

First News

Issue 567 £1.80 28 April – 4 May 2017

10 YEARS OF AWARD WINNING NEWS!

MORE THAN TWO MILLION READERS*

GENERAL ELECTION EXPLAINED

7



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY'S CHRIS PRATT

18



ROYAL HEADS TOGETHER

by Ben Pulsford



MENTAL health has been a big topic of conversation in the UK, over the last couple of weeks.

And many people are thanking William, Catherine and Harry for starting this big conversation.



With their campaign, Heads Together, the young royals have been doing everything they can to get more children, men and women opening up about mental health.

They say that keeping in good mental health is just as important as keeping our physical health in check. Unfortunately, because we can't always see a mental illness like a physical illness, some people feel uncomfortable talking about it. Heads Together is working hard to get everyone opening up about mental health.

That conversation has become HUGE. The charity released several videos that went viral, including one of Prince William FaceTiming Lady Gaga to discuss mental health, plus a very open video of William, Catherine and Harry talking about their own mental wellbeing.

Continued on page 4

SAVE EARTH

CHILDREN WANT LESSONS IN CARING FOR OUR HOME AND ITS WILDLIFE

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

The panda is the animal children fear losing the most

SAVING the environment should be taught in schools to save the Earth, say children.

The young people questioned for a new report said they were worried about their futures, with 87% saying they wanted lessons in caring for the planet.

The survey of 1,000 under-14s by Explore Learning found that pollution was their biggest worry, followed by the extinction of animals, politics and rising sea levels.

Pandas were the animals that children were most concerned about dying out, followed by polar bears and elephants. Nearly nine out of ten children said they

were worried about Donald Trump being the President of the United States. Trump once said that climate change was "a hoax".

The research was carried out to highlight the theme of this year's National Young Writers' Awards – 'the future'. Children aged four to 14 are invited to write a story of up to 500 words, set in 3017.

The deadline is Friday 5 May. Find out more at explorelearning.co.uk/youngwriters.



Catherine hugs a Heads Together runner at the finish line of the London Marathon

1 FILM FESTIVAL

Last call for primary schools! There's still time to enter a short film into this year's Lit Film Festival. The winning and shortlisted schools will be invited to watch their movies on the big screen at the BFI IMAX in London on 19 June. For more info, visit litfilmfest.com.

2 DAHL'S HOME

Roald Dahl's childhood home in Cardiff has been given a blue plaque. The iconic disk was put on the front wall of the house, which is up for sale right now. The plaque honours the famous author behind classic stories like *The BFG* and *Matilda*.



3 SEL-FLIES?

An exotic insect hunter has become an internet sensation for taking selfies with unusual bugs on his face. Adrian Kozakiewicz, 20, has gained more than 156,000 Instagram followers for his insect pics. He owns 600 insects and other creepy-crawlies.

4 3D FABRIC

NASA has developed a new 3D-printed metal fabric for space. Engineer Raul Casillas and his team, based at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, USA, invented the flexible material for large antennas. It will be used to protect spacecraft from meteorites, capture objects and make spacesuits.

5 FIVERS OUT OF FASHION

If you have any old paper £5 notes stashed away, make sure you spend them quickly! From 5 May, the old notes will no longer be classed as legal tender (money). That means shops won't let you spend them!



6 HOLIDAY HUNGER

A report has revealed that up to three million children risk going hungry during the school holidays. Without access to free meals in school canteens, many are simply not eating. Read more next week.

7 SWAPPING POO

Sloths at Drusillas Park have been swapping poo, to help them get to know each other! Head Keeper Mark Kenward explained: "Smell is an incredibly important sense for animals. Poo, in particular, provides a little parcel of information about the animal who left it." Following the poo swap, Flash and Consuela, the sloths, have moved in together.



9 TIME 100

Ed Sheeran has made it into *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People list for 2017. He joins US President Donald Trump and *Carpool Karaoke's* James Corden.



10 DRIVER DREAM

A teen racing driver who lost his legs in a crash is determined to drive again. Billy Monger, 17, had to have both his lower limbs amputated after he hit a stationary car at high speed during a Formula 4 event. Racing star Jenson Button gave £15,000 towards a fundraising appeal.

11 YOUNG DANCER

Nafisah Baba has won the BBC Young Dancer 2017 prize. Nafisah started ballet dancing when she was three, and is part of the Chrysalis London dance company now. She was presented with the award by famous dancer Darcey Bussell.

20

THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS...

8 NAUGHTY DOG

A Chihuahua was arrested by police for suffering anger issues. Cops took the dog into custody after they found it angrily roaming the streets of Lurgan in Northern Ireland. A comical appeal for its owners was made on Facebook by officers who were bitten by the tiny dog, who was later reunited with its owners.

QUOTE

Mark said about smartphones:

"The only reason I go on my phone/computer for more than two hours is because there's nothing to do where I live."

12 SHARK ATTACK

A British woman was attacked by a shark while swimming near Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. She was treated in a local hospital before being airlifted to the UK.

13 MORE READING

More than two thirds (67%) of people in the UK wish they read more, says a new study by the Reading Agency. Lots of people also lie about their reading habits to impress others.

14 MAPPED OUT

The Google Maps app can now show you everywhere you've ever been! It works by recording location data on a timeline. This can be switched off!

15 MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOL

Charities including YoungMinds and the Samaritans are calling for better mental health in schools. In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, the charities called on political parties to make sure that the health and wellbeing of students is just as important as their academic work. The charities have also written to the Prime Minister about the issue, saying that the education system needs to be more balanced.

16 NO COINS?

Could South Korea soon be coinless? The country is trialling a new card scheme, which will see customers at selected stores given small change on a card instead of in cash. If the trial is successful, it could be rolled out across other stores and banks.

17 ENVIRONMENT PRIZE

An ex-child soldier has been given an important environmental award. Rodrigue Mugaruka Katembo, who is now a park ranger at the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has spent much of his life tackling illegal wildlife poaching. His work is being honoured with the Goldman Prize.

18 SCHOOL MEALS

Obesity Action Scotland (OAS) is calling for fewer puddings and more vegetables to be served in schools. The OAS believes that better school meals could help to tackle obesity problems.



19 NO EDUCATION

More than 25 million young people are missing out on school in conflict zones across 22 countries, says UNICEF. South Sudan, Chad and Afghanistan are among the worst affected. UNICEF Chief of Education Josephine Bourne said: "At no time is education more important than in times of war."

20 12 YEARS

Last weekend marked 12 years since the first video was uploaded to YouTube!



AN END TO MALARIA?

THE first ever vaccine against malaria will be introduced into Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in 2018.

Malaria, which means “bad air”, kills a child in a poor country every 30 seconds. It is caused by a parasite spread through the bites of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

Although the disease is preventable, some of the world’s poorest countries cannot afford to protect everyone.

Right now, malaria is the biggest killer on the planet, killing 430,000 people every year. It kills more people than war and famine, and more than half the world’s population is at risk of catching the disease. So news of a vaccine is massive, because it could prevent many

people from being affected by malaria in the future.

Ghana, Kenya and Malawi, which are all countries in Africa, will take part in the World Health Organization’s malaria vaccine pilot programme, involving more than 750,000 children aged between five and 17 months.

The injectable vaccine is called RTS,S and works by training a person’s immune system to fight off and stop the malaria parasite.

The vaccine has been tested only in very controlled settings, so bringing it to these three countries in 2018 is the next big test.

Could this be the start of the end of malaria?

Editor’s comment



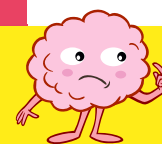
Nicky Cox MBE

ELECTION fever seems to have broken out!

With the French presidential elections all over the news (this page), we’ve also got our own General Election coming up on 8 June to decide whether we want to stick with the same government or have a new one.

And, next Thursday, there are thousands of seats up for grabs in local elections across England, Wales and Scotland. These are to appoint councillors for our local councils, whereas the General Election is for the central government.

If it’s all a little confusing, read more on p7.



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

VACCINE

A SUBSTANCE given to someone to stop the spread of a disease. It works by exposing them to the bacteria or virus that causes the disease, which teaches their body how to fight it.

WHO WILL BE FRANCE'S NEW PRESIDENT?

FRENCH voters will elect a new President this Sunday (7 May).

Elections in France work differently to how they do in the UK, as there can be two rounds.

In the first, voters choose their favourite presidential candidate from all the choices. If one of the candidates gets 50% of the vote, they win. But if nobody reaches 50%, then the candidates in first and second place head into the next round, which is taking place on 7 May this year.

Of the 11 candidates this time, there were two that came out clearly on top: Emmanuel Macron, an investment banker and pro-EU

politician who wants to reform education and increase business; and Marine Le Pen, a former lawyer who has been compared to US President Donald Trump, due to her anti-immigration policies and other ideas.

Almost all of the other first-round candidates are now backing Mr Macron, saying that Ms Le Pen would lead France “to ruin and European chaos”.

As *First News* went to press, Marine Le Pen said she would be stepping down as leader of her party, the National Front, and running as an independent candidate instead.



French presidential candidates Emmanuel Macron (left) and Marine Le Pen

GOOD WEEK FOR Wildlife



CONSERVATIONISTS at Chester Zoo have teamed up with scientists at the University of Oxford to help protect animal species threatened with extinction worldwide, in a major new partnership.

BAD WEEK FOR UK phone boxes



ONE fifth of the UK’s phone boxes (around 8,700) are set to be removed from our streets over the next three years, according to BT. They are being removed because they are barely used any more.

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Hello, Steve

ESA

MEET STEVE...

STEVE is the unofficial name for the beautiful purple streak of light pictured above. But what is Steve?

The streak of light was first noticed by a group of aurora enthusiasts called the Alberta Aurora Chasers, who keep an eye out for the northern lights. They didn't know what it was, so nicknamed it Steve, and started an online gallery of Steve sightings.

