Homeless shows compassion and boosts confidence by giving free haircuts to the homeless



FareShare redistributes surplus food to charities who turn it into meals for vulnerable people, including homeless hostels and children's breakfast clubs



The Amber Foundation helps homeless young people gain skills to find work and a home

MASKED MADNESS



IT'S the most bonkers show on TV and we're hooked! Which celeb will be unveiled next? We have no idea and neither do the judges! We chatted to Rita Ora, one of the *Masked Singer* panellists, to find out more about the Saturday night fun-fest!

■ **What sets *The Masked Singer* apart from other shows?**

The *Masked Singer* is completely unique! It's fresh, original and there's no other show like it. The costumes and stage production add a big theatrical element to it. I'm very excited that we were given the opportunity to bring the show to the UK.

■ **What are the relationships like on the judging panel and how well did you know each other before?**

We all immediately got on so well and I think the mix of personalities is perfect for the show and what makes it so fun! It's been a blast getting to know them all throughout filming – we are like a team now.

■ **What made you want to sign up to do the show?**

I have always been a fan of the show. The whole idea behind the show is pure genius, so how could I have said no when I heard that they wanted to bring it to the UK?! I feel so honoured to be a part of it.

■ **Which of the panel would you say is closest to the mark in terms of their guessing game?**

Jonathan [Ross] is pretty good, even if in the moment he mentions some crazy names. He usually has a good sense of people. I guess that's got a lot to do with his job.

■ **The acts come from a variety of backgrounds – did you have to do much research or did you rely on your existing knowledge?**

I relied on my love for music, so I really was thinking and listening to the voice, the tempo, the tone, the texture, even sometimes how they breathe. Being a singer, I really pick up on these things, so that really helped me out. And to be fair, I did get the most right in this whole competition, I'm just saying!

■ **How impressive is the level of secrecy surrounding the identity of the performers?**

It blew me away! The costumes make it impossible to guess the identity of the performer and the

intensity of the reveal is what makes it such an amazing show. The level of detail from head to toe is extraordinary, so it's distracting! The whole point is to try to concentrate on the voice but it's hard to solely tune in on that when you're so mesmerised by what's in front of you.

■ **What was your most outrageous guess throughout the show?**

Probably one of the royals!

■ **If you ever took part as a contestant, what would your character costume be?**

We've seen so many different characters, ones you couldn't even imagine. I feel like the possibilities are endless. I would love to be made into a fictional Disney character of some sort or a superhero. I'm always up for an opportunity to dress up.

■ **If you were anonymous for the day, what would you do?**

I'm going to be boring and say something really simple! I'd love to go shopping down Portobello Road with my sister and mum, grab coffee and cake in a cute little cafe and have a wander around the streets. It's been a little while since I've been able to do that and I can't think of a better way to spend a day.



The *Masked Singer* continues Saturdays on ITV1

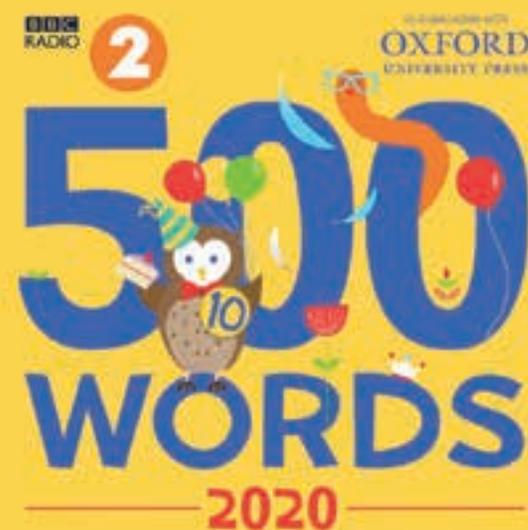
ARE YOU A BUDDING AUTHOR?

THIS week, BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Show's 500 Words writing competition launched, which is now in its tenth year!

Children aged 5-13 can enter the competition, which asks you to write a fictional story under 500 words long.

DJ Zoe Ball launched the competition as part of the Breakfast Show that she hosts.

"I'm so proud and excited to launch the BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Show's 500 Words again this year, particularly as we're celebrating its tenth anniversary!" said Zoe. "In that time an incredible 950,000 children have taken part. So please do encourage anyone you know aged between 5 and 13 years old to get creative, put pen to paper, and send in their fabulous story... and perhaps it will be them joining us at the very special live final."



Find out more at bbc.co.uk/500words

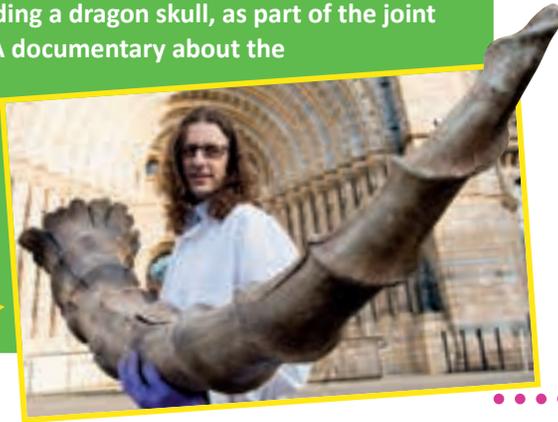
THIS WEEK



1 X Factor singers Max and Harvey are going on tour! The twins have announced a series of live dates around the UK this February, kicking off in London on 16 February. For a full list of dates and ticket info, visit maxandharveyofficial.com.

2 Grime star Stormzy has appeared on TV in his slippers! The star was being interviewed on BBC Breakfast when he admitted he was wearing his slippers at a fan signing event before the interview and forgot to change them!

3 A new exhibit will open at the Natural History Museum this spring that joins the Wizarding World of Harry Potter with some real amazing creatures. *Fantastic Beasts: The Wonder of Nature* will compare creatures from the natural, mythical and Wizarding worlds. The Erumpent horn (pictured) used in the films will be on display along with other props, including a dragon skull, as part of the joint exhibition. A documentary about the exhibition will be shown on the BBC later in the year.



PICS OF THE WEEK



Artist's impressions of the set and costumes from *The Prince of Egypt*

A SERIES of images have been released of the set and costumes for a brand-new musical coming to the West End next month.

The Prince of Egypt will open at the famous Dominion Theatre on 5 February. The show tells the story of Ramses and his adopted brother Moses, and the conflict they face as they become two very different leaders. The show is based on *The Prince of Egypt*, an animated film released by DreamWorks in 1998, and is set to be one of 2020's hottest theatre tickets.



