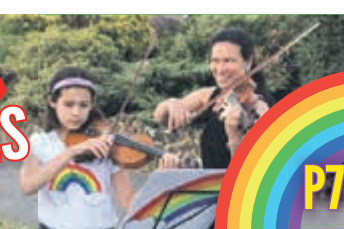


WEEKLY
PUZZLES!
P14-15



SUNNIEST
MAY EVER!
P5

OUR NEW
LOCAL HEROES



MAN MARRIES
HIS CAT!
P17



Issue 729 £1.99 5 – 11 June 2020

First News

THE UK'S ONLY
NEWSPAPER
FOR CHILDREN

FIRST DAY BACK

THIS WEEK SAW SOME CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN IN LOCKDOWN RETURNING TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME. SO, HOW WAS IT?

FIRST NEWS READERS
HAVE BEEN TELLING
US WHAT THEY THINK
ABOUT SCHOOLS
GOING BACK



Year 6 boys returning to Moultsford Prep split into bubbles to ensure staff and boys stayed within set groups

Harvey says: "I didn't realise how much I missed the school. It was so good to see friends, and the teachers were great, as I felt quite nervous at first when I got out of the car, but they quickly made it feel all okay to be there. We even managed to do some sport, which was fab."

"If some social distancing measures are still working in school, I think it's much better for a student's mental health and education to be back there. However, if someone doesn't want to at the moment for health reasons, they should be able to stay home and carry on with online learning."

"I am very happy about returning to school because I miss the support from my teachers and friends."

"I am not going back to school because my mum has a health condition. Nearly all of my friends are going back to school (I am in Year 6) but me and a handful of my friends are staying home. We would have done a production and a leavers' assembly but now we won't and it is really disappointing."

"I'm really excited to go back to school, as I have only seen my friends through a screen, which doesn't have the same effect as when you actually see them face to face. Also, it is my last year at primary school, and I wouldn't want to go off to secondary without seeing all my friends first."

"We still haven't beat the virus. I think we should wait until Christmas. It's sad but true."

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

AROUND a million children returned to schools across England this week, for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown began in March.

It was the start of the Government's slow reopening of schools, with pupils in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returning to classes from 1 June.

A similar number of children who could have gone back stayed at home, some because their parents or schools didn't feel ready yet.

Caldecote Community Primary School in Braunstone,

Leicester, stayed open during the lockdown for up to 70 children, including those of key workers.

Head teacher Matt Alcock welcomed another 140 pupils back on Monday. He said: "There's a sense of joy today. It's just nice to see kids outside playing, doing what they do well. It's been interesting to see. They are naturally self-distancing."

1. KENT CLIFF FALL

Cliff erosion in Kent has caused houses to be evacuated and left one property dangling over the edge. Surf Crescent on the edge of the Isle of Sheppey has seen several cliff falls in recent weeks. Luckily, the family who live in the house below left after an earlier cliff fall caused a road to collapse. "They are just waiting for the house to fall," said neighbour Malcolm Newell.



2. PUFFIN BOOK FESTIVAL

Children's publisher Puffin is launching a week-long online book festival for families from 8 June. The Puffin Festival of Big Dreams will take place each day until 14 June on Puffin's YouTube and Facebook channels. It will be full of creative workshops and online activities from authors like Jeff Kinney, Jacqueline Wilson, Carrie Hope Fletcher and Robin Stevens.

3. DISNEY RATS

Three abandoned rats have been named after Disney characters by their rescuers. A family found the trio, who had been left in their cage in the rain. The rats, Mickey, Simba and Tayo, are now in the care of the RSPCA.

4. OLDEST MAN DIES

Three months after becoming the world's oldest man, Bob Weighton has died at the age of 112. His family said Bob, from Alton in Hampshire, was an "extraordinary man" and that he "died peacefully in his sleep".

5. DEEP DEEP DOWN

The deepest ever sighting of an octopus has been recorded by cameras on the Indian Ocean floor. The octopus, from the *Grimpoteuthis* family, was filmed 6,957m down in the Java Trench, almost 3km deeper than the previous reliable recording. It is also known as the Dumbo octopus because of its ear-like fins that make it look a bit like the famous Disney character.

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. 111-YEAR-OLD RECOVERS

A 111-year-old woman in Chile has recovered from COVID-19. Juana Zúñiga had breathing issues before getting sick, but luckily she didn't suffer from severe symptoms.

7. BABY KOALA JOY

An Australian wildlife centre is celebrating the arrival of the first baby koala since the bushfires that raged there earlier this year. Staff at the Australian Reptile Park have named the joey Ash, in honour of the many koalas who died in the fires.



8. CHILD LABOUR DAY

Friday 12 June is World Day Against Child Labour. The United Nations estimates that 152 million children are still working. Seven out of ten of those children work farming fields.

9. LONELY ELEPHANT

A court has ordered that an elephant in Pakistan must be set free into the wild. Kaavan has been in chains at Islamabad Zoo for 18 years and without a mate for eight. The Islamabad High Court demanded that the lonely elephant be found an appropriate sanctuary within 30 days.

10. TOXIC PLANT

People are being warned not to touch a toxic plant called giant hogweed. The plant can reach 4.5m and contains a sap that can cause burns on your skin. The tall plant has green stems with purple blotches, huge leaves with jagged edges and umbrella-like heads with small white flowers that appear in June and July.