The gallery sparked the interest of Professor Eric Donovan from the University of Calgary, who matched up the photos of Steve with pictures taken by the European Space Agency's Swarm satellites, which had

flown through the unusual light.

The result? Steve is actually a flow of hot gas that is moving faster than the air around it, which is said to be a quite common phenomenon.

Donovan said: "It's thanks to ground-based observations, satellites, today's explosion of access to data and an army of citizen scientists joining forces to document it."

We think Steve's pretty cool!

Plants on the verge

ROADSIDE verges are the last hope for a number of rare British plants that are close to extinction.

A report by conservation charity Plantlife has catalogued more than 720 different species of plant that grow on our road verges. Nearly 100 of these species are classed as threatened or near-threatened.

More than two thirds of the UK's sulphur clover plants (pictured) are found on grass verges next to busy roads.

Some species, like the fen ragwort, can only be found in one place – a roadside ditch in Cambridgeshire.

Wildflowers like these are hugely important for birds, bees and other insects.

Plantlife is asking people to sign a petition to help protect roadside species for the future. You can find it at plantlife.org.uk.



Sulphur clover is one of the plants under threat of extinction

istock

Royal heads together

continued from front page

The conversation reached a peak in London last Sunday, when more than 40,000 runners took to the streets of the capital for the 2017 Virgin London Marathon. Prince Harry called it the "mental health marathon" due to the number of people running it to raise money for mental health charities.

Heads Together was the Charity Of The Year at this year's marathon, so a Heads Together headband was given out to every runner. Thousands of people took to the streets especially for the mental health campaign.

It's your job to continue the conversation and open up about how you're feeling. You can explore this story further by watching Heads Together videos on *First News Live!* and visiting youngminds.org.uk, a website all about mental health especially for young people.



Heads Together runners at this year's London Marathon

Heads Together via Twitter

A HAIRY ROW

A TEENAGER has found himself in trouble at school for shaving all his hair off for charity.



Fifteen-year-old Taylor Jones from Cornwall decided to shave off his hair at the end of the Easter school holidays, to raise money for Cancer Research UK, after his friend was diagnosed with cancer.

When Taylor returned to school after the Easter holidays, he was removed from his lessons at Launceston College for having what the school described as an "extreme hairstyle". The school thought the haircut was too short.

Instead of attending his regular lessons, Taylor was given "individual specialist tuition" for four days, to give his hair time to grow back a little.

The story started making headlines after Taylor's mum, Lesley, complained, saying that her son shouldn't have been punished for wanting to show support for a cause and helping others.

According to the school, Taylor was told to shave his hair to a "very short, but acceptable length" for the charity stunt. The school claim that Taylor was removed from lessons for going against their advice and shaving off all his hair just before he returned to school.

Lots of people are angry that Taylor was punished by the school, sparking huge debate across the country. The school insists that the rules were explained to Taylor but he decided to break them.

What do you think? Did Taylor do anything wrong?

POLL OF THE WEEK

Are school uniform rules too strict?
Vote at live.firstnews.co.uk/polls



ROME, ITALY: People dressed as Roman soldiers parade past the Colosseum to mark the anniversary of the foundation of Rome in 753 BC.



LONDON, ENGLAND: The Honourable Artillery Company fire a 62-gun salute as Queen Elizabeth II, the world's longest-reigning monarch, celebrates her 91st birthday.



BREST, FRANCE: A blue lobster at Océanopolis sea centre. Scientists say that this specimen is extremely rare and that only one lobster in two or three million is blue. It's due to a genetic difference that leads to an excess of crustacyanine, which gives a blue colour.



LONDON, ENGLAND: First News' Dan Jordan completes his first London Marathon, in an incredible 3hrs 52mins 43secs, raising more than £2,200 for Oxfam. Well done, Dan!



GEESTHACHT, GERMANY: A dementia patient (second right) with her guides spends the day at an alpaca farm as therapy. Patients have the opportunity to pet and feed the animals, carry out farm chores and socialise with each other. The project is part of a government effort to promote local initiatives for dementia patients.



TEXAS, USA: This historic birth at SeaWorld San Antonio marks a new era for SeaWorld, as it welcomed its last killer whale baby. Takara, the 25-year-old head of the orca pod, gave birth to the calf on 19 April. Takara was already pregnant as a result of natural breeding when the announcement to end orca breeding at SeaWorld was made in March 2016.



FIRST NEWS LIVE!

Whenever you see the **First News Live!** icon on a page, visit live.firstnews.co.uk to watch the video that goes with the story.

FirstNews TODAY

Our daily TV bulletin, *First News Today*, from our team at Sky News will tell you all you need to know each day in just 60 seconds! Come back every weekday afternoon at 3pm for a new bulletin! Just head to live.firstnews.co.uk.

FIFE

Saved by the bell

A teen RNLI volunteer was called out of the classroom to help rescue a broken-down boat! Danielle Marr, 18, was in a science lesson at Waid Academy when she got the emergency call on her pager, alerting her to help the 8.5m (28ft) vessel stuck off the coast of Crail.

ENGLAND / WALES New fines

New fines and guidelines for drivers caught speeding have come into force this week. The new rules mean that people could be charged 150% of their weekly earnings if they are caught speeding.

CWMDU

Streetlight fear

New LED streetlights in Cwmdau, Powys, are causing light pollution in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The area is a dark sky reserve, and attracts people from all over the world to view the Milky Way and other stars. The streetlights are said to be safer for cars but are brighter than previous lights. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) says it is worried about the new lighting and its impact.

SHROPSHIRE

Gold coin stash

A stash of gold coins hidden inside an old piano has been declared as treasure.

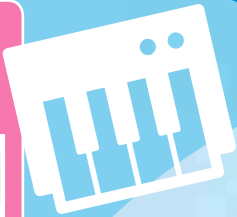


Piano tuner Martin Backhouse, 61, found the largest hoard of its kind in Britain and will share the reward with Community College Bishop's Castle, which owns the piano. A total of 913 gold sovereigns and half sovereigns dated 1847-1915 and weighing 6kg in total were found stitched into seven cloth bags under the piano's keys. They will be offered for sale to museums once they have been valued.

ENGLAND / SCOTLAND / WALES

Local elections

On 4 May, people across England, Scotland and Wales will be heading to the polling stations for the local elections. These elections decide who represents your local community and its views. There are 4,851 council seats to be filled. Most of the results will be announced on Friday 5 May.



BRISTOL

Stinky weedkiller



A council experiment that used vinegar as a weedkiller has been called a failure, after it was found that standard weedkillers were more effective and better value for money. However, some campaigners say that vinegar is safer for humans and that the trial should continue.

GLASGOW

Skating stars

SpongeBob SquarePants was the guest of honour at the British Inclusive Skating Championships in Glasgow. The competition is open to children with any disability and receives a special grant from the Jeans For Genes charity. To find out more, visit jeansforgenesday.org.



SOUTHAMPTON

Ferry service stays afloat

Campaigners are celebrating after a historic ferry service was saved from closure. Hythe Ferry, which crosses Southampton Water, has been bought by Blue Funnel Cruises. More than 9,000 people signed a petition to save the ferry service, as previous owners warned its future was at risk.



NEWS IN NUMBERS



10

feet (3m) is the distance that a lamb fell down a well. The fluffy farm animal was heard bleating by ramblers in Lincolnshire and the RSPCA was called to rescue it from the stone shaft. The lamb was muddy but unharmed.

800

pounds has been raised by Starcatchers to send 45 poor families to watch MamaBabaMe, a theatrical arts project in Scotland that is aimed at tots aged between 18 months and three years.

24

hours is how long Britain went without using coal to generate electricity last week. It is thought to be the longest time Britain has gone coal-free since 1882. The plan is to phase out coal plants in order to cut carbon emissions.

40,382

people took part in this year's London Marathon, setting a new record. It is an increase of 1,242 from last year.

200,000

homes have been left standing empty in England for more than six months, show Government figures. These properties are worth a total of £43bn. In London alone, 19,845 were left vacant. But the number of empty homes is down 36.4% in the last ten years.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

GENERAL ELECTIONS

YOU might have heard about the General Election that's happening on Thursday 8 June, but why are people voting? Who for? And who can vote?

A GENERAL Election is the way we decide which political party is going to rule the House of Commons, set up the Government, and run the United Kingdom for the next five years.

The last General Election was held in 2015, so this one came as a bit of a surprise when Prime Minister Theresa May called it three years early. Two thirds of MPs in the House of Commons had to agree to run the election early. The PM said she thought the election was necessary to help bring certainty to Britain following the EU referendum.

THE LEADERS OF THE FOUR BIGGEST PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT RIGHT NOW



Conservative: Theresa May



Labour: Jeremy Corbyn



Liberal Democrats: Tim Farron



Scottish National Party: Nicola Sturgeon

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON 8 JUNE?

The UK is split up into 650 areas, known as constituencies, each represented by its own Member of Parliament (MP). On 8 June, people will go to a local polling station to vote for the person they want to be their MP in the constituency where they live. Voters don't get to pick the Prime Minister, only their local MP. Most of the successful candidates are members of political parties, but anyone can stand for election. To try to stop people standing for a joke, each candidate has to pay £500. If they don't manage to win 5% of the votes cast, they lose their £500.

WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

There are lots of different parties, with different ideas about how the nation should be run.

WHO VOTES?

Unfortunately for you, most First News readers will have to wait a while before you can vote, as you're not allowed to vote until you're 18 (although you can register as soon as you're 16). You also need to be a British citizen or an Irish, Commonwealth or European Union citizen who lives in the UK. British people living overseas can still vote, too.



Often, schools are used as polling stations. If yours is, you might get a day off!

They all make promises to the voters before the election in their manifesto, such as their ideas for the NHS (National Health Service) or the armed forces, or their plans to get more people jobs.