For dates and tickets, visit www.theprinceofegyptmusical.com

GET READY FOR GANGSTA GRANNY: THE RIDE! ★

BACK in 2019, David Walliams announced he would be working with Alton Towers on a new attraction based on his books. This week more details were announced!

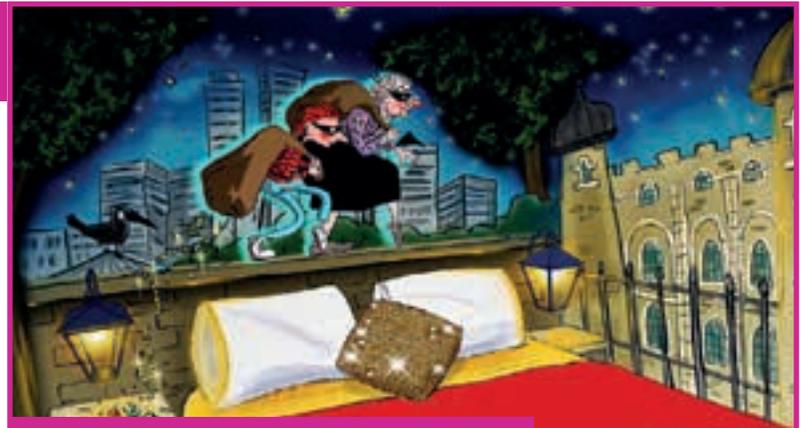
Gangsta Granny: The Ride will open at the Staffordshire resort this spring. The groundbreaking new attraction will use 4D technology in a ride experience that sees guests attempt a jewellery heist alongside characters from the David Walliams story.

With twists, spins, scenes from the book and even smells, the ride is set to be a world apart from anything else at Alton Towers.

David Walliams said: "I've worked really closely

with the team at Alton Towers to make sure the ride is just as funny and as exciting as the book. I think children and their parents – and even their grandparents – are going to love it!"

Gangsta Granny: The Ride will sit in an area of the resort that is being redesigned with a World of Walliams twist, so it will include Raj's Shop, a Royal Carousel and Raj's Bouncy Bottom Burp, whatever that may be. We can't wait to find out!



Special *Gangsta Granny*-themed rooms have been designed for the Alton Towers Hotel



16. BIG INTERVIEW

● HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BACK FOR SERIES TWO?

It's very exciting to be back for series two, especially with the new addition, Todrick. It's a really, really good vibe!

● HOW HAS IT BEEN WELCOMING TODRICK TO THE GREATEST DANCER TEAM? HAS IT CHANGED HOW THE GROUP WORKS TOGETHER?

Todrick is a very well-informed expert in his field so I find myself listening to him and learning stuff, or completely agreeing with every single word he says. It's been really good welcoming him to the panel.

● YOU MADE IT TO THE FINAL LAST YEAR. HAS GETTING THAT FAR MADE YOU MORE DETERMINED THIS TIME AROUND?

Coming really close to winning last year has made me even more determined to win this year. But ultimately that's all to do with who I choose as my talent, because they're the ones who have to get out there every weekend and perform to a live audience.

● HAS THE STANDARD OF TALENT INCREASED THIS TIME AROUND?

The standard of talent has been really, really great this series. It's really interesting watching the different genres of dance. I've loved it!



● ARE THERE ANY DANCE STYLES YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE MORE OF?

I would have liked to have seen more tap. There was only one guy that was really amazing at tap and that was it, really. There weren't any females representing it or a group of tap, which I think could be really interesting.



CHERYL

“I’M GONNA BRING GOOD VIBES, GOOD ENERGY!”

POP star Cheryl is bringing her dance expertise back to BBC1's hit series *The Greatest Dancer*. She fills us in on series two of the show and tells us what she thinks about the new dance captain, Todrick Hall.

● WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR STAND-OUT MOMENT FROM THE AUDITIONS?

It's probably the 98-year-old woman who came on the show, because I just couldn't believe that she was still determined enough to put herself through the process of an audition at 98 years old. I found that really inspiring.

● HAVE YOU DONE ANYTHING DIFFERENTLY TO PREPARE FOR THIS SERIES?

This year I came in thinking I need to see somebody I can already visualise on the main stage at the live shows, because I didn't have the experience before. Now I know what to expect so I was looking at them through a different eye.

● YOU’VE PUT SOME AMAZING VIDEOS OUT FOR YOUR MUSIC – WAS ANY OF THE DANCING INSPIRED BY TGD?

Last year on the first series I had a group called Frobacks and they did a bit of house dance and I absolutely loved the way they did it. So I took a bit of house, just a few steps, and I added it to my latest music video.

● WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM TEAM CHERYL IN THIS SERIES? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BRING?

I'm gonna bring good vibes, good energy, big performances – and I want it to be all different types of performances. So high-energy, slow moments... I want to bring all different flavours, so I need my acts to be a variety. I'm going into this series knowing what I want to see in the live shows, and that's the way I'm going to look at them. I'm going to think: "Can I work with you, and what does that look like on live TV?"

● ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST YEAR WAS WHEN YOU AND THE OTHER DANCE CAPTAINS DID THE STRICTLY NUMBER. ARE YOU HOPING THERE'S MORE OF THAT THIS YEAR?

I loved dancing with the *Strictly* pros last year! Latin and ballroom is something I haven't done since I was six years old and I loved experiencing that, so I think there will be a lot more performances from the dance captains this year.



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



Catch *The Greatest Dancer* on BBC1 on Saturday evenings

17. FNQ – THE WEEKLY FN QUIZ



FNQ
LIVE ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

PLAY FNQ live at 5pm on Sunday and Wednesday!
You're one step ahead when playing FNQ with this copy of First News! All the answers to this week's live game of FNQ can be found inside this edition of First News.
Join in our live quiz at **5pm on Sunday and Wednesday** and be in with a chance to win Amazon vouchers.

WIN AMAZON VOUCHERS

Play with family and friends! You will earn an extra life and bonus points when you refer a friend who plays.
Get more friends to register and you can all play our after-school live game on Wednesdays. Each game will consist of five questions and a **£50 prize pot!**

Download the FNQ app from the App Store and Google Play now!

FREE TO PLAY

DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.FNQAPP.CO.UK

THEATRE TICKETS Advertisement feature

FN TRIAL OFFER

FROM THE AWARD-WINNING PRODUCERS OF GANGSTA GRANNY!