11. PRINCE PARTY

A prince who attended a party in Spain has tested positive for COVID-19. Prince Joachim, nephew of Belgium's King Philippe, was said to have visited Spain on 24 May for professional reasons. However, after admitting he also attended a party of nearly 30 people, the prince said he regretted his actions and apologised for "not respecting all quarantine measures during my trip".



12. WORLD COLOURS

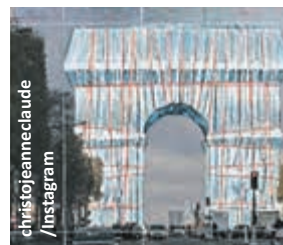
Crayola is releasing a new pack of crayons to reflect all the different skin tones in the world. Colours of the World will feature 24 different shades, and was made with the help of make-up expert Victor Casale. The new crayons will be released in July.

13. OLDEST BUG FOUND

A millipede fossil found on the Scottish island of Kerrera is believed to be the world's oldest bug. It is around 425 million years old, older than any known insect fossil.

14. FABRIC ARTIST DIES

Christo, the artist most famous for wrapping giant buildings in fabric, has died at the age of 84. However, his final project of wrapping France's Arc de Triomphe will still go ahead in September 2021.



15. WORLD OCEANS DAY

The National Maritime Museum will hold a day-long festival of activities to mark World Oceans Day on 8 June. For obvious reasons, this one will be online. It will include interviews with scientists and oceanography experts, a scavenger hunt and a live quiz!

16. LICENCE TO DRILL

Pictures of the HS2 tunnel boring machines have been unveiled. They will help create the route for HS2, Britain's next high-speed railway. The giant machines will drill under areas of natural beauty, like the Chiltern Hills. They are as long as five football pitches and will run non-stop for three-and-a-half years.



17. DRONE DELIVERIES

The NHS is trialling the use of drones to deliver medical supplies. Drone delivery service Skyports has been transporting medical supplies and tests to NHS hospitals in remote parts of Scotland.

18. RINGS REUNION

The cast of *The Lord of the Rings* movie have reunited over Zoom for an online chat show. Elijah Wood, Orlando Bloom, Sir Ian McKellen, Sean Astin, Billy Boyd and Dominic Monaghan, alongside other cast members, appear in actor Josh Gad's (who voiced Olaf in *Frozen*) *Reunited Apart* series on YouTube.

19. DINO COINS

The Royal Mint has released three special dinosaur 50p coins that use augmented reality (AR). The coins feature the *Megalosaurus*, *Iguanodon* and *Hylaeosaurus*. You can scan the coin's packaging using an app to see facts and pictures of the dinos.

20. LOUD LOBSTERS

A new study has found that European spiny lobsters are really loud. So loud in fact that their 'antennal rasps' can be heard almost two miles away! The sound is created by the lobsters rubbing their antennas against a rough spot beneath their eyes. The fascinating creatures are considered vulnerable due to overfishing.



SUNNY RECORDS (WITH A DARK SIDE)



Even though the weather's been nice, we still need to remember to obey social distancing rules

THE recent heatwave and sunny weather has certainly made lockdown more enjoyable. In fact, it's been the sunniest spring on record in the UK and the driest May in England for 124 years. But is all this sunshine good news for the planet?

Not only have we had the sunniest spring since 1929, all four UK nations (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) have broken sunshine records too. The Met Office recorded 626 hours of sunshine during the month of May for the UK, absolutely thrashing the previous record of 555 hours, set way back in 1948.

But while we've all been enjoying this sunny weather and have been able to play outside, experts are concerned that it's being caused by climate change. Met Office meteorologist Marco Petagna told the *Evening Standard*: "The fact we're seeing more extreme weather events generally does tie in with global warming."

MARATHON ACHIEVEMENT



A NINE-YEAR-OLD boy with cerebral palsy has raised more than £92,000 by completing a marathon with his walker.

Tobias Weller walked a total of 26.2 miles on the streets near his home in Sheffield by doing 750 metres at a time, after being inspired by Captain Tom Moore. He smashed his original target of £500 on his way to raising such a huge sum, which will be split between his school, Paces, and Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Tobias told Sky News: "I'm chuffed to bits to raise loads of money. Other children who aren't as lucky as me can benefit from the money that's been raised."

His mum, Ruth Garbutt, gave him a well-earned medal as he crossed the finish line at the end of his marathon. Well done, Tobias!



Tobias has cerebral palsy, which is the name for a group of conditions that affect movement and co-ordination, caused by damage to the brain

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

EDITOR'S COMMENT



AROUND a million of you went back to school this week.

Others stayed at home to continue learning at home – perhaps because your family or school don't feel ready yet.

It can be a worrying time after being strict about staying at home to suddenly be going out in the world again.

We've been listening to readers about how you feel (front page) and will have more of your thoughts in next week's *First News*. Remember, we are all in this together.

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

ELON MUSK

ELECTRIC car company Tesla has rewarded its boss with £623m, because the company has been doing so well. Also, this week, Mr Musk's SpaceX became the first private company to launch a rocket carrying astronauts to the International Space Station (see p11).



BAD WEEK FOR...

THE CLIMATE

THE UN Climate Change Conference (known as COP26) has been postponed for a second time, because people can't travel due to the coronavirus pandemic. World leaders were supposed to meet in Glasgow this November for the important talks, but the conference will now take place in November 2021.