WHO WINS?

If one party wins a majority of the seats in Parliament (i.e. more than 325), then they will form a government. The leader of the elected party will usually become Prime Minister. Having a majority of MPs makes it easier for the Government to bring in new laws or make other changes to the country, as they have enough MPs to win any vote that takes place in Parliament. However, this doesn't always work out because, if enough of the Government's MPs disagree with what their party is trying to do, they are still allowed to vote against them. These MPs are known as 'rebels'. Theresa May is hoping for a bigger majority than she has right now – only 17 – which will make her Government stronger. But she is taking a risk. She could end up with fewer MPs, or lose the election altogether.

WHAT'S A HUNG PARLIAMENT?

Things get a bit complicated if no party gets a majority in the election. This is known as a 'hung Parliament' and can make it difficult to govern, as the other parties can club together to block any laws that the Government tries to pass. This is what happened in 2010 because the party with the most seats – the Conservatives – only won 302 seats. They chose to team up to form a Government with the Liberal Democrats, who won 56 seats. This working together is known as a coalition.



DID YOU KNOW?

BEFORE 1969, you had to be 21 to vote in a General Election, until it was changed to 18. Some people think that it should be lowered even further to 16, but there is no agreement among the political parties.

CRAZY!

The UK's most famous joke candidates are probably those from the Monster Raving Loony Party. Their candidate last time, Dame Dixon, wanted to have one day a year when you could spend Monopoly money in shops!

DICTIONARY MANIFESTO

A public document which sets out what a political party will do if it gets into power.



DID YOU KNOW?

MOST constituencies in the UK have between 60,000-90,000 voters. The largest population is the Isle of Wight, with 111,800 voters. The smallest is Scotland's Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Western Isles), with 22,084 voters.

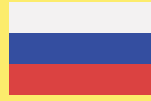
USA



Youngest sock salesman

A 17-year-old has just made his first million dollars, by selling socks from his garage! Brennan Agranoff is the founder and head of HoopSwagg, a custom socks company that he started when he was just 13. Now, the company sells more than 200 different designs that he creates himself. Brennan thanks the internet for his success and says that "with all the information available on the internet, you can't be too young to learn how to be an entrepreneur."

RUSSIA



Shooting kills three

A gunman opened fire at an office of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) in the far-eastern city of Khabarovsk last week, killing an officer and a visitor, before being shot and killed by security forces. Islamic State claimed responsibility, but the FSB said that the man had ties to an extreme local group with similar ideas to the Nazis.

AUSTRIA



Hermit hired

A Belgian man has won a competition to live as a hermit, high above the Austrian town of Saalfelden. Stan Vanuytrecht will be living all alone in a single cliffside cell room, with no heating, running water or internet. He'll have visitors, occasionally who may come by for some prayer and a chat, but mostly it'll just be Stan! The mayor of Saalfelden said that they chose Stan because: "he is calm and gives the impression of being centred." Could you handle the lonely life of a hermit?

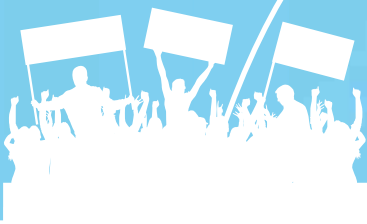


AUSTRALIA



Road-tripping 12-year-old

A 12-year-old boy has been arrested after driving 1,300km (800 miles) across New South Wales on his own in the family car. The boy was going to Perth (on the other side of Australia!) when he was pulled over by police. The car was damaged, so it's likely he'd had a crash along the way but kept going. Detectives are investigating why he decided to head all the way across the country, and how nobody realised it was a 12-year-old driving the car!



VENEZUELA



Death during protests

Huge protests against the government of President Nicolás Maduro took place across Venezuela last week, as its citizens continue to demand that President Maduro step down and allow a fair General Election to be held. In the last month, 21 people have died in the protests. Millions of protesting Venezuelans blame the government for a severe economic crisis that has left the country with shortages of food, basic goods and medicine.

FRANCE



Attack at the Arc

One policeman was killed and another two were wounded in a shooting incident in central Paris last week. The gunman attacked the Champs-Élysées, which is where you'd find the Arc de Triomphe, along with shops, theatres and restaurants. The area was blocked off immediately after the attack and nearby metro stations were closed. The attacker had a long history of committing crimes and was arrested just two months ago for possession of a dangerous weapon.



SOUTH KOREA



Record-breaking tower

South Korea has unveiled its new Lotte World Tower, the tallest tower in South Korea and fifth highest in the world. It's also home to the highest glass-bottom observatory, at 478 metres (1,568 ft), and the world's tallest and fastest double-decker elevator, which can whisk passengers from the basement to the 121st-floor observation deck in just one minute.



OUR WORLD



- Name: Gakiro
- Age: 11
- Lives: Kenya



GAKIRO'S school will have plenty of water for drinking and cooking lunch now.

Gakiro lives in one of the driest parts of Kenya, in Makueni County.

Gakiro's school doesn't have access to clean water. This means each student is required to bring enough water with them for drinking and cooking every day. Otherwise, as Gakiro says: "Our meals are not cooked so we stay hungry."

Just A Drop is working with Gakiro's school to provide a rainwater harvesting tank, which will store enough water for the school's students for up to a year, ensuring students have enough water to drink and that they can eat lunch every day.

Learn how Just A Drop supports children like Gakiro, by visiting www.justadrop.org.

CHILDREN'S CHARTER FOR BREXIT

TALKS have started with the European Union (EU) over how Britain will leave the EU. Although most of the adults who voted in last year's EU referendum voted to leave, seven out of ten children told *First News* that you wanted the UK to remain in the EU. But, now that Brexit talks have begun, what are the most important issues to you? We've listed ten big issues, from immigration to science, and we want to know which matter most to you. We know it won't be easy – just like the negotiations with the EU – but we've left you a space to write your own views on the subjects. We will be sharing your views with the Government and opposition parties – whoever those are after the General Election!



FirstNews CHILDREN'S CHARTER FOR BREXIT

Rank the following statements from 1-10, with 1 being the most important to you, and 10 the least important.

IMMIGRATION AND BRITS ABROAD

A. Introduce stricter limits over how many EU citizens can come to live, work and study in the UK. (This may make it more difficult for British people to live, work and study in European countries.)

B. Keep freedom of movement, so that all citizens of Europe can travel freely between countries, and live and work where they want.

C. Make sure all the people from other EU countries already in the UK – including your classmates, teachers, and doctors and nurses in the National Health Service – are allowed to stay in the UK, and make sure British citizens that are living in other EU countries can stay there.

EDUCATION

D. Keep the European student exchange programme that allows students from within the continent to spend time studying in each other's countries. (The scheme allows students to study in one of 33 European countries for free for up to one year, with EU funds covering the costs.)

TRADE

E. Reach a new customs union deal with the EU. A customs union is where countries agree not to put extra costs on each others' goods and all apply the same cost on goods coming in from elsewhere. The UK is part of the EU customs union now, so we can trade freely with other EU countries without paying any extra costs. But this stops us from arranging our own trade deals with other countries.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

F. Keep close ties with EU countries on security, which includes sharing information about terrorist suspects and criminals, and co-operating on military matters, if necessary.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

G. Make a deal that works for Scotland and Northern Ireland, both of whom voted to Remain, and keep the United Kingdom united (rather than Scotland becoming an independent country).

OPINION

"Leaving the EU without a preferential trade arrangement in place would make the UK significantly poorer" – Keir Starmer, Labour's spokesman on Brexit

SCIENCE

H. The EU has a large fund for scientific research. British scientists have got more out of it than Britain pays in. Ensure that the UK continues to take part in this, so that we continue to be a leading country in scientific research.

THE ENVIRONMENT

I. Ensure EU environment laws are copied into British law. Among other things, they protect wildlife and their habitats, provide us with cleaner beaches and rivers, set targets to reduce air pollution and restrict how many fish are allowed to be caught.

FISHING AND FARMING

J. Allow British fishermen to have full control over how many fish they catch, rather than having to follow EU limits; make sure that the money currently given by the EU to help our farmers is replaced by an equal amount from the UK Government.

OPINION

"The idea that we are going to round up EU nationals and put them on the next Ryanair or easyJet flight to where they came from would be despicable" – Nigel Evans, Conservative Party MP

ANY OTHER ISSUE?

Tell us in the space below if something else about Britain's deal to leave the EU matters to you. Or write anything else you want to say about Brexit.

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This report is from our friends at the Science Museum, part of the Science Museum Group.



THE TALE OF LUCKY JIM

ALMOST 100 years ago, two pilots named John Alcock and Arthur Brown made the first nonstop transatlantic flight.

But did you know that John Alcock (right) also had with him his precious toy cat, named Lucky Jim?



He took the cuddly black cat with him as a good luck mascot, and now Lucky Jim lives at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, along with John's folding pocket camera and a collection of his letters and papers.

Following their successful flight, both John and Arthur were knighted by King George V. Lucky Jim did not receive an honour, but is much loved by visitors to the museum nevertheless!

You can now see Lucky Jim for free in the Air and Space Hall at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.



Lucky Jim

DID YOU KNOW?

RESEARCHERS in Germany have observed ants rescuing their injured fellow ants. It is the first known case of invertebrates coming to the aid of creatures in distress.

ANOTHER PLANET WITH LIFE?

ESO/spaceengine.org

An artist's impression of the new planet and its red dwarf star

by Eddie de Oliveira

ANOTHER week, another discovery of a planet with the potential to host life!

Scientists claim the latest find could be the most promising place yet to begin the search for life outside our solar system.

This new discovery is bigger than Earth and orbits a red dwarf star called LHS 1140 every 25 days. It is 40 light years away in a constellation called Cetus. The rocky planet, known as LHS 1140b, is located in the 'Goldilocks zone' – the name given to an area of space that is just the right distance from a star, so that it's not too hot or too cold, and can therefore have liquid water on its surface. Scientists think that where there's liquid water, there's a good chance of finding some kind of living creatures.