David Walliams
BILLIONAIRE BOY

'WHAT A MAGNIFICENT SHOW! IT COULDN'T BE BETTER!' DAVID WALLIAMS

COMING TO YOUR THEATRE IN 2020!
See trailer, reviews and photos at billionaireboylive.com

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO WOULD ENJOY FIRST NEWS?

Let them know about our trial offer: **3 ISSUES FOR £1**

www.firstnews.co.uk or call 0330 333 0186

*This is a direct debit offer and the subscription will step up to £19.99 every 3 months thereafter. You may cancel at any time. If you decide not to continue beyond the trial you may cancel before your second issue and no further payment will be taken.

© 2010 and TM - David Walliams/PaperCollins Publishers Ltd/Tony Ross/Quentin Blake

CRAFTING FOR WILDLIFE

CRAFTERS from around the world have banded together to create mittens, pouches and shelters for wildlife injured and affected by the wildfires in Australia.

More than a billion animals are said to have died in the bushfires and thousands more have been injured. Koalas need mittens to protect their burnt paws and orphaned young marsupials, including kangaroos, wallabies and koalas, need pouches while they grow.

The big crafting drive has been organised by the Australia-based Animal Rescue Craft Guild, who posted sewing and knitting patterns on their Facebook page. More than 120,000 members have joined the online group in the past few weeks and the volunteer crafters have been working tirelessly to make items that will help wildlife during this crisis.



Animal Rescue Craft Guild/Facebook



CLEVER PUFFINS

iStock

PUFFINS have been recorded using tools to help them scratch their backs!

The behaviour was seen by puffin expert Annette Fayet from the University of Oxford. She witnessed two different puffins, living in two different colonies, picking up sticks with their beaks and using them to scratch either their back or their chest, possibly to remove a parasite.

The two incidents happened in Wales and Iceland, leading experts to believe that all puffins are capable of using tools. It is the first time any species of seabird has been recorded using tools. Only a small number of animal species use tools, which means puffins could be much smarter than we previously believed.

SHARING IS CARING



Anastasia Krashenimnikova

A STUDY of parrots in Germany has found that African grey parrots are keen to help other parrots get treats.

The study saw the parrots trading silver tokens for a treat through a window. The bird would hand the researchers a token in exchange for a nut.

A second parrot in a compartment next door did not have any tokens. But during the study, seven out of eight birds passed their neighbour

a token to allow them to get their own treats too.

Researchers also noted that if the two birds were "friends" or knew each other well, the parrots would pass more tokens across to help their friend get more treats.

The full report was published in the journal *Current Biology*.

19. GAME ZONE

PIXEL POSTAGE

IT'S the crossover that no-one saw coming: the Royal Mail has announced that it'll be celebrating classic UK-made games with a collection of special stamps.

The set of 12 stamps will be available from 21 January and will feature a number of games that you might not recognise, but are pretty important in the history of videogames.

"The UK has been at the forefront of the videogames industry for decades," said Royal Mail spokesman Philip Parker. "In the '80s and '90s, young designers grappled with coding on the new microcomputers and set the template for the industry with iconic games."



PARENTS LEARN HOW TO PLAY



THE UK Interactive Entertainment Association has launched a new campaign that aims to educate parents on how to manage screen time and in-game purchases on consoles.

The Get Smart About PLAY campaign aims to encourage parents and carers to follow four simple steps, so that they can better understand videogames and make sure that kids are safe playing them.

The campaign is supported by former professional footballer, parent and gamer Rio Ferdinand (left), who said: "My kids love playing videogames, but as a parent it is important for me to be able to manage the amount of time they play."



A POKÉ-PREVIEW OF 2020!

POKÉMON fans will be pleased to hear that Nintendo has tons of exciting plans for the series this year, revealed in a special Nintendo Direct video released last week.

The video kicked off with a welcome surprise – Pokémon Mystery Dungeon is back!

The successful spin-off from the main series was originally released for the Nintendo DS back in 2006, but has now been completely remade for the Switch. In *Pokémon Mystery Dungeon: Rescue Team DX*, you won't be training Pokémon – you mysteriously become one! Check out the free demo.



There was also big news for fans of *Pokémon Sword and Shield*. The games will be getting an expansion pass that will unlock two big new parts of the game.

It costs £27 in total and the first part will be called *The Isle of Armor*. It'll be out before the end of June, while the second, called *The Crown Tundra*, will be released in the autumn.

Together, the new expansions will add two new open areas to explore, similar to the main games' Wild Area, along with 200 more creatures and exciting new, legendary Pokémon.



New legendary Pokémon Calyrex

TOP TECH AT CES 2020



THE Consumer Electronics Show, held in Las Vegas every year, is the first glimpse at the futuristic gadgets, gizmos and doohickeys that we might be buying in the next few years! Here are a few of our favourite things from this year's big event.

BALLIE

THIS little robot is like a real version of the BB-8 droid from *Star Wars*!

The beeping bot, created by Samsung, can roll around following its owner.

Using AI (artificial intelligence), it'll respond to voice commands and can activate smart home devices such as robotic vacuums, should it see that things need a clean.

It'll also film 'special moments' and act as a fitness assistant, according to Samsung.

While it can't go upstairs, we reckon Ballie looks pretty darn adorable.



NREAL AR GLASSES

THESE AR (augmented reality) glasses from Chinese company Nreal have impressed visitors to CES.

Unlike a lot of AR glasses being developed, Nreal's Light glasses actually look like normal glasses!

Set to be released later this year, the glasses will apparently cost the same as a smartphone, which is much cheaper than most other AR glasses.



SERO TV

THIS big telly can rotate, like a giant phone!

The Samsung Sero TV has a vertical mode, should you want to watch your favourite TikTok videos on a much, much larger screen.



GADGET CORNER

ROLLBOT

ROLLBOT is a robot that can deliver a roll of loo roll to you when you're most in need.

Created by toilet paper manufacturers Charmin, RollBot is a tiny robot with a toilet roll holder. Should you need RollBot's assistance, you can activate the bot via Bluetooth and it will deliver a fresh roll straight to your bathroom... as long as you have the door open!

While there are no plans to actually sell RollBot, never say never!



TCS YOUNG DIGITAL INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

LAST year, we asked you to enter our Young Digital Innovator of the Year competition by coming up with an invention that could help older people live happier and healthier lives.