DIP DANGERS

WITH the summer sun shining, it's tempting to take a dip in the sea or local pool, which is why a new campaign by the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) aims to help us all learn how to enjoy the water safely.

Around 700 people lose their lives in the water each year, and across the UK there is a rise in drowning incidents in the summer months. This year there have been several deaths already, and three people were seriously injured jumping into the sea in Dorset. Drowning Prevention Week takes place from 12-19 June, and the RLSS wants to raise awareness of water safety. It has loads of tips on how to stay safe at www.rlss.org.uk/drowning-prevention-week.



Even in summer, water can be very cold and shock your body, making you unable to swim

BIDDINGHUIZEN, NETHERLANDS



WALIBI Holland, a Dutch theme park, put 22 giant teddy bears on a rollercoaster while the park was closed for quarantine. The bears looked like they were having a great time!

GIPUZKOA, SPAIN



ANDONI Bastarrika is an incredible sand sculpture artist who has become well known for his realistic creations. His works of art include a bull, wolf and an octopus. The amazing life-like displays can take up to 24 hours to create.



MERTHYR TYDFIL, WALES

A VIEW of low water levels in the Llwyn-on reservoir. The Met Office said this May was the second driest on record in Wales, with only 14.3mm of rain – 17% of what is normally expected. See p5 for more.

ROME, ITALY



THE Colosseum is lit up in the colours of the Italian flag to honour the victims of the new coronavirus, as the country starts to ease out of the lockdown.



SUSSEX, UK

A WHITE stork tends to its chicks. There are several breeding pairs in the area now, but the last hatchlings in the UK were seen on top of St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh in 1416 (although other sources say they still bred after that).



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Watch our new "I Don't Get It" explainer video about racism at first.news/idgi

USA PROTESTS

PROTESTS have been taking place all over the world following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA, after he was held down by police officers.

During his arrest, George Floyd, who is black, died after white police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck. The officer has since been charged with murder, while three other police officers involved in the arrest have lost their jobs.

Protests against police violence and racial hatred then began in Minneapolis, before quickly spreading across the world, as people took to the streets to campaign against the police using unnecessary force against black people in the US.

There were demonstrations everywhere, including UK cities London, Cardiff and Manchester. Celebrities including Ariana Grande and Halsey joined in protests in the States too.

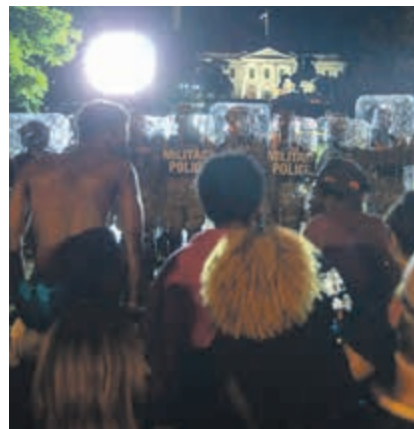
The majority of the protesters walked peacefully, carrying Black Lives Matter signs and calling for justice. But in some parts of the US, demonstrations became violent.

Although US President Donald Trump called George's death a tragedy, he has also been accused of glorifying violence, after threatening protesters in a tweet that said: "when the looting starts, the shooting starts".

For the first time in Mr Trump's presidency, Twitter tagged the tweet with a message that said it "violated [broke] their rules about glorifying violence". Twitter hid the tweet but did not remove it as they feel "it is in the public's interest" to see it.

At a speech in Minneapolis, the brother of George Floyd spoke at a rally, where he called for "peace" and "justice" through voting, rather than violence.

As First News went to press, the National Guard (the US reserve military force for domestic emergencies) was being sent to several states across the country.



A FLYING FUTURE



THE world's largest electric plane has made its first flight.

The all-electric eCaravan, which can carry nine people, took off from a Washington airport and managed to stay in the air for 28 minutes.

The plane is more environmentally-friendly and costs less to operate than normal planes. It's hoped it will be in commercial use in 2021.



A FAMILY of talented musicians have been entertaining their street with weekly concerts!

Ethan, 13, Lara, 10, and their mum Sarah played *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* for their street eight weeks ago as part of the Clap for Carers on the Thursday night.

Their neighbours enjoyed the performance so much that the family decided to keep performing, playing a new song each week.

They received cards thanking them, and were told that their music encouraged an elderly gentleman who barely leaves his home to come to listen.

For the last Clap for Carers, the family held a special socially-distanced charity street concert, where they performed all the pieces from the last eight weeks, along with a few extras. Bravo!



THE MINI POET



A FOUR-YEAR-OLD has become an internet hit with his poems.

Nadim Shamma was discovered by teacher Kate Clanchy from Oxford Spire Academy after his mum asked her for tips on how to get young children writing creatively.

His first poem was prompted by his mum asking: "What do you put down on the table by the door when you get home?" His list became his *Coming Home* poem, which featured the lines: "You take off your brave feeling, because there's nothing to be scared of in the house. No dark caves, no monsters, no witches, no bees, no howling sounds."

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

UK

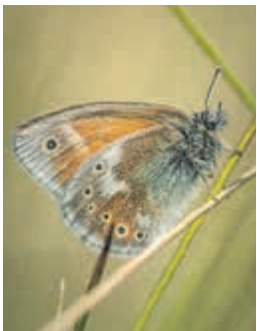
Swimming apart

Swimmers may have to arrive in their costumes and fewer people will be allowed in when pools reopen, for social distancing. It's thought chlorine in swimming pools will kill coronavirus but Swim England has warned strict rules will still be needed when they are open again. Pools cannot reopen before 4 July under the Government's current plan for lifting lockdown.