Astronomer Jason Dittmann of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics said: "This is the most exciting exoplanet I've seen in the past decade. We could hardly hope for a better target to perform one of the biggest quests in science – searching for evidence of life beyond Earth."

The past year has seen some amazing discoveries in the quest for life outside our home planet. Last year, scientists found out that Proxima Centauri, which is 4.2 light years away and the nearest star to our sun, is orbited by an Earth-size planet. Earlier this year, experts found that the Trappist-1 system contains seven planets that could host life.

Climate change effect

A MELTING glacier in Canada has caused a river to suddenly change course – a dramatic sign of the impact that climate change is already having on planet Earth.

The Slims River used to flow out to the Bering Sea, but now flows into the Kaskawulsh River. This geological phenomenon is known as "river piracy". Normally it takes hundreds or even thousands of years to occur, but this change was noticed during a single spring season. The findings were presented in the journal *Nature Geoscience*. The team of scientists who made the startling discovery are from Canadian and American universities.

They arrived in the Yukon, a territory in Canada, last summer, in order to study the Slims River. But they found a channel that had worn through a large glacier was diverting water to a group of small lakes. These lakes used to feed two river systems, including the Slims, but when water from one lake poured through the channel into another, it cut the Slims River off from its water source.

A stream of melted water diverts water from one river to the other



Don Shugar/University of Washington Tacoma

DID YOU KNOW?

SCIENTISTS in China have created a folded bit of paper that generates and stores electricity as its components rub together while its owner walks around. The device is small enough to fit into a wallet, and could signal the end of batteries.

TRUMP MARCH



THOUSANDS of scientists have taken to the streets of the American capital, Washington DC, to protest against President Donald Trump's science and environmental policies.

The March For Science, thought to be the biggest ever demonstration by scientists and their supporters, highlighted Mr Trump's attitude to climate change. The president has described it as a "hoax".

The protest was also against Mr Trump's decision to cut billions of dollars of funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, which would harm projects dealing with climate change, pollution and energy efficiency.

As well as the huge march in Washington, similar demonstrations took place across the world. Scientists have expressed concerns that politicians in other countries are ignoring evidence and experts.

Ayana Johnson, a marine biologist who helped organise the march, said: "We have gotten ourselves into this situation because the public doesn't understand how science benefits us in our everyday lives."

WEAR JEANS CHANGE LIVES. FRI 22 SEPT



MEET GABRIELIUS

Gabrielius, four, has a genetic disorder called epidermolysis bullosa that makes his skin blister when he is touched. So he can't go on a slide or stroke a dog in case his skin gets damaged. Gabrielius's body is covered in bandages and when he starts school his mum will have to go too to make sure he is protected.

GET YOUR SCHOOL IN JEANS AND CHANGE LIVES. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

WHAT IS JEANS FOR GENES DAY?

You just wear JEANS to school instead of your uniform and take in £1. Money raised helps some of the UK's 500,000 children who are disabled or in need of care because their GENES don't work properly. If everyone in your school brought in £1, that would be enough to send a child to a fun weekend camp with nurses on hand. If a school raised £1,000, that could buy a sports wheelchair for a child who can't walk.

THE SCIENCE BIT

Our bodies are all made up of thousands of genes. They are the instructions that decide whether you have your mum or dad's nose, or dark or fair hair. A fault in just one gene means your body might not work properly – this is called a 'genetic disorder'. A child your age might spend hours taking medicine, receiving special care in hospital, or be unable to walk or see.

WATCH OUR FILMS

Why not check out our short films featuring children affected by a genetic disorder at www.jeansforgenes.org

Be the one who makes Jeans for Genes Day happen in your school this year. Show this page to your school council or teacher.

ASK YOUR SCHOOL TO SIGN UP FOR A FREE FUNDRAISING PACK JEANSFORGENES.ORG





A vet inspects cattle while they are being milked

WHAT DOES A VET DO?



The five animal welfare needs, as defined by the UK's Animal Welfare Acts*:

- The need for a suitable environment
- The need for a suitable diet
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- The need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

*England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland each have their own, slightly different, animal welfare law



IF you're interested in animals and have a head for science, then you might already have thought about working as a vet one day. Thousands of people study veterinary medicine every year, but they don't all end up treating kittens; it can take you into lots of very different jobs. It's World Veterinary Day on Saturday 29 April, so we thought we'd take a look at what vets do.

■ What is a vet?

To protect the welfare of animals, there are laws in place to make sure that not just anyone can grab a stethoscope and start calling themselves a vet. Veterinary surgery, as an area of work, is protected by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. This means that these activities can only be carried out by people who are registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

■ What do vets do?

There are 19,000 practising vets in the UK and the majority work in some form of clinical practice. That means diagnosing and treating animals, offering health and welfare advice to owners and offering preventative healthcare to stop animals getting sick.

Obviously a lot of the animals seen by vets are what we call 'companion animals', which are pets that people keep for the pleasure of their company. If you've met a vet, it was probably at a veterinary practice where they were caring for cats, dogs, rabbits and other small pets. But lots of vets also care for bigger animals, such as those bred on farms for food production. They ensure these animals are kept as healthy as possible throughout their lives. There are also vets who work only with specific species; like pig vets or equine (horse) vets and those who work just with exotic animals or wildlife.

■ Do all vets treat animals?

Training to be a vet doesn't necessarily mean a career in clinical practice. In fact, a veterinary degree can be a passport to a whole world of career opportunities. There are currently hundreds of vets working to improve animal welfare in government, in food safety and hygiene, in universities, for charities and in laboratories. Vets are everywhere!

The day-to-day work involved in all of these jobs can be very different, but everyone in the veterinary profession is working towards the same goal: improving and protecting the health and welfare of animals. This covers both physical health and mental wellbeing.

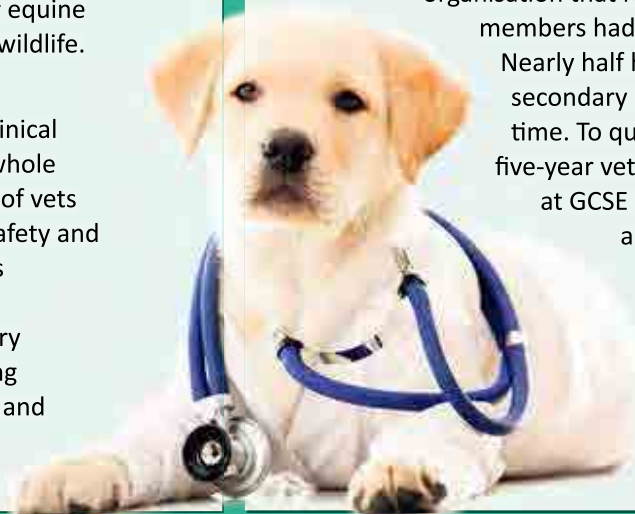


A vet examines a rabbit's ear during a medical examination

■ Is it difficult to become a vet? Do you need to be good at science?

A recent survey from the British Veterinary Association, the national organisation that represents vets, showed that 28% of their members had decided to become a vet by the age of eight. Nearly half had chosen their career before they started secondary school. But becoming a vet takes quite a long time. To qualify you will need to go to university and take a five-year veterinary degree. Generally, you need good grades at GCSE and A levels that include biology and possibly another of the sciences.

If you want to care for animals, but science isn't your top subject, there are lots of other roles within the veterinary family. There are 11,000 veterinary nurses working in the UK, as well as practice managers and other support staff, all helping to take care of our nation's animals.



MARATHON RECORDS

THIRTY-NINE Guinness World Records were successfully broken at this year's London Marathon.

Among them were the fastest marathon in a two-person costume (a Jamaican bobsled), the fastest marathon dressed as a bishop (right), the fastest marathon dressed as a toilet roll and the fastest marathon wearing Wellington boots!

Guinness adjudicator Christopher Lynch stood at the finish line of the race to verify the records and present the runners with their certificates. Congrats, all!



COOL!!

SAND STATUES

IF you love building sand castles at the beach, check out these amazing creations from the Weston Sand Sculpture Festival.

The annual festival sees expert sculptors from across the world head to the beach at Weston-super-Mare to build huge sand sculptures.

This year's theme is Topsy Turvy, which has seen some truly weird and wacky designs. They include Humpty Dumpty cuddling a chicken, a giant Teletubbies tower and a hippo dressed as a ballerina!

The festival runs from now until September.



Chasing cheese



RESIDENTS in Stilton, Cambridgeshire, will be taking part in a rather odd sport this bank holiday weekend.

Can you guess from the name of the village what the event might be? It's cheese rolling, of course!

The annual event sees contestants compete in teams of four – either all men, all women or mixed juniors – to roll a wooden cheese (the real stuff is saved for eating!) from one place to another. It's a fiercely-fought competition, with contestants having to battle it out to get into the grand final. Get rolling!



DID YOU KNOW?

STILTON is an English cheese, which comes in two varieties: blue or white.

QUICK CHUCKLES



Q: What do you call a man with a spade?

A: Doug!

Q: What do you call a man with a bird on his head?

A: Cliff!



Thanks to First News reader, Zachary.

Share your jokes with us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

RECORD OF THE WEEK

MOST FOOTBALL TOUCHES WITH TOES IN ONE MINUTE

The most football touches with the toes in one minute is 109 and was achieved by John Farnworth (UK) on MOTD Kickabout in London, UK, on 16 September 2011.