We were amazed at how good your entries were, and it was really difficult to whittle them down to a shortlist! But after hours of agonising, our judges settled on a winning entry. We are delighted to announce that Leila from St Albans, aged nine, is the winner!

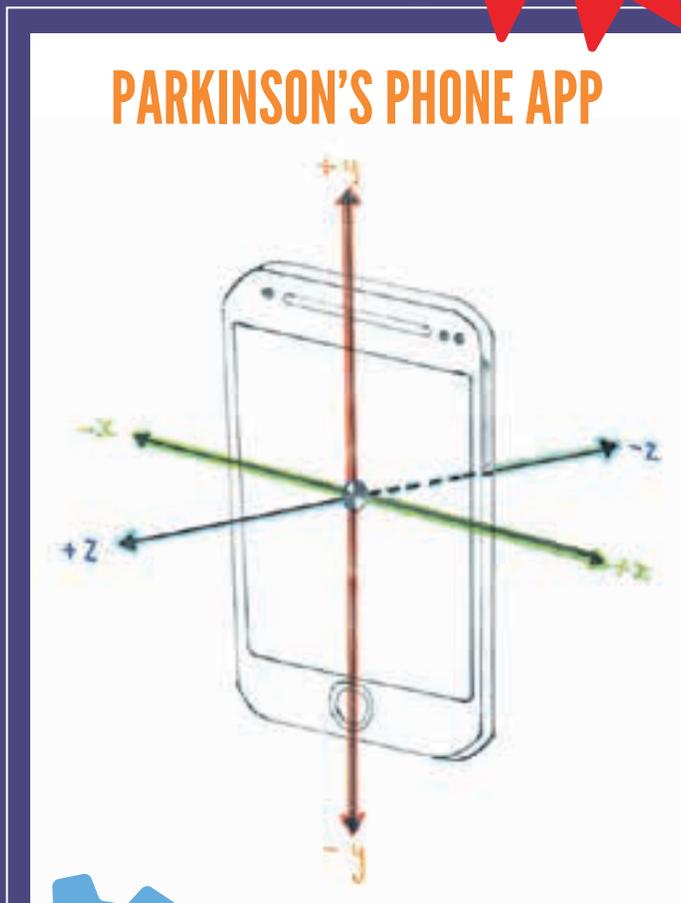


Leila's invention is called the Parkinson's Phone App, which makes it easier for people with Parkinson's disease to use a mobile phone. Leila was inspired to come up with the idea after spending time with her uncle Tim, who suffers from the condition.

Parkinson's disease damages parts of the brain over several years. Although it can affect anyone, it is most common in people over 50. One of the main symptoms is uncontrollable shaking. Leila's app would use the in-built accelerometer (a device that can measure movement) in smartphones to counter a person's shaking. This brilliant innovation would make it much easier for Parkinson's sufferers to use a phone to text or browse the internet.

Leila writes: "The Parkinson's Phone App will use the movements detected by the accelerometer and move the display the same amount in the opposite direction, which will cancel out the movements caused by a person shaking. An accelerometer continuously monitors the movement in three dimensions: side to side (x), up and down (y) and forward and backwards (z)."

For her brilliant idea, Leila wins the prestigious title of Young Digital Innovator of the Year, her very own **MacBook** laptop PLUS a **3D printer for her school!** Congratulations, Leila!



THE PARKINSON'S PHONE APP: WHAT OUR JUDGES SAID

Nikki Morris

Chief Executive Officer, Age UK Camden

"People with Parkinson's have the cognitive ability [understanding] to use technology such as mobile phones but struggle to access them at times because of the physical effects of the disease. Being able to continue to use their phone easily and independently as their disease progresses would make such a difference to so many people."

Priyanka Sethi

Head of Sales, Communication, Media and Information Services, TCS UK & Ireland

"Extremely organised thought process, innovative and creative. Great technical writing, description and representation. Thorough research into the problem and solution. Very practical and implementable solution. I hope to see it as an app soon!"

Nicky Cox MBE

Editor in Chief, First News

"Unbelievably thoughtful and clever idea. I also learned something about how mobile phone movement is constantly monitored. Parkinson's is incredibly debilitating [making weak] and this idea to make communication easier on a phone is terrific. Well done, Leila!"



RUNNERS-UP

My Raptor by Luke, 11

My Raptor is an electronic bird that has a smart screen on its chest. Press the icons like a pen, key or wallet and the bird will fly off to find them for you!



Eye Strap by Azeem, 7

The Eye Strap is a strap that reminds people when their eye drops are due. It holds the drops in four pods and has an alarm to remind them.

"They were all brilliant. Every single one of them has taken such a considered and thoughtful approach to genuine real-world problems. And they've all put in so much work and come up with imaginative approaches, grounded in current technology. I would genuinely love to see all of these ideas become a reality."
Cassie Williams, Head of Digital at The Royal Institution

"Each entry was remarkable in thought process, execution and creativity. I was more than pleasantly surprised to see such calibre, intelligence and professionalism of writing in such young minds!"
Priyanka Sethi

21. CRAZY BUT TRUE

AMAZING ART



THE world record for the largest drawing by an individual has been broken by the woman who pioneered the adult colouring book.

Johanna Basford OBE, from Aberdeenshire in Scotland, spent 12 hours drawing the black and white work across 501 square metres of paper. Imagine how long that would take to colour in!

Johanna said: "I want to encourage people to put their phones down and pick their pencils up. Art is a wonderful way to recharge and relax, something we all need to do more of."

Her colouring books have sold more than 21 million copies around the world.



WIENER ON WHEELS



THE bizarre contraption pictured above is a real road-legal vehicle, dubbed the Wienermobile.

It is owned by American food company Oscar Mayer, which is on the lookout for a recent college graduate it can hire to be a 'hotdogger'.

The job would involve driving the 27-foot Wienermobile around America, promoting the company and getting involved with charity events and TV appearances.

FLYING TAXI TEST



A PILOTLESS flying taxi has been demonstrated to 100 people in America.

The Chinese EHang 216 vehicle is a drone with room for two passengers. The test flight took place in North Carolina – the same state where the Wright brothers made the first ever successful flight in 1903.

Although the drone has room for two, it was not legally allowed to fly with passengers during the test.



3D FISH FUN



WITH the help of adorable tiny 3D specs, scientists have discovered that cuttlefish can see in three dimensions.