MANCHESTER

Butterflies return

After 150 years of absence, large heath butterflies have returned to Greater Manchester. Chester Zoo and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust teamed up



to help the creatures make a comeback to Manchester's peatlands. Over the last 40 years, the UK has lost 20% of all butterflies.

BRISTOL



Boost for SEND kids

Bristol City Council is giving £1.3m of its schools budget to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Ofsted school inspectors labelled the city's performance as "disturbingly poor" in 2019. Last month, Bristol's school leaders approved the funding switch to help SEND children, but there is concern there still won't be enough money.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Safe havens for newts

Leicestershire County Council hopes to increase numbers of its endangered great crested newt population. It has approved two sites, in Mowsley and Kibworth, to become safe havens for the creatures. Council member Blake Pain said he hoped to protect the great crested newt for future generations as well as working more to support the variety of plant and animal life in the world.



ISLE OF WIGHT

First UK fossil find for dinosaur

The fossil of a type of pterosaur known as a tapejarid has been found in the UK for the first time. The fossil is a fragment of the dinosaur's jaw and was found by a man walking his dog along Sandown Bay on the Isle of Wight. Evidence of the dinosaurs has been found in China and Brazil before, but never in the UK until now. Professor David Martill, from the University of Portsmouth, said the UK is "one of the most important places for Cretaceous dinosaurs in the world".

A tapejarid may have looked like this



READING



Art for auction

A nurse has called on local artists to create and auction art to raise money for a hospice. The Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading, like many places, has lost a lot of money due to fundraising being affected by the lockdown. Nurse Gillian Alderton reached out to her artistic friends to make and donate postcard-sized "mini-masterpieces". All money made from auctioning the artworks will go toward helping the hospice.

SOUTHAMPTON



Chop stopped

Campaigners in Southampton have managed to stop three "irreplaceable" Monterey pine trees from being chopped down. Southampton Airport, which bought the land at Marlhill Copse in 2018, says the 160-year-old pines are "diseased and damaged" and dangerous for people in nearby bungalows. But protest leader Gareth Narbed said: "These trees are irreplaceable and their loss would have a huge effect on the very special nature of Marlhill's woodland."

NEWS IN NUMBERS

573 species have been found in a Cambridge garden by nature lover Paul Rule. He took part in the Cambridge Natural History Society's wildlife survey over three years. Mr Rule recorded everything from foxes and badgers to ivy bees and incredible elephant moths (right).



7.1m keepy-uppies is the goal that Imogen Papworth-Heidel is hoping to reach to raise money for charity. The 7.1m represents one keepy-uppy for each of the UK's key workers. When the ten-year-old realised it would take 100 years to do it alone, she asked for help. Many people have 'donated', including England star Lucy Bronze, who did 500 in a row! Imogen has so far done around 185,000 of her own in just over a month.



80 years is how long it took for a soldier's wartime letter to reach his family. Private Henry Cole wrote the letter in 1940, days before he was killed in Dunkirk. The letter was never delivered but now it's been sent to his surviving brother.



THE EU



Branching out

The European Commission has revealed a massive plan to plant three billion trees in the European Union by 2030, and to better protect the continent's last ancient forests. Environmental campaigners at Greenpeace "welcomed the new goals", but said that it wasn't clear how the EU planned on meeting the goals, or when it would start planting the trees.



CHINA



Hainan hopes

The Hainan gibbon is the world's rarest primate, with only 30 thought to be in existence. Known for swinging through the treetops and loudly calling out to mark territory, when two gibbons start a new family, they sing together. Now, researchers at the Hainan Gibbon Conservation Project have just spotted a new breeding pair, singing together.



Hainan Gibbon Conservation Project

INDIA



Harassed hospitals

Patients in the emergency ward of Mumbai's Sion hospital are sharing beds and oxygen tanks, as coronavirus cases overwhelm the city's healthcare system. The state of Maharashtra, the third largest in India, has become the centre of the coronavirus outbreak in India and, as First News went to press, had seen a steady increase in case numbers for weeks. New hospitals and quarantine centres are being built, but experts worry that India is still facing difficult challenges. The country is starting to relax its lockdown, even though Saturday 30 May saw the largest single-day rise in COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began.



Getty

EGYPT



Shocking study

An investigation by Sky News has found that 75% of the fish in the river Nile contain microplastics. The research was completed in secret, as Egyptian authorities have jailed some who have questioned the Nile's cleanliness. Dr Farhan Khan, the British scientist in Denmark who led the investigation, said that a follow-up study was needed urgently, to find out the effect of the microplastics on fish, as well as on the humans who are eating them.



AUSTRALIA



"We're sorry"

Anglo-Australian mining company Rio Tinto has apologised after blowing up parts of the 46,000-year-old Aboriginal Juukan Gorge caves in Western Australia. Many prehistoric artefacts have been found in the caves, including a 4,000-year-old belt made of human hair, which had a direct DNA link with the current owners of the cave, the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura People (PKKP). A chief executive of the mining firm said that the company was "sorry for the distress caused."



Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura People

SOUTH KOREA



Schools close again

Just days after reopening, more than 200 South Korean schools have been forced to close again, after a new spike in cases of COVID-19. The 79 new cases were thought to have spread from a warehouse near the capital, Seoul. A student in the city, whose mother worked at the warehouse, tested positive for COVID-19. As of last Friday (29 May) there had been 11,402 total cases reported in South Korea and 269 deaths.



Getty

OUR WORLD

NAME: JASMIN
LIVES: UK



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

JASMIN'S father died shortly after she was born, and she was raised by her mother in a refugee camp in Bangladesh. Jasmin is from the Rohingya community, a Muslim minority group in Myanmar who have lost many of their rights.

When she was eight, Jasmin was resettled in Britain and now lives in Bradford, but her challenges didn't stop there. Her mother was seriously injured in a car accident a few years later.

But cricket put a smile back on her face. At an after-school club, a coach suggested she join the cricket team. Jasmin excelled at the sport, which is popular with

young Rohingya refugees in cricket-mad Bangladesh. She soon became captain and last year led an England team to the final of an international competition organised by the charity Street Child United.

"Sport is something that I feel I'm born to do," said Jasmin, 19. "It's something that I'm really confident in and shows who I am."



© UNHCR

KILLER COPPER



SCIENTISTS investigating how the new coronavirus survives on different surfaces have found that copper appears to stop it spreading.

It's not entirely surprising, as it was already known that other viruses were killed within minutes by the metal. The coronavirus survived for just four hours, whereas on steel and plastic it was found to last for up to 72 hours.

Other countries are already using it in public places and we are now likely to see copper used much more widely in shops and on public transport.

Professor Bill Keevil of Southampton University says that doorknobs, stair rails and grab rails on trains and buses should all have copper in them, to help in the fight against the coronavirus.

AT LAST BLAST OFF!



The SpaceX craft blasts into space to link up with the ISS

THE SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft finally launched on Saturday, and has successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS).

Crowds had gathered in Florida for a second time, following a postponed launch earlier in the week due to bad weather. They were rewarded with a spectacular sight as the craft soared into the sky. The company that created SpaceX, owned by the billionaire businessman Elon Musk, has been sending rockets into space for a number of years, but this was a special and historic flight. The two NASA



Doug Hurley (far right) and Bob Behnken (second right) with other crew on board the ISS

astronauts aboard, Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken, were the first to go into space from US soil in almost ten years. It was also the first time that a manned spacecraft has been launched by a private company rather than a country or group of countries, who have until now paid for all space travel. NASA, the US space organisation, bought the seats for the astronauts in the same way that we buy seats on aeroplanes – except the cost is thought to be around \$55 million (about £43m) per seat!

On Sunday, the spacecraft successfully docked with the ISS, which orbits the Earth 250 miles above us while travelling at 17,000mph. The astronauts will stay there with other scientists for about three months, carrying out experiments. They will then return in a Crew Dragon capsule that will enter the Earth's atmosphere and parachute into the Atlantic Ocean.

ELVIS LIVES!



DEEP at the bottom of the Gulf of California, scientists have discovered four new species of scale worms that are glittery!

The four new worms belong to a group nicknamed 'Elvis worms', after famous American singer Elvis Presley, as their shiny scales look like the sequins on some of the singer's suits.

Marine biologist Greg Rouse spotted some of them "wiggling and then fighting and biting each other," adding that nothing like it had ever been seen before in similar worms.

"It's hard to believe that the deep sea is still largely unexplored and teeming with mysterious animals," said study leader Avery Hatch.

BEE BITES

WHEN pollen is scarce, bees can be tough on the plants that provide it.



New research shows that bees bite the leaves of plants to stimulate them into flowering. Scientists were observing the bees for other research, so it was a surprise for them to see this behaviour. They looked closer and found that the damaged plants flowered up to two weeks earlier, giving the bees what they needed.

KEEP IT UP!



WASHING your hands properly has become part of everyday life, but it could keep us healthier even when the pandemic is over.

A new study has shown that thorough and frequent hand-washing (six to ten times a day) considerably reduced the risk of infection from other types of coronavirus, such as flu. So keep washing!

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

INNOVATIONS

A SEEING, artificial eye is one of science's biggest challenges that could be one step closer to reality.

The complexity of the eye, and in particular the shape, has been the hardest thing to overcome. Now, scientists from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology have managed to create a curved retina with light sensors that mimic the function of a real eye. The incredibly complicated structure is made from metals, liquid, tiny wires, rubber and silicon, and is a big leap forward. However, reducing the cost and the size of some of the parts are needed to make it a realistic option for robots in the future.



Artificial eyes are hard to create

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

A LOT has changed since humans first travelled to the moon in an Apollo command module, but the new Crew Dragon spacecraft (right) looks surprisingly similar to those used more than 50 years ago.

The Crew Dragon designed by SpaceX took off on NASA's Demo-2 mission on 30 May.

Like the famous Apollo capsules, the new spacecraft has a cone-shaped design but is more elongated (stretched). It is also larger and can carry up to seven astronauts, while the Apollo 11 command module only had room for a cosy three. And unlike the Apollo 10 capsule that was brought to the Science Museum shortly after its mission, the Crew Dragon will be reused!

Find out more at blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/crew-dragon.



GO WILD IN JUNE

THIS month The Wildlife Trusts are encouraging people to engage with nature every day, as part of the 30 Days Wild challenge.

The aim is to do something 'wild' every day in June, even while social distancing. Almost half a million people are expected to join in this year.