OFFICIALLY AMAZING



For info on this record and hundreds more, go to guinnessworldrecords.com



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer

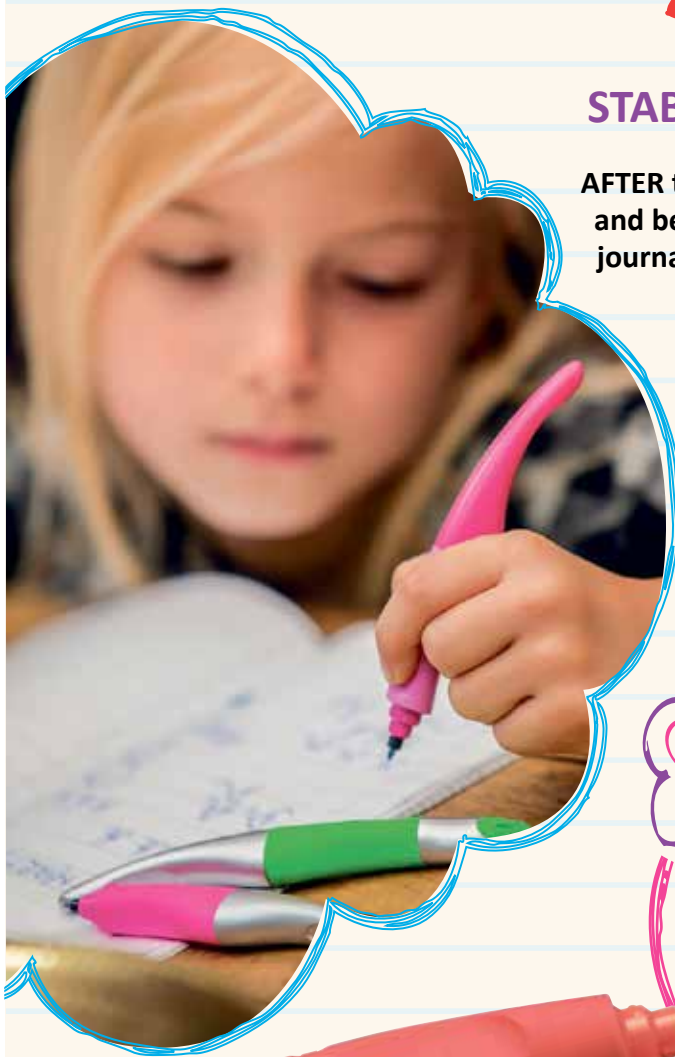


Calling all junior jo

STABILO's Young Journalist of the Year competition is back, so it's time to go

AFTER the huge success of 2016's Young Journalist of the Year competition, we're set for an even bigger and better 2017! If you love writing, have the edge for finding an amazing news story and a passion for journalism, then make sure you enter our exciting competition.

First News and STABILO are looking for young writers to step up and make their voices heard. If you want to share your thoughts and opinions on stories that matter to you, then this is a fantastic opportunity to do so. You may want to write about something that is currently happening in your local area or school that you're concerned about, or raise awareness of a local hero who deserves recognition. Perhaps it's an issue affecting you, your family or your friends? Whatever it is, we want to hear about it!



TOP TIPS!

Be snap-happy and take some photos to support your story and bring it to life.

Read for inspiration! Get familiar with magazines, newspapers and online media, to get a feel for the different ways that news is reported.

Write about something important to you – if it makes you feel strongly, it will show in your writing.

Keep your eyes and ears open at all times. You never know when the perfect story is going to appear!

What is a column?

A column is an article where the writer gives their opinion on an important issue. You can find columns in newspapers, magazines and on websites.

All sorts of people have written columns, including many famous people. Among these are Good Morning Britain presenter Kate Garraway, Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton and celebrity vlogger Zoella.



Journalists!

Get those ideas rolling and put your pen to paper!

The prize

The lucky winner of STABILO's Young Journalist of the Year competition will not only get to write their own column in an issue of *First News*, but will also win a fabulous bundle of STABILO stationery products worth £1,000 for their school. Runners-up will receive a STABILO goodie bag filled with our top products.



Not sure what to write about? Here are a few ideas to get you going... Of course, you can write about whatever you like!

- Bullying online
- Animal welfare
- Is social media a bad influence?
- Natural disasters
- Brexit

How to enter

Simply visit www.stabilofirstnews.co.uk and download the entry form. Fill in your details, get your guardian to sign it, and then use the space provided to write your news story in no more than 300 words. You can use extra paper if you need it.

Stories must be hand-written – not typed!

All entries will be judged by a team of writing experts from *First News* and STABILO.

Send your entry form and story to STABILO Young Journalist of the Year, STABILO, The Old Barn, Bennetts Close, Cippenham, Berkshire, SL1 5AP.

The deadline for entries is 7 July 2017.

Full terms and conditions can be found at www.stabilofirstnews.co.uk.



MEET AMAZING ARABELLA

WHEN it comes to having fun, this young YouTube sensation and model has it covered. So we asked Amazing Arabella to give us the lowdown on the upcoming Geronimo Festival...

■ **How old were you when you started blogging/vlogging? And how did you get into it?**

When I was 11 years old. I am from the UK YouTube family Meet The Vloggers. I always thought that it was so interesting and exciting so I thought I'd give it a go!

■ **What's your favourite thing about it?**

I love getting to experience lots of new things. There is so much out there for kids and teens that we don't know about. I also love seeing all the new fashion collections and getting to wear them!

■ **You're going to be appearing at Geronimo Festival in May. What will you be doing there?**

Oh wow! I am so excited about this! I will be meeting and greeting fans. I LOVE meeting fans and taking pics with them. It's always great when they connect with me on social media! It's going to be so amazing.

■ **What makes Geronimo so special?**

Well, first of all, you are not going to find a bigger festival in the UK for children, as it is THE largest one. There are so many personalities, so much to see and do, and you can stay there for the whole weekend. So, if you didn't have enough the day before, as soon as you open your eyes in the morning, it's all FUN FUN FUN again!

■ **Will you be camping?**

OMG! Of course, I would not miss it for the world! Tangerine Fields has everything and it's going to be such a great experience! I love the vibe, music, everyone having fun and smiling, and the togetherness of it all! It's a beautiful place.

■ **Who are you looking forward to seeing there?**

I am such a fan of all the acts there! I love Justin Fletcher. Growing up he made me laugh every morning as Mr Tumble. I love animals, so will be heading over to see the giant tortoises and the Pony Grand National. I can't wait to see the Stunt Show and Happy's Circus and I'm definitely going to get GLITTERED up!

■ **What are your top three festival tips?**

Have fun, try to get around all the activities and take your friends and family.

Arabella is performing at Geronimo Festival, Arley Hall, Cheshire, 27-29 May. Tickets are available now from www.geronimofest.com/tickets

■ **Do you get starstruck when you meet other celebrities?**

I love meeting celebrities and, of course, I wouldn't be human if I didn't get starstruck. I got starstruck when I met Michael Jackson, Leona Lewis, The Vamps and Louisa Johnson.

■ **Tell us about your funniest fan encounter.**

The funniest one was this... OMG, it was so funny! JD the Kid (my brother Jaadin) and I were doing a meet and greet, and as we were walking around, a fan started running towards me, saying: "OMG! OMG!" I stopped to talk to her and she ended up running straight past me, jumping on Jaadin and giving him a kiss. We were laughing so much. She then turned to me and said: "I do like you Arabella, but I LOVE JD!"

MEET THE NEW SPIDEY VILLAIN

LOGAN Marshall-Green is to play the villain Shocker in *Spider-Man: Homecoming*.

He was spotted wearing the evil character's iconic chequered sleeves and using his gauntlets during a press event at Marvel Studios' Burbank offices last week. We can't wait to see this new Marvel flick!



PIC OF THE WEEK

THERE'S going to be minion madness this July, when *Despicable Me 3* hits cinemas. The latest film follows Gru as he comes face to face with Balthazar Bratt, a child star from the 1980s who is hatching a scheme for world domination.

FRIGHTFULLY GOOD FUN

FIRST News recently headed to the official launch night of the newly updated Derren Brown's Ghost Train: Rise Of The Demon at Thorpe Park Resort in Surrey... and we were certainly in for a fright!

The launch night itself saw the resort exclusively open to a host of celebs, from pop stars Alesha Dixon and Danny Jones of McFly, to a selection of actors and YouTube personalities.

We all joined forces for an adrenaline-fuelled trip around the park and especially to the Victorian-themed Thorpe Junction to catch the updated Ghost Train!

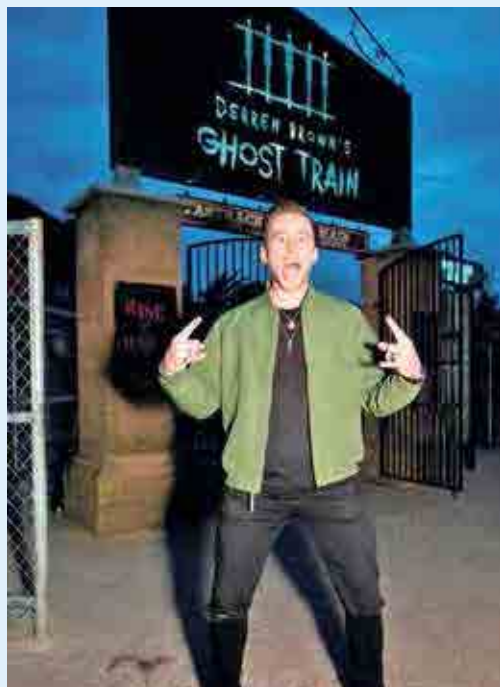
The now 15-minute experience, which first opened last year, is a mix of virtual reality (VR), holograms, special effects and live action designed by Derren Brown, one of the UK's most mysterious entertainers.

It's one of only a handful of big-budget VR theme park rides in the world, and 2017 sees the ghost train pushed even further, making it bigger, better and scarier than ever!

Without giving too much away (Derren told us to keep it a secret!), while it's certainly not for the faint-hearted, it's a unique, world-class experience that we'll remember for a long time – with an exciting twist that you'll never see coming!