But the marine molluscs (cuttlefish aren't really fish!) weren't watching the latest Marvel movie.

The cuttlefish were shown 3D video of shrimp, their favourite snack, on a screen while wearing their glasses. The molluscs attacked the shrimp in the same way they would in the wild.

This showed that cuttlefish can compute distance using information from both eyes at once. Scientists weren't sure, as cuttlefish can move each eye independently, unlike us. Trevor Wardill, who led the research, said: "Cuttlefish can do depth perception better than we can."

It's not the first time scientists have investigated 3D effects on creatures. Newcastle University put 3D glasses on a praying mantis and discovered a whole new way of seeing in 3D!

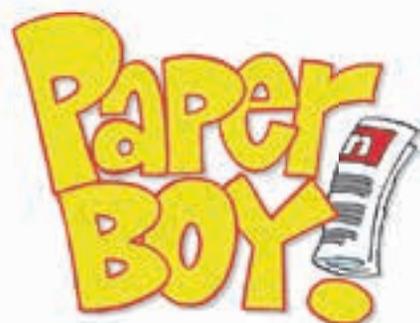


WHY DID THE TOILET PAPER ROLL DOWN THE HILL? TO GET TO THE BOTTOM!



WHY DO SHELLFISH GO TO THE GYM? TO GET STRONGER MUSSELS!

SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



22. PUZZLES

WIN! BOOKEEZ

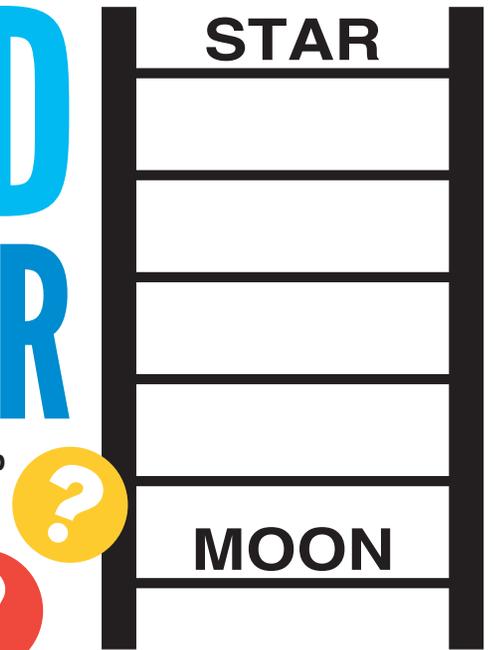
CAN you complete our sudoku and fill in the numbers one to nine? Send in your answers and two lucky winners will each win a Bookeez book-making studio. Bookeez enables you to create your own story books, scripts, journals and much more! What's your story? Bring your ideas to life by decorating, stamping and stencilling your pages to see your stories transform using the special Bookeez tools. It's simple to change a page or your whole book with an easy click! Everything stores neatly inside to minimise mess. All you need is your imagination!



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

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.



CROSSWORD

JUST for fun this week!

Can you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

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

ACROSS

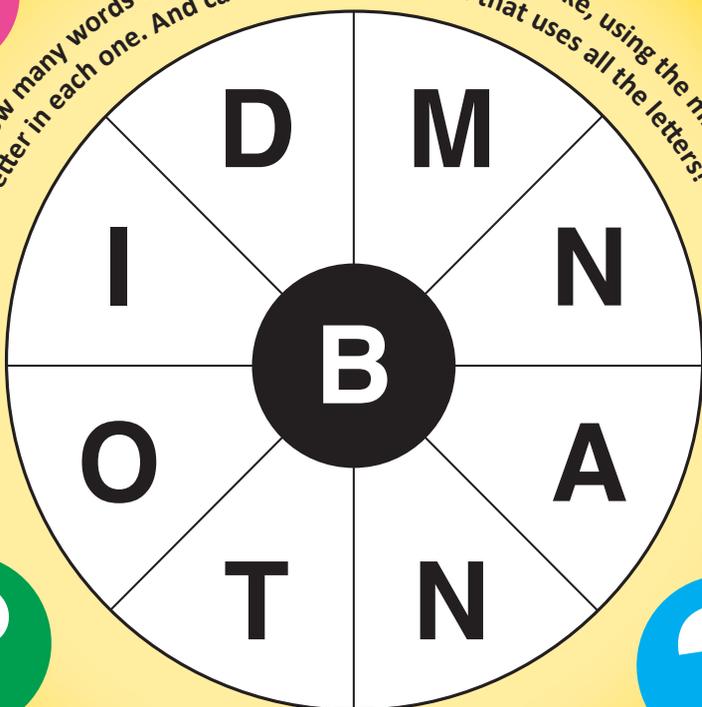
- 1 E.g. dollar or pound (8)
- 6 Routes (5)
- 7 Record onto tape (5)
- 9 Have the courage to do something (4)
- 10 Instruments used for weighing (6)
- 12 Choice (6)
- 14 Area of land surrounded by the sea (4)
- 17 A country in Africa (5)
- 18 Parts of a house (5)
- 19 Safety item worn in a car (4,4)

DOWN

- 2 Complete; absolute (5)
- 3 Move upwards (4)
- 4 A beginner or learner (6)
- 5 Song-like cry (5)
- 6 You use this to secure a bicycle (7)
- 8 Seafood eaten as a delicacy (plural) (7)
- 11 Type of musical composition (6)
- 13 Temporary outdoor shelters (5)
- 15 Group of fish (5)
- 16 Seize (4)

WORD WHEEL

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



23. PUZZLES

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles to Puzzles 709, First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. Or by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. The closing date for puzzle entries is Thursday 23 January 2020.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *The Personal History of David Copperfield*?



WORDSEARCH

CAN you find the words below in our Chinese New Year-themed wordsearch? Remember they can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dragon | <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good fortune | <input type="checkbox"/> Goat | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Full moon | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Lantern |

WIN!

A ZANUSSI OVEN AND COOKING UTENSILS

TO celebrate the launch of Zanussi Cook School, Zanussi is offering one lucky winner the chance to win a Zanussi oven*, cooking utensils and a Cook School tote bag! The Cook School is a pioneering non-profit initiative, offering accessible cooking lessons for children nationwide.



Zanussi Cook School provides you with the skills you need to cook well-balanced, sustainable meals from scratch, which you can repeat at home for your families. Educating families on the importance of nutrition for long-term health, Zanussi is encouraging you to get creative in the kitchen with this competition.