Time in lockdown has seen more and more people learn to appreciate nature on their daily walks, and studies show that experiencing a little bit of nature every day makes you feel healthier and happier.

There are free activity packs available to download from The Wildlife Trusts, along with a huge list of suggestions of things you can do with your family this

month. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Go for a walk in the woods
- Make a bird feeder or bug hotel
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Sketch something from nature
- Plant some wildlife-friendly seeds
- Stay up until it is dark, so you can do some stargazing

There are lots of ways to go wild in June, and it isn't too late to join in. Visit wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild for more details.



WOW!

THIS week is World Oceans Day (8 June), a day to celebrate the natural wonder of our oceans and look at ways to help protect them. You can help by making sure you put all of your litter into a bin, so that your rubbish doesn't end up washing into the sea.

BEETLE WATCH



STAG beetle season is here, so the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is asking for your help to monitor this rare species.

Stag beetles are the largest beetle species found in the UK. They start life underground as larvae, but will soon be emerging as adult beetles, ready for the summer.

The PTES is asking for the public to help spot stag beetles, so they can build a clearer picture of where in the country the species can be found.

The best time to spot stag beetles is early evenings, particularly in wooded areas. They love rotting trees and are easily identified by their large antlers.

You can register your stag beetle sightings and find out how you can help this amazing species in your garden by visiting www.ptes.org/stagbeetles.

BACK TO WORK BLUES

AS the UK lockdown slowly starts to loosen, more and more people are returning to school and work, leaving lots of pets home alone again.

The RSPCA animal charity is urging pet owners to think about their animals and how they will feel when their routine changes again. Over the last few months, while schools have been closed and people have been working from home, your pets will have got used to having more time with you. The sudden change of an empty house all day may upset them.

Sarah Tapsell from the RSPCA says: "Changes in routine are something a dog can adapt to, but it is important to think ahead and begin to make gradual changes before you change your routine again. Remember that your dog is a social animal; it is normal for them to want and need to spend time with you."

While it is exciting that life is starting to return to normal, it's important to remember your pets and how it will affect them too.



WHAT IS KNITTING?

Knitting is the skill of using two needles to weave fabric thread together – normally wool – to make things like clothes and toys. It's also done by machines, but what we're talking about here is hand-knitting.

WHY KNIT?

Lots of reasons. Once you learn the basics, you can make a whole bunch of things: cool clothes, must-have accessories and fun toys are just a few ideas. It's also a great way to relax and spend time away from things like gaming and mobile phones to let your mind unwind.



It's also a great way to make presents and, with Father's Day coming up, why not make a male role model something special?

THE IDEAL LOCKDOWN ACTIVITY FOR YOU!



While we're all at home with a bit more time on our hands than normal, spending your time doing crafty stuff like sewing and knitting is a great way to learn a new skill and be creative.

You can also work remotely on projects with friends by picking, say, an animal to make and then both doing your own versions.



Knitting is a great hobby!



LET'S GET KNITTING!

ANYONE who thinks knitting is just for grannies, needs to think again. On 13 June, committed knitters all over the world will get their needles and wool out to celebrate World Wide Knit In Public Day – a celebration of wool artists everywhere... including some grannies!

CELEBS THAT KNIT!



KATE MIDDLETON

DEMI LOVATO

LORDE

GEORGE LUCAS



RYAN GOSLING



KRISTEN STEWART

HOW TO GET STARTED

Anyone can learn the basics of knitting and, after that, the only limit is your imagination. You'll need two knitting needles and some wool, plus some simple guidance.

EXPERT ADVICE



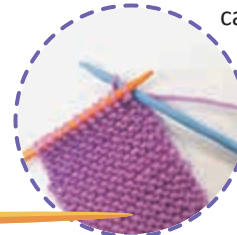
Michele Hall is the owner of Vanarags Studio, which runs sewing and knitting clubs for schools in southwest London. "We have knitters and sewists of all ages attend our clubs, so it's never too late or early to start," she says. "We help children



learn the basics, like how to make a slip knot and how to cast on and cast off. These can be the trickiest things to master, but once you learn these, you can knit pretty much anything!



"The most important thing to do is start off with a straightforward project to get your confidence up and then you can try out different and more advanced ideas with your newfound skills.



"Our kids love making cute animals and, since schools shut their doors a couple of months ago,

we've been creating cool make-at-home sewing and knitting kits to help them keep up their crafty ways while on lockdown.



"Our kits contain everything that you'd need, and we've been donating £1 from every kit that we sell to the NHS since lockdown started."



See the kits on Insta @vanaragsstudio. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media

WIN! FUN SCRATCH PROGRAMMING BOOKS



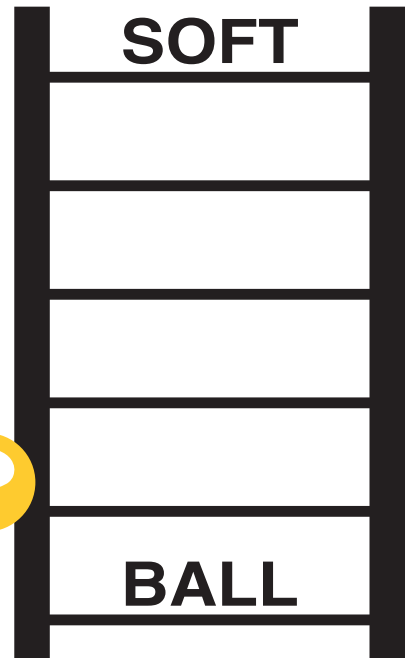
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win a copy of *Scratch Programming In Easy Steps*. This great introduction shows you how to make games, art and music on your computer using Scratch. The full-colour book has a friendly, step-by-step approach and uses free software.