After his ride, Danny told us: "I don't want to give anything away but that was pretty epic! I've never done anything like that before!"

Younger readers, fear not – while some of you might not be quite old enough to ride the Ghost Train just yet, there's still plenty of fun to be had, with lots of attractions for the whole family.



McFly's Danny Jones gets ready for the fright of his life on Derren Brown's Ghost Train: Rise Of The Demon

From first-time coasters like the Flying Fish for the thrill-seekers, to classics like Storm In A Teacup and the Angry Birds-themed King Pig's Wild Hog Dodgems.

You can even make a splash this summer on the many water rides and slides on offer. But, if you prefer to keep your feet on the ground, or need a break from all that action, relax at the resort's very own Amity Beach!

Derren Brown's Ghost Train: Rise Of The Demon has an age restriction of 13. Height and other restrictions also apply.

For more information, visit www.thorpepark.com



The ride has been updated for 2017 and is even scarier than before!

THIS WEEK...

1 One of the most popular musicals in the world, *Wicked*, is being turned into a feature film, and you'll never guess who's in talks to play Elphaba... Apparently, X Factor judge Nicole Scherzinger is the favourite to play the green-skinned wicked witch of the west. The role was originally made famous by Idina Menzel, who also provided the voice for Elsa in *Frozen*.

2 Take That have announced plans to screen their upcoming *Wonderland* tour live in 500 cinemas across the UK on 9 June at 8pm. For one night only, fans who missed out on tickets for the sold-out tour can watch Gary Barlow, Mark Owen and Howard Donald in action at London's O₂ Arena with CinemaLive. See www.takethat.com/livecinema.



3 Scottish actor James McAvoy is to be presented with an award at the Global Gift Gala for his dedicated charitable work. The event will be held on 17 May in Edinburgh. The Hollywood star, who voiced Gnomeo in the 2011 animation *Gnomeo And Juliet*, said: "We all have a part to play in creating a better tomorrow".

4 Good news for all you word and number crunchers – the popular TV puzzle show *Countdown* will stay on screens at least until the end of the year. It's been announced that it will run for 260 episodes this year – more than in 2016. The Channel 4 show is fronted by Nick Hewer, and co-host Rachel Riley is in charge of selecting the letters and numbers.

5 Will Smith is in talks to play the Genie in Disney's upcoming live-action version of *Aladdin*. The 48-year-old actor is being lined up to take on the role that was voiced by the late Robin Williams in the 1992 animation.

TOP SECRET BEE-LIEVE IT



BLUE Peter has unveiled the winning mascots ahead of 2017's summer of athletics.

Designed by nine-year-old Elinor from Birmingham, meet Whizbee the Bee, official mascot of the World Para Athletics Championships, and Hero the Hedgehog, official mascot of the IAAF World Championships London 2017.

"It's so exciting that my designs were

winners," said Elinor, who was picked from 4,000 entries. "I chose Whizbee and Hero because they are endangered species and are survivors."

"Hopefully the mascots will bring a lot of fun and energy to the championships," added judge Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill.

"YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE IT"

CALLING all Marvel fans! With *Guardians Of The Galaxy Volume 2* zooming into cinemas this week, Adam Tanswell caught up with Chris Pratt to chat about the space sequel and his quirky character, Peter Quill (AKA Star-Lord).



■ What can you tell us about the story of *Guardians Of The Galaxy Volume 2*?

The story takes place a couple of months after the events of the first movie. We pick up where we left off, but things are a little different.

■ What's new in the universe when the story starts?

Well, the Guardians Of The Galaxy are famous now. They've saved the galaxy, so that's new. They no longer have to discover how to work together as a team because they learned to do that already. And then, there are some new challenges that arise.

■ What excites you the most about the movie's release?

I've never seen a story like this before. It's really nice, thoughtful and moving, but it's wrapped up in the package of a superhero movie with all of this action, excitement and adventure.

■ What went through your mind when you read the sequel's script for the very first time?

I was moved. I was truly moved. When you see the movie, you'll know why. I expect a good number of people will cry when they see this movie. It's a very moving story.

■ What else can fans expect from the sequel?

If you expect to go in and see what you saw in the first *Guardians Of The Galaxy*, you will be surprised.

■ Brilliant! We love surprises!

You will walk out with a huge smile on your face. You're going to love it, but it's not what you expect and that was why I was so moved. The story hit me. I thought we would go in and do another heist movie, but this is completely different. It's profoundly different.

■ Why do you think the first movie was so popular?

Nobody had heard of the Guardians Of The Galaxy, but it came out and it was a smash. It was amazing. We were so fortunate, but the reason why it worked so well was because it defied expectations across the board. I think this movie is going to do that as well. And the way it's going to do that is by giving you something truly different from the first movie.

"I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT TO GO INTO SPACE"

■ What are the themes of the sequel?

The theme of family is very important. It's about a father/son relationship. Quill is desperate to know who his dad is. He's dreamed his whole life that his dad was somebody special, somebody important, somebody cool. When Quill finally meets his bigger-than-life father, it fills this giant void that he's had in his heart his whole life.

■ Quill's father is described as a living planet. What does that even mean?!

I don't want to spoil too much, but I know it sounds like a ridiculous idea. On paper, it feels very absurd – but so did a talking raccoon and everyone loves Rocket. Once you see how it's executed, it's pretty brilliant.

■ Kurt Russell plays your father in the movie. He's a bit of a Hollywood icon, right?

I didn't quite realise just what a man Kurt Russell was until I met him on *Guardians*. He was an airline pilot. He was a race car driver. He played professional baseball. These are all things that I think are really, really cool! He's really down to earth, open and honest.

■ Can we expect lots of jokes and stunts in the sequel?

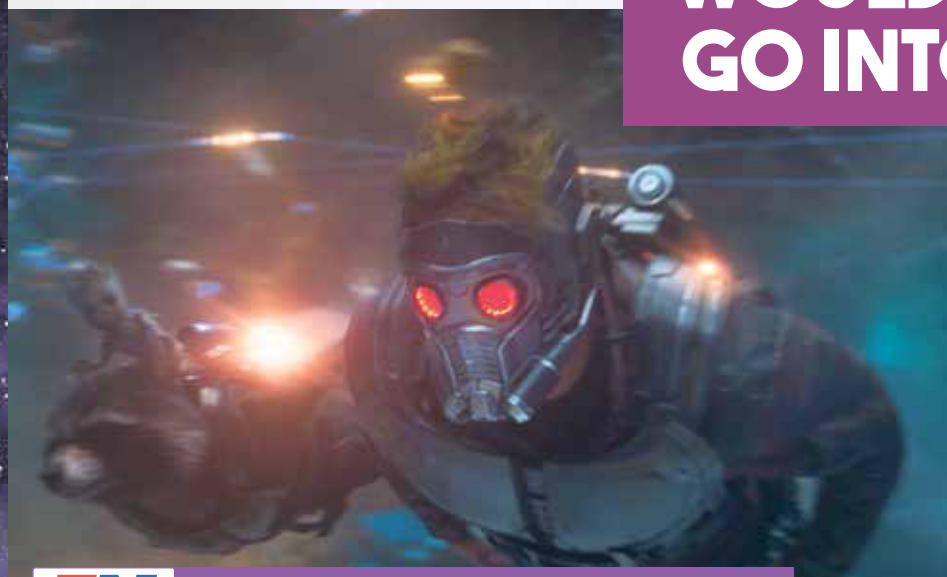
Guardians Of The Galaxy Volume 2 has great comedy, but it was also pretty stunt-heavy with all the action sequences. I try to do as many of the stunts as I can – and Kurt Russell was right there with me.

■ Let's talk space, Chris. Would you like to fly to the moon?

I don't think I would want to go into space. Well, maybe I would, but I have a family now, so I have to start thinking about them and not get involved in dangerous activities.

■ What's the closest you've come to space travel?

I like to scuba dive. I guess that is close to going into space. You are entering a different atmosphere and you are relying on equipment to help you breathe. Hey, I might go to space, but maybe not until my son is in college.



FN
LIVE!
live.firstnews.co.uk

Check out the latest trailer on *First News Live!* (live.firstnews.co.uk) and read *First News'* Aaron's review!

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOLUME 2
IS IN CINEMAS FROM 28 APRIL

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS








CHERUB BASIC TRAINING



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A CHERUB UNDERCOVER AGENT?




1.

You've just turned up for training but you're late. As a punishment you don't get breakfast or lunch. You're starving and see the chance to eat a snack that's fallen out of your friend's backpack. You know no one is allowed to have any food in their possession. Do you:

-  Steal it and scoff it quick so you don't get caught
-  Hand it back to them and ask them to share it
-  Dob them in it and hope you get a reward




2.

You're on a mission to steal some highly confidential documents that hold the key to the success of the whole operation. Your fellow agent has broken her leg and needs carrying to safety. Do you:

-  Leave her behind to see if you can complete the mission solo
-  Carry her to safety and abandon the mission
-  Radio for help but risk giving your position away, then attempt to complete the mission alone




3.

You've been placed at a new school in order to befriend a fellow student and get invited to a party at his house to bug his dad's study. Do you:

-  Hang around his mates and hope he notices you in time
-  Start a fight with his arch enemy to gain his respect
-  Turn up to the party and blag it

4.

During a mission you must cross a river in a boat to reach your target. Suddenly you see a crocodile swimming towards you from the other bank. Do you:

-  Slap the water with your oars to make lots of noise and hope that you scare the crocodile away
-  Row back the way you came and hope you can find another way to reach your target
-  Stay very still and hope the crocodile goes away

5.

And finally, which superpower would you have?

-  Invisibility
-  Shooting lightning bolts from your fingers
-  Super strength

COUNT YOUR T-SHIRTS

Mostly black T-shirts

You are scarily super pro. You'd make an outstanding CHERUB agent, the kind who retires covered in so many medals you clink when you walk.