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

Which food is the most common to be thrown away each year?
 a) cheese b) potatoes c) bread

*Product size and model may vary due to the winner's kitchen specifications.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY COOK

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 30 January 2020.

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: neck scarf is a different colour, head is larger, hat has been added, wristband has been removed, extra rock has been added.
Word Ladder: need, seed, send, sent, went, want.
What on Earth?: SpongeBob SquarePants, Scooby Doo, Adventure Time's Finn, Tweety Pie, Bart Simpson, Mickey Mouse.
Word Wheel: adjective.

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

24. WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

MAKE YOUR OWN NEON LIGHTS PREZZYBOX.COM £14.99

Customise your very own neon sign with this fun light kit. Available in blue or pink, these long light-up strips are flexible, so you can mould them into any shape or word. Plus, as it's battery-powered, you can hang it up anywhere – just switch it on and watch your creation glow.



STAR WARS ICON LIGHTS FIREBOX.COM £11.99 EACH

Brighten your room and channel the Force with these cute Star Wars lights. A must-have for Star Wars fans, each light has a free-standing 3D figure that lights up when switched on. The light stands 10cm tall and is placed on a black base that features the iconic Star Wars logo.



POND TROOPER LIGHT-UP BATH DUCK IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £9.99

Light up bath time with this fun Pond Trooper duck light. The child-safe bath duck features an internal light that turns on when it comes into contact with water and switches off again when the duck is removed. The automatic colour-changing LED bulbs light up and cycle through a range of colours that will really brighten up your bath time!



All prices correct at time of printing.

REMINDER FOR YOU AND YOUR TEACHERS!

IN last week's *First News*, we told you about Arts Backpack, a campaign by Action for Children's Arts for all children in the UK to have access to five arts experiences before the age of 12.

We'd love to hear the views of as many young people as possible so that we can make them heard by the people making decisions about arts education. Get involved by filling in our questionnaire with your class.

You can find the questionnaire in last week's edition of *First News* or download it at tinyurl.com/acafnsurvey. One school, drawn at random on Monday 10 February, will win a bumper bundle of stationery!



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION TOP FIVE TIPS

IF you're a budding nature photographer, check out these tips from the Under-18s winner of last year's Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Photographic Competition, 17-year-old Jake Kneale.

- 1. Start local:** Wherever you live in the UK, there are subjects close at hand to photograph. Every area is different, so ask locals what animals they see regularly, and where. Photographing your local area will also mean that you can spend more time on location and experience locations at different times of the day and year.
- 2. It's all about the light:** The light at sunrise and sunset is dramatic and warm, which can help to create atmosphere and mood in photos. Cloudy days can be good for details and flower shots and it is generally best to avoid the very harsh light in the middle of the day.
- 3. Whatever the weather:** There's no such thing as bad weather for photographers! No matter the weather there is always a photo to be made. Just remember to protect your photography kit accordingly – a bin bag or two makes a good impromptu rain cover.



Jake's winning photograph of a spider web in a Wiltshire meadow is titled *The Long Wait*

- 4. Change your view:** The angle from which you look at your subject can make all the difference – from eye-level for intimacy or from directly above or below for a more unusual image. A small shift in your position can have a large impact on your background; the background is important, so make sure it doesn't distract from the photo.

- 5. Have fun:** Nature photography is very rewarding, so enjoy it! Photograph what you enjoy and are interested in and put in time experimenting with your camera. Take lots of photographs and don't feel overwhelmed by the wealth of information out there.

2020 COMPETITION

This year's competition is now open. The criteria for the youth categories (Under-11s and 11-17) is any photograph depicting something plant, garden or wildlife-related that interests you. Entries should be submitted online at rhs.org.uk/photocomp by 10am on Friday 31 January 2020. Winners will be announced in April on the RHS website. Find out more about the competition and the prizes up for grabs at rhs.org.uk/photocomp.

25. BOOKS

THE BEST BOOKS ABOUT... DRAGONS

DRAGONS can be totally terrifying... or fantastic friends! Here are three of our favourite stories about these mythical monsters.

THE DRAGON WITH A CHOCOLATE HEART STEPHANIE BURGIS

Aventurine is a fierce and brave dragon who becomes a chocolate-obsessed human! While she might not be able to breathe fire, it turns out that there's a lot to learn about life on two legs.



ERAGON CHRISTOPHER PAOLINI

The book tells the story of a farm boy named Eragon, who finds a mysterious stone in the mountains. What follows is an incredible adventure that is quite frankly full of dragons.



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON CRESSIDA COWELL

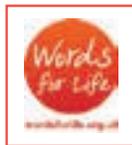
While you might have seen the movies, you might be surprised at just how different the books are! They still feature Hiccup and Toothless, and these brilliant stories are well worth a read.

WORDS FOR LIFE



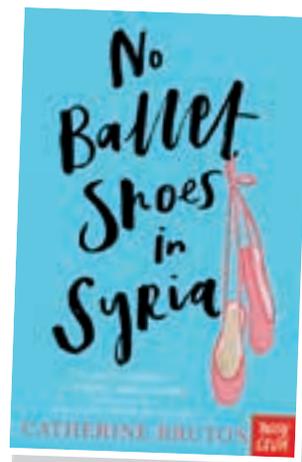
ROOPA Farooki is a junior doctor working for the NHS in London and Kent. She says that doctors, detectives and writers have something in common, as they all like to solve mysteries and work out what makes people tick! Ahead of the release of her new book, *The Cure For A Crime*, Roopa told us about her favourite book.

“ Definitely *Lord of the Rings – The Return of the King*. It's got all the appendices written in delicious detail by Tolkien and I loved finding out what happened to all the characters after the books finished. ”



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

YOUR READS!



NO BALLET SHOES IN SYRIA CATHERINE BRUTON

Reviewed by Poppy Oakley, aged 11

This book is about a girl called Aya, who lived in Syria. She had to leave her home to escape the war and to search for a safe place to live. She is now living in Manchester.

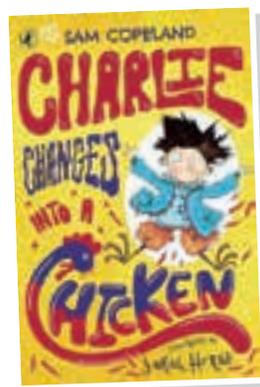
Aya loves ballet but can't go to lessons any more because her teacher has also gone in search for a place to live.