Get a free sample and find stockists at www.sean.co.uk/books.

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



WIN! THINK! WORDS GAME



CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win *Think! Words*. It's the fast-paced category word game that challenges players to think quickly! Simply choose a category card and press the timer to start. The first player has ten seconds to say a word matching the category, then reset the timer for the next player to say a word starting with the remaining letters! The pressure mounts as the letters get used up – you'd better think fast or you're out!

Suitable for ages 8+.

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

ACROSS

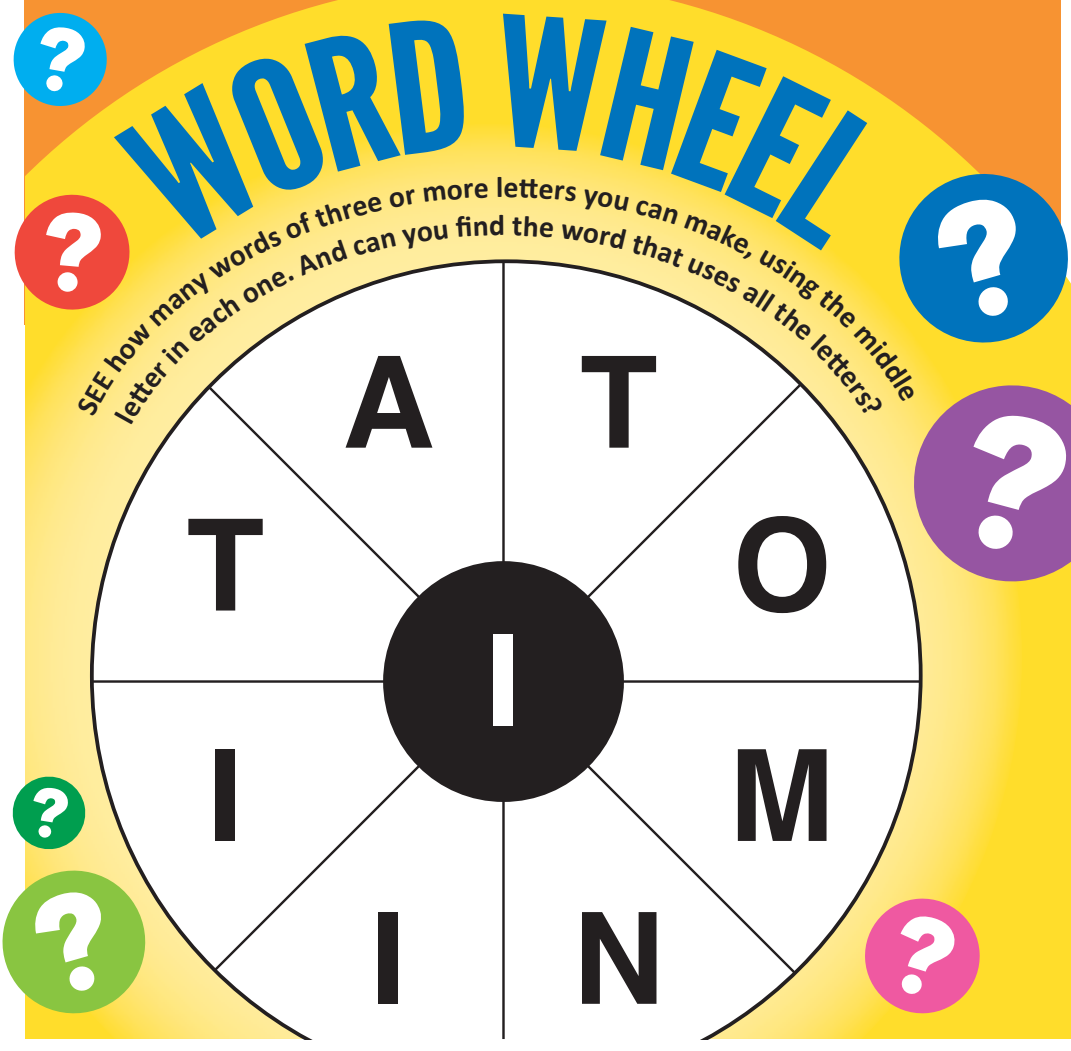
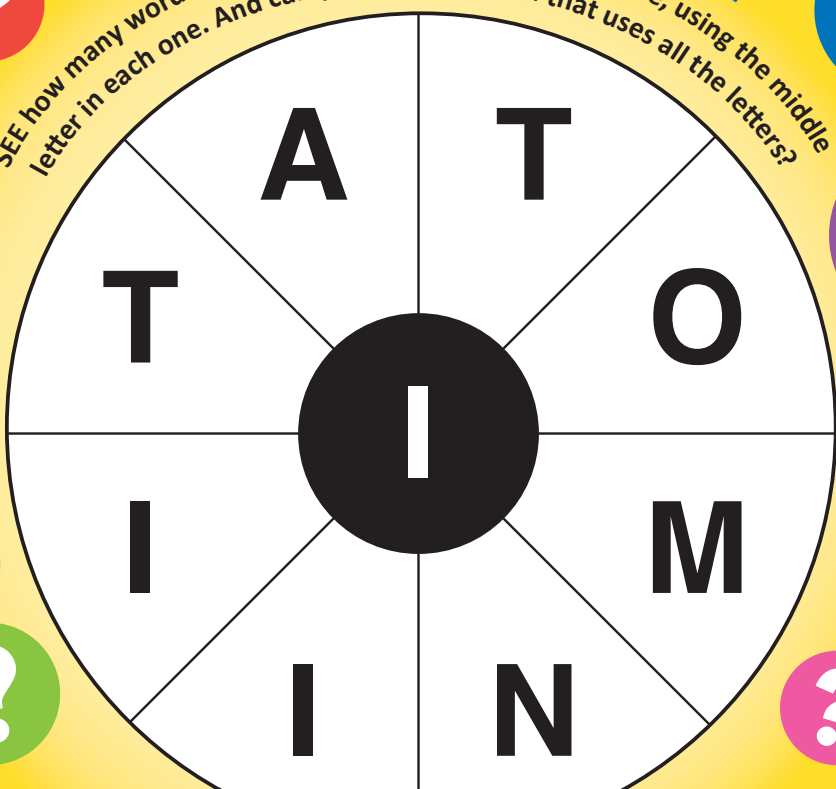
- 1 Annoy (8)
- 6 Move quickly to avoid something (5)
- 7 Important; serious (5)
- 9 Main stalk of a plant (4)
- 10 Coloured wax drawing stick (6)
- 12 Scratches (6)
- 14 Run away (4)
- 17 Large waterbirds that are usually white (5)
- 18 A deep chasm (5)
- 19 Having several parts (8)