Mostly grey T-shirts

You've got the basics down, but you haven't been really tested out in the field. Keep your head and one day you'll make a great agent.



Mostly orange T-shirts

Er... I've got bad news. You're going to have to take basic training again.



WHAT IS CHERUB? Find out more at cherubcampus.com

JUNIOR CONSULTANT

**JUNIOR
JOURNALIST**

by Mog Stinchcombe

RECENTLY I was appointed as the first ever Junior Consultant for the bank NatWest.

I was given this position after NatWest found out that more than half of young people aged 7-15 are worried about their lack of knowledge around money.

Even more shockingly, it was found that our parents are also worried that we are going to grow up without a good understanding of how to manage our money.

It's been my job to find out what young people like us know, and need to know, about money. I've learnt a lot, but most interesting to me is that we think that learning about money is just as important as learning about Shakespeare, and that schools are the most

logical place for this to happen.

We learn about everything else at school and it's a really good place to learn about other important life skills, such as money management.

I've also spoken to a lot of adults at NatWest about this, too. They agree that schools are the best place for us to learn about money.

NatWest's MoneySense programme aims to educate one million more young people by the end of 2018. Impressive, right?

I don't know what job I'm going to have, but I know that being able to manage my money is going to be really important.



Mog

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.

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ECO-FRIENDLY FAMILY

by Adam Cort



MY mum and I have become the first parent and child both independently recognised at a UK environmental awards, earning us the tag of 'Most Eco-Friendly Family In Britain'.

I won the Key Stage 2 poster category of WWF's Earth Hour 'The Future We Want' competition. My entry depicted different images of environmental problems, from rainforest destruction to rising tides, offering sustainable solutions alongside each.

In recognition of this, we went to an Earth Hour reception at the Houses of Parliament to talk about climate control.

Westminster Palace had the most amazing gold decorations on the hall ceiling. The stained glass windows had all the colours of the rainbow.

The other children's work was very colourful, neat and informative. We met lots of interesting and amazing people, including Jeremy Quin, our MP, and Andrew Triggs Hodge, who is a triple Olympic gold medal winning rower.

I was really excited to have won the competition and was excited to see what prizes I had in my bag. I was very keen to give Mr Kear, our headmaster, the cheque for £500. It made me very proud.



World map with red stickers added to the countries where Adam's climate cartoon has been viewed so far

GYMNASTICS WORLD CUP

by Malavika Mitter

**JUNIOR
JOURNALIST**


Malavika

THIS month, we went to the World Cup of Gymnastics at The O₂ in London.

We went to watch the women's session, which is bars, beam, floor and vault. It was absolutely amazing and, I'm sure if you watched it on TV, you will agree with me!

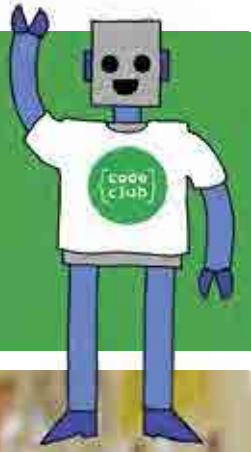
There were lots of gymnasts from all over the world, including Amy Tinkler, 17, from England. As you can imagine, there were a lot of shouts of: "Come on, Amy!"

First place went to Germany's Tabea Alt, with Amy Tinkler completing an amazing floor routine to finish third!

They all worked very hard and definitely deserved the medals.

We all had such a great day. I know I've said it already but I'll say it again, and if you went, you'll agree with me... it was ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!

CRACK THAT CODE



Code Club UK has teamed up with Lloyds Banking Group to help young people learn all about computer science. Here's some fun stuff you might not know about coding!

WHAT IS CODING?

Coding is a series of instructions written in a language that a computer can understand. When we are coding, we are giving the computer instructions in the right order so it can solve problems for us. If code is put in the wrong order, the computer won't understand it.



WHAT IS A CODE CLUB?

Code Clubs happen during and after school and are a chance to have fun learning more about coding and computer science. The clubs run every week and teach you to make games, animations and websites.



"We get help a lot quicker because the Lloyds Banking Group volunteers are here. Even the teachers get help sometimes!"

– Melody, Year 6, on Code Club



DID YOU KNOW?

- Computers can be found in lots of everyday objects, like phones, watches, microwaves, cars and cash machines! Learning to code helps us to understand how these computers work.
- Coding is important for lots of different jobs, including video game programmers, web developers, computer scientists, engineers, musicians, artists and teachers.



MORE THAN JUST A BANK

Lloyds Banking Group is working with Code Club UK as part of its 2017 Helping Britain Prosper Plan. This year's plan contains 22 targets, aimed at tackling some of the biggest issues facing Britain. That includes social, economic and environmental issues. One of the targets is to help people develop their digital skills. As part of this, more than 24,000 Lloyds Banking Group colleagues have become Digital Champions and promise to teach people and charities new digital skills, such as how to shop online safely.

Find out more at codeclub.org.uk



"EVERY FAMILY IS DIFFERENT"

OFTEN families are portrayed as a mum, a dad and maybe two children, but lots of us don't fit into this pattern and it can make people feel different.

A variety of situations, like divorce, adoption or even a new child, make family units different and diverse. Increasingly, a wider variety of families are being portrayed in the media, helping young people feel more at ease with their situation.

Perhaps you live with a single parent or a step-parent. These people are still able to love and care for you, and just because it may not be a 'typical family model', it does not need to mean they are any less loving. It is important to know that families do not come in one moulded shape or as an identical copy for everyone. Families can be big or small, they can be led by mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandparents or someone else, but they can all still be built on compassion and support. Your family may be different to other people's, but that doesn't mean that it's broken or wrong.

If you were adopted, or have step or half siblings, or are cared for by someone else, you may find it difficult to tell your friends in case they don't understand. But your family is no different to theirs, and it isn't wrong or anything to be embarrassed about. While you may not hold a biological relationship to your parents or foster carers, that emotional attachment can still be there.

Remember: unconventional families are never something to be ashamed or embarrassed about, because every family is unique. If you have any worries or are feeling down, you can always call Childline for free and confidential advice.

Written by NSPCC Ambassador, Chloe.

A Childline counsellor says: "Every family is different. But whoever you live with at home, the most important thing is that you are safe and taken care of. It can feel scary if your family is different or if people make comments about your family, but you don't have to deal with it alone. Childline counsellors are always on hand to help."



Some families can have two mums or two dads, like in this picture



I'm **Esther Rantzen**, President of Childline, which helps 2,500 children every week. If you ever need to talk, you can visit www.childline.org.uk or call them on **0800 11 11**.

ED VERE Illustrator

IN First News' Just The Job, you will meet lots of different people with lots of different jobs!

What I do

I make picture books for children. I try to work out the best way to tell a story using a balance of words and pictures. I work mainly from my studio in London, but seeing the world is important for generating ideas.

How I got my job

I studied to be a painter. Shortly after leaving art school, somehow, someone in New York saw some of my drawings and asked if I'd be interested in illustrating some children's books – for actual money. I said yes!

What I love about my job

I love the total freedom it brings to live how (and where) you want. I love learning how to make a story engaging for the audience. I like bringing to life a new and different character and world with each book; one that a child will believe in.



I love the events I do in schools and book festivals, all around the world. From here to China, to Mexico, to India or the US. Reading for children and drawing with them is thoroughly rewarding and very entertaining.

What is difficult about my job

Making a book is an emotional journey in itself. There are times of real self doubt when good ideas don't emerge. Really, you just have to keep persisting [continue to try].

What skills I need

Drawing. Not at Leonardo da Vinci levels, but well enough to portray emotions and, for example, make a

frog froglike – be it an enraged grumpy one, or a delighted joyful one.

You need to be curious about the world. To watch how it works and ask questions about it. My book *Grumpy Frog* came about by noticing pre-schoolers' behaviour. They either LOVE something or absolutely WILL NOT tolerate it... and then need to throw a massive tantrum!

Where to start

Keep drawing, keep writing, read a lot and learn to really look at the world. Have adventures

– they bring experiences that are useful for ideas.

You can study at university, which is good, but it's not necessary. I didn't study it. Many of the best



people I know didn't study it, but they all loved to draw, and through that learned to tell stories. And above all, they persisted!



Grumpy Frog by Ed Vere is published by Puffin on 2 May, paperback priced £6.99.

FirstNews QUIZ

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED THIS WEEK?

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

1 How many people took part in this year's London Marathon?

.....

2 Who is set to play Shocker, the villain in the new Spider-Man: Homecoming film?

.....

3 Which note ceases to be legal tender on 5 May and can no longer be used in shops?

.....

4 What did a piano tuner find in a piano in Shropshire?

.....

5 Lionel Messi has made history by scoring how many goals for his club?

.....

6 When is World Veterinary Day?

.....

7 Which country is trialling a new card scheme, which will see customers at some stores given small change on a card instead of in coins?

.....

8 What does WHO stand for?

.....

1) 40,382 2) Logan Marshall-Green 3) £5 4) a stash of gold coins 5) 500 6) 29 April 7) South Korea 8) World Health Organization

WORDS FOR LIFE



JACK Cheng's new book, *See You In The Cosmos*, is his first novel for young readers and is out now. Jack told us what books he read as a child.

"I read basically every Roald Dahl book I could get my hands on. I was also really into Matt Christopher's series of sports books (which was published here in the US, where I live), particularly The Kid Who Only Hit Homers."

To read Jack's full interview, visit wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews. For book recommendations, activities and games, go to wordsforlife.org.uk.

Book News

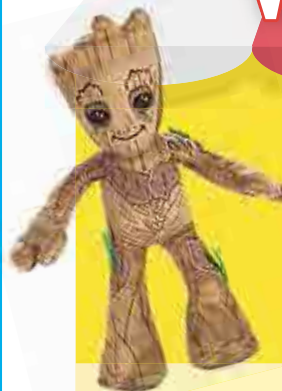
AUDIO book news, that is!