One day Aya finds a local dance class, where she makes friends with a girl called Dotty.

When she is alone, Aya begins to dance. The dance teacher, Miss Helena, sees her dancing and offers her a place at her dance class. Miss Helena thinks that Aya could win a place at one of the best dance schools, so Aya decides to audition.

But while all this is happening, Aya must look after her younger brother, Moos, and her mum, who is ill. They aren't allowed to stay in Manchester for much longer and it's up to Aya to sort it all out, because her mum can't speak English.

This book has the perfect combination of happiness and sadness and is great for people aged between 10-13. I am going to read a lot more of this author's books because if all her books are as good as this then she is the best author ever!



CHARLIE CHANGES INTO A CHICKEN SAM COPELAND

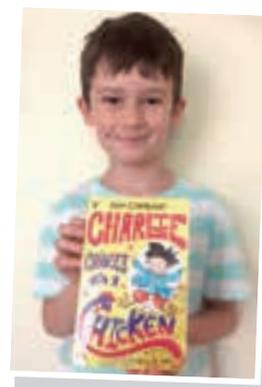
Reviewed by Thomas Miles, aged eight

Charlie Changes Into A Chicken is a book about Charlie McGuffin and his strange superpower. But Charlie is in

danger because the school bully, Dylan, is willing to reveal it to the world. With the help of his friends, Flora, Mohsen and Wogan, Charlie's secret is being kept safe. Will Dylan give up or will Charlie be stuck as a chicken forever?

This was the first book to be published by Sam Copeland and would interest children with a good sense of humour. I found this book so funny I almost clucked with laughter! If you like this book, then you might also like to try *Charlie Turns Into A T-rex*, which is double the excitement!

I would recommend this book and give it 10/10 for funniness.



BECOME A FIRST NEWS BOOK REVIEWER!

HAVE you read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about? Write us a review! We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading – good or bad – and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!). Email your review to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk

CANCER SURVIVOR

by Kacey-Mai Holland

I HAD so much fun celebrating Christmas and New Year this year with all my family, but I'm so excited about what 2020 has in store. I just know it'll be the best year yet!

I was diagnosed with Wilms' tumour, a type of kidney cancer, when I was seven years old.

It was a really scary time and I felt very poorly. I had to have an operation and chemotherapy (a type of cancer treatment), which was horrible, but it worked.

Since then, I've got better and now love going to school and having fun with all my friends. My mum's getting married in 2020 and I'm going to be one of her bridesmaids – I can't wait, it's going to be the best day ever!

Kacey-Mai is supporting the Cancer Research UK for Children & Young People Star Awards, supported by TK Maxx, which celebrate the courage of children up to the age of 18 who have been diagnosed with cancer.

To nominate someone to receive an award or to find out more about our work, visit www.cruk.org.uk/childrenandyoungpeople.



Kacey-Mai celebrating

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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

Are you doing something sponsored for charity? Starting your own school newspaper? Putting on a show? Are you off on an amazing holiday or did you have a great day out? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

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

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

WILD WISDOM QUIZ

by Antonia Anderson and Penny Arnold, Landmark International School

A FEW weeks ago, our teacher told us about an online Wild Wisdom Quiz organised by WWF. We decided to attempt it because of our interest in nature. The quiz was quick, fun and interactive, and we came top of the class!

We thought nothing more of the quiz until we heard that we had been selected to join the national finals at WWF's Living Planet Centre in Woking. After a tour and a workshop, the quiz began. The questions were challenging and the competition was really strong. We were astounded to find out we had won the national leg and were proud to have progressed so far. We journeyed home excited but anxious about the global finals.

It was an early start two days later. Positioned in front of two screens, we interacted with the teams in India. The questions were even more challenging, testing our knowledge of biomes, environmental projects and even animal poo! Our pulses were racing as we waited for the results. We came in second place, with Colombia in first. What an awesome achievement!

Our incredible journey has taught us about good communication, teamwork and environmental issues. It has also inspired us to challenge ourselves and our school community to be more environmentally-friendly.



Winners!

SCHOOL NEWS

CREATIVE CAREERS

by Alex, Notre Dame Catholic College

I WAS very excited to hear about Discover! Creative Careers, which is an opportunity to explore the creative careers and actually work first-hand and network with professionals.

I am very keen to pursue a career in the performing arts, in particular acting and musical theatre. Therefore, I was very happy to meet a professional actress in the Unity Theatre and to talk with her, first-hand, about how she got into the industry and to find out what her role involves.

I got to visit the Unity Theatre and the Fact Centre and to learn about the building when we had a tour. We got to see behind the scenes, including the projector room.

I really enjoyed the interactive experience of the galleries, in particular the VR experience. It is something I wouldn't have thought about going to see or even experience if it wasn't for the Discover! Creative Careers week.

I would highly recommend this experience to anyone who is interested in a career in the arts.

SCHOOL NEWS



SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK



All images Getty

SPORT IN PICTURES

Russia's Daniil Samsonov, aged 14, competes in the men's single free skating at the Lausanne 2020 Winter Youth Olympics, where he won a bronze medal



Kansas City Chiefs' Frank Clark tries to hold back Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson. The Chiefs fought back from 24-0 down to beat the Texans 51-31



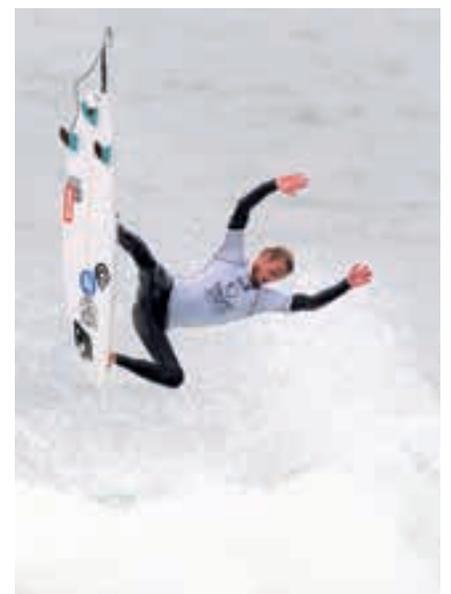
Team Serbia celebrate after winning tennis' ATP Cup. The Serbs defeated Spain 2-1 to win the new competition. Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal 6-2, 7-6, while he and Viktor Troicki later won 6-3, 6-4 against Pablo Carreño Busta and Feliciano López in the doubles



Adriana Leon of West Ham hurdles over the tackle of Tottenham's Anna Filbey during their WSL match. Spurs won 2-1



Finland's Kaisa Mäkäräinen wins the 12.5 km mass start at the IBU Biathlon World Cup meet in Oberhof, Germany. It was the 37-year-old's first race win in over a year



Daniel Farr competes in the open men's final of the National Surfing Championships in New Zealand

SPORT IN NUMBERS

1 title has been won in the last three years by legendary tennis player Serena Williams. The American, who took a break from the game to become a mum, beat Jessica Pegula to win the Auckland Classic. It's her first singles title since she won the Australian Open in 2017.