To celebrate the 140th anniversary of *Black Beauty*, audiobook company Audible has released an all-star audio production of the classic tale.

Starring a whole host of incredible actors from the stage, including Paul Thornley from *Harry Potter* and *The Cursed Child*, the production includes real-world recordings of horses breathing, as well as carrot and hay crunching, to really put you there!



WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?



BABY GROOT MINI BEAN BAG
AMAZON.CO.UK £15.28

Bring the cutest Guardian Of The Galaxy to your collection with this baby Groot soft toy! Made from cuddly plush fabric, it features wood grain detailing, 3D felt leaves and an adorable embroidered expression.

SOUND MACHINE
DISNEY STORE £7.99

Budding Star-Lords will always have an awesome soundtrack on hand with this Guardians Of The Galaxy sound machine! Shaped like Peter Quill's mix tape, it features six out-of-this-world sound effects.



LEGO MARVEL SUPER HEROES GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY RAVAGER ATTACK

THETOYSHOP.COM £20.00

Build a powerful six-stud shooter with this great set from LEGO. Prepare to fire the six-stud shooter at Taserface's M-ship from *Guardians Of The Galaxy*. Take cover in the forest then launch a counter-attack with Rocket's guns in this epic *Guardians Of The Galaxy* adventure. Includes three Minifigures.



SUPER SMALL SNES ON THE WAY?



IT looks like Nintendo could be releasing a miniature version of their classic Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES) later this year.

After the runaway success of the NES Mini (pictured below) that was released last Christmas, the rumours are that Nintendo promptly began work on following it up with a tiny version of another old console.

Does this mean that the NES Mini will be back in stock? Unfortunately not. The production of the SNES Mini means the end of manufacturing the NES Mini. Boo!

The SNES was the home of some of the most well-received games of all-time, such as *The Legend Of Zelda: A Link To The Past*, *Super Mario World* and *Super Metroid*.

Would you want a SNES Mini?



MARIO KART 8 DELUXE (NINTENDO SWITCH)

WE loved *Mario Kart 8* on the Wii U. It looked gorgeous, had an incredible soundtrack and was a ton of fun to play! But is it worth forking out the money for the deluxe edition on the Switch?

The deluxe edition of *Mario Kart 8* is jam-packed with stuff. Actually, that's an understatement – it's overwhelmingly filled with stuff! There are more than 40 characters to play as (including four different Marios), a whopping 12 different Grands Prix, and five different battle modes!

Not only that, but right from the get-go, you've got access to all of it, including the different difficulties. This means that you can delve straight into 200cc, the fastest mode in *Mario Kart* – if you think you're up to the challenge, that is!

The best bit about *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe*, though, is that it's on the Switch. No matter where you are, you can play a game with a friend... although maybe not while in class!



LEGO® Batman™ and the LEGO® Planet Crew need your help!



PLANET CREW

Enter for your chance to join the LEGO® Planet Crew and help interview LEGO® Certified Professional, Duncan Titmarsh at our special event in Liverpool in May!

Here's how to enter...

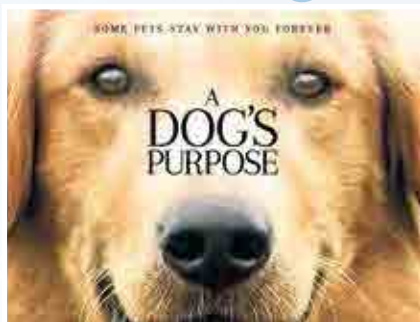
Imagine how wind will help us create energy in the future and build the craziest wind energy creator out of LEGO® bricks! Take a photo of your creation, and send it to Liverpool@crescendopr.co.uk along with your name, age, and a parent's telephone number. Good luck and happy building!

Closing date for entries May 7th 2017 and the winner will be contacted on May 8th 2017
Event Details May 17th 2017, Liverpool ONE Shopping Centre, Liverpool

Please note: First News nor Crescendo PR, will not share your personal details with third parties. First News and Crescendo PR, 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 News (UK) 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. Winner will be notified accordingly by Crescendo PR, and 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. LEGO, the LEGO logo, the Minifigure, the MINIFIGURES logo are trademarks of the LEGO Group. ©2017 The LEGO Group. All DC Characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC Comics. (s17)

WIN! A DOG'S PURPOSE GOODY BAGS

A *DOG'S Purpose* is the heart-warming story of one devoted dog who discovers his purpose in life through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love.



The loveable pooch develops an unbreakable bond with a kindred spirit named Ethan. As the boy grows older and comes to a crossroad, the dog once again comes back into his life to remind him of his true self.

To celebrate the release of *A Dog's Purpose*, we have ten goody bags up for grabs. The prize includes a ball-thrower, a doggie food bowl, a paw-themed blanket, a waste-bag dispenser and a dog-treat jar!

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



Which of these is a well-known breed of dog?

- a) Poodle b) Hoodle c) Loodle

A Dog's Purpose is in cinemas from 5 May

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DOG
firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 4 May 2017.

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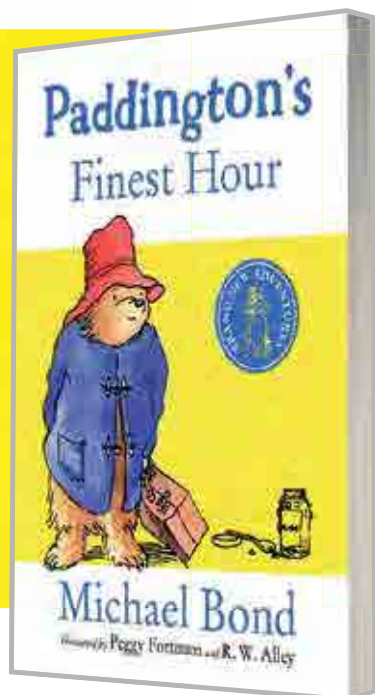


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National Railway Museum

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23 March–3 September 2017

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Free entry

nrm.org.uk/mystery



SPORT IN NUMBERS

2,000 children and more than 100 schools are taking part in National Schools Snowsport Week, an initiative that encourages young people to try out sports on snow. You can learn more at www.nssw.co.uk.



3-2 was the score as Romania beat Britain in tennis' Fed Cup. After the first day of the tie, the score was 1-1, with Romania's captain Ilie Năstase expelled from the court and banned from the Cup for swearing at the umpire and Brits Johanna Konta (below) and Anne Keothavong. His outburst left Konta in tears.



3 London Marathons have been won by Kenyan runner Mary Keitany. She finished this year's race in 2hrs 17mins 1sec, the second-fastest time in the history of the women's race. Kenya's Daniel Wanjiru won the men's race in 2hrs 5mins 56secs, while David Weir won the men's wheelchair race.



4 medals were won by Britain's Ellie Downie at the European Gymnastics Championships. The 17-year-old took an all-around gold, silvers on the floor and the vault, and a bronze on the bars. Britain won six medals overall.



500 NOT OUT

MESSI REACHES MILESTONE

BARCELONA and Argentina ace Lionel Messi has made history by scoring 500 goals for his club.

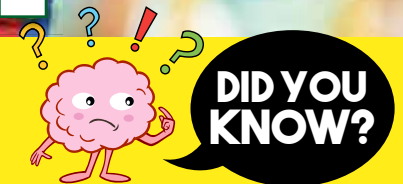
His 500th, scored 12 seconds before the end of a dramatic 'El Clásico' against Real Madrid, won the game for Barça. It capped an incredible night for Messi, who also scored earlier in the match and managed four shots on target – more than any other player on the pitch.

Reaching 500 goals marks a major milestone for a player who keeps on breaking records. He is La Liga's all-time

top scorer, with 343 goals, and he has scored more El Clásico goals than anyone (23). He is also Barcelona's all-time top scorer, with second-placed César Rodríguez Álvarez way behind on 232.

What makes his latest achievement all the more incredible is that the 500 goals have been scored in just 577 games!

Messi is also Argentina's all-time top scorer, with 58 goals in 117 games.



LIONEL Messi nearly didn't make it as a footballer because of a medical problem called growth hormone deficiency. He wasn't growing properly as a boy and needed special treatment from the age of ten. He joined Barcelona at 13.

GOLDEN BRONZE

MANCHESTER City Women have had a sensational season, winning the Women's Super League and reaching the Champions League semi-final, as well as their first Women's FA Cup final. Star full-back Lucy Bronze, this season's PFA Women's Player Of The Year, talked to First News about City, women's football and giving something back.

■ Has your success this year taken you all by surprise?

When I walked through the door, I knew this team would be successful, sooner or later. With the types of players we have, we feed off success.

■ Are we in a golden era of women's football?

In England it's definitely better than ever. We've taken a leaf out of other countries' books, such as the US, France and Germany, who have all been very successful in growing talent for their national team through their leagues. The FA has put in a lot of investment and the Premier League men's clubs have helped out women's teams, too.

■ What advice would you have for First News readers who may dream of playing sport professionally?

If it's something you enjoy, if you love a sport, then as long as you have that pure enjoyment, keep going with it. If you enjoy it, it's more likely that you're going to want to work harder and that can take you further.

When I was younger there was no girl's team. I don't think the England Women's team existed. I played for the enjoyment, I never saw it as being a career. I kept going because it was a hobby I enjoyed doing.



■ How important is it for you to give something back through Manchester City's community work, such as the City Stars literacy project?

I think it's really important for youngsters to have a role model who they can see being successful and having fun. We really enjoy interacting with our young fans. We don't think of ourselves as celebrities at all, but it's nice to be positive role models.

Thanks to the support of Etihad Airways and partners, City in the Community is using the power of football to deliver a literacy project to local children.