40 -year-old Portuguese motorcycle rider Paulo Gonçalves has died after a crash at the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia. The Hero MotoSports rider fell during the seventh stage of the off-road endurance race. More than 50 people have died at the rally since it began in 1978.



85,206 pounds has been awarded to football manager Antonio Conte after he won a case against Chelsea for being unfairly sacked in 2018. The Italian and his staff also received £26.6 million in compensation from Chelsea, making it the most expensive dismissal in English football history.



Isabel Grevelt competes in the women's 1,500m speed skating race on a frozen lake in Lausanne

THE 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games are underway in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The second largest multi-sport winter event after the Winter Olympics brings together more than 1,800 athletes in eight sports with 16 disciplines and 81 medal events.

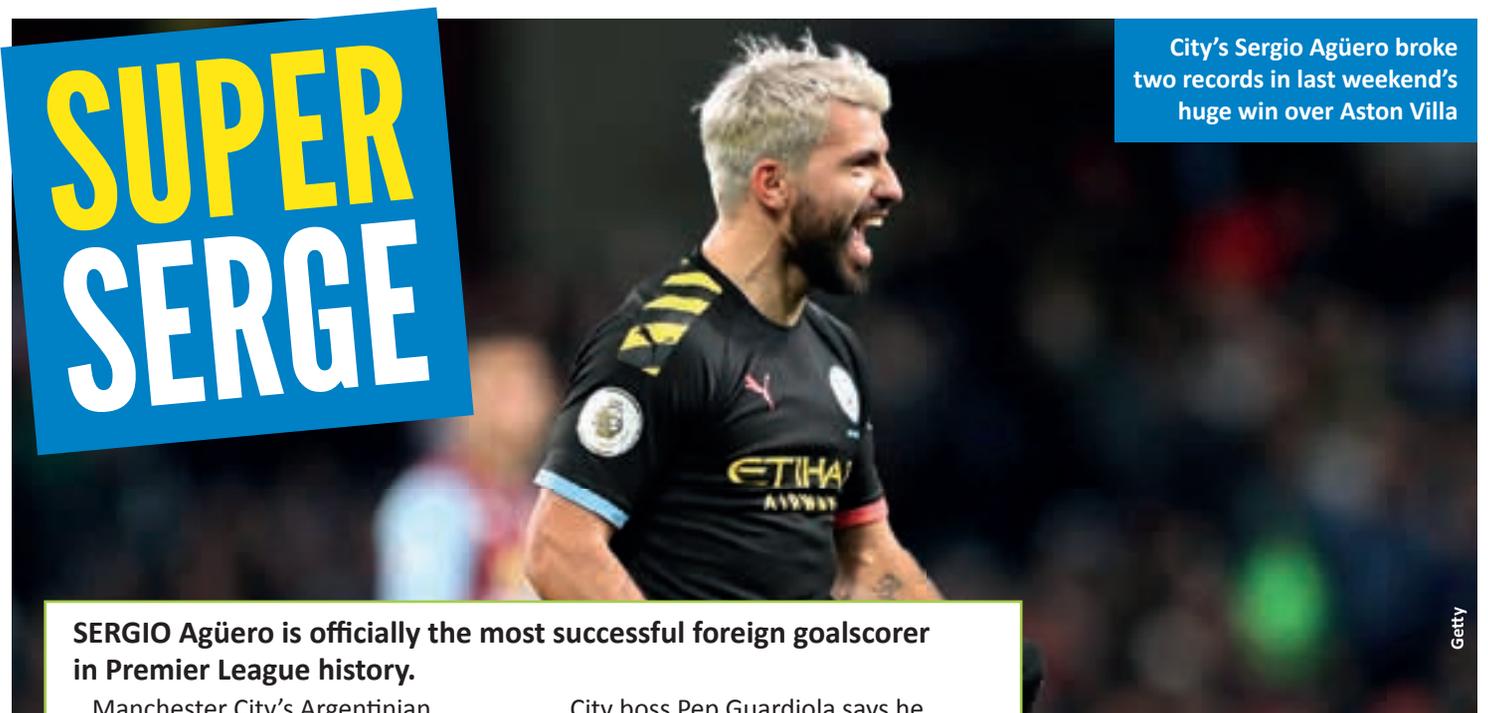
As *First News* went to press, Russia led the way with 14 medals, with Switzerland close behind on 13. Team GB was yet to win a medal.

You Young of South Korea, aged 15, made a name for herself in the figure skating with a stunning gold, finishing 12 points ahead of silver medal winner Ksenia Sinitsyna of Russia.

The Netherlands' Isabel Grevelt scooped gold in the women's 500m speed skating, while her team-mate Myrthe De Boer won the 1,500m.

History was made as Abigail Vieira (right) became the first athlete from Trinidad and Tobago to appear at a Winter Youth Olympic Games. The 17-year-old, an alpine skier, was born in the USA but decided to represent her parents' country. As well as being the Caribbean nation's flag bearer at the opening ceremony, Vieira finished 42nd out of 62 in the women's super-G event.

The competition runs until 22 January.



SUPER SERGE

City's Sergio Agüero broke two records in last weekend's huge win over Aston Villa

SERGIO Agüero is officially the most successful foreign goalscorer in Premier League history.

Manchester City's Argentinian superstar scored three goals in a 6-1 thrashing of Aston Villa, taking his total to 177. This makes him the highest-scoring overseas player since the Premier League was formed in 1992.

He has also now set a record for the most hat-tricks in the Premier League with 12 – one more than Alan Shearer.

City boss Pep Guardiola says he has worked with only one striker better than Agüero – and that's fellow Argentinian Lionel Messi.

Agüero's 177 Prem goals (as *First News* went to press!) puts him fourth in the list of highest-scoring strikers in the league's history. Shearer still leads the pack comfortably with 260.