DOWN

- 2 Long narrow hilltop (5)
- 3 Time (anag) (4)
- 4 Respect and look up to (6)
- 5 Derive pleasure from (5)
- 6 Send away (7)
- 8 Joggers (7)
- 11 Ship or boat (6)
- 13 State something is the case (5)
- 15 Faithful (5)
- 16 Indian dress (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?



YOU'VE JUST PUBLISHED *MR DOG AND THE FARAWAY FOX*, SO CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE SERIES SO FAR?

The series is about a mongrel called Mr Dog, who is very clever and most sensible. The books follow his encounters and adventures with various species of British wildlife, from foxes to hedgehogs. I've always loved dogs and always had dogs, so I wanted to write a series of children's books with a dog as the lead!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF MR DOG?

I like the fact that he is very kind and a little aloof [detached]. He is nomadic [a wanderer]. He doesn't have a home but everyone is his friend. I suppose he is a little like me, only cleverer. He is curious and likes everyone.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHICH KEY ANIMALS TO USE IN EACH BOOK?

They are often based on my own experiences with animals over the years. I bring influence from the stories I have heard and the animals I have worked with.

YOU'VE TRAVELLED A LOT AND ENCOUNTERED LOTS OF CREATURES, BUT WHICH ONES HAVE INSPIRED YOU THE MOST?

I am inspired by life, the people and animals I meet and the places I go. I have had some extraordinary encounters with wildlife during expeditions, like the whale that followed us when I rowed across the Atlantic Ocean.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANOTHER MEMORABLE ANIMAL ENCOUNTER?

I have walked across the Empty Quarter of Oman with camels and followed the migration of the wildebeest from Tanzania to Kenya over the course of a year, but scuba diving with wild Nile crocodiles in Botswana was one of the most scary and incredible experiences of my life. My research for the books is largely from life experiences. I am like a little book of information and stories that I have collected all around the world over the years.



“READING WILL TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE!”

TV presenter, adventurer and author Ben Fogle is an ambassador for this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which asks children to read for fun over the summer. We caught up with Ben to talk about reading, adventures with wildlife and his Mr Dog book series.

WHERE DO YOU WRITE YOUR BOOKS?

I write my books in tents, hammocks, buses, planes and on the kitchen table. I write whenever I have a moment of inspiration. I always have ideas when I run, so I often write when I get back from a jog.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE YOU WANTED TO WRITE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN?

I have written a dozen books in non-fiction for adults and I wanted to write for children. As a father to two children, Ludo and Iona, I wanted to write for them. We love reading as a family and I often share my stories with them.

DO YOU TEST OUT YOUR STORIES ON YOUR CHILDREN?

Of course! They were my most feared critics. I was very nervous to hear their feedback. The thing about children is that they are brutally honest. Grown-ups often dress things up, but children never lie. If it's bad, they will tell you so. Luckily, they loved Mr Dog. They helped me name the characters and we brainstorm ideas together.

YOU'RE AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE THIS YEAR. WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH IT?

It's a brilliant initiative and couldn't be more timely, given the number of children who have been affected by the lockdown and are about to go into the summer holidays. Reading is pure escapism and the beauty of it is that it can be done almost anywhere. The more we can encourage children to love reading for fun, the better. And the 'Silly Squad' theme is just what is needed during these times of uncertainty.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO KIDS WHO FIND READING HARD?

I found reading difficult. Don't try to be perfect. Persevere, because reading will transform your life. It brings so much light and colour to your mind. It's like fuel for the head.

HAVE YOU REDISCOVERED ANY CHILDHOOD FAVOURITES WHILE READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN?

I loved all the Dr Seuss books. They are so lyrical and quirky. I still love them, so we have read all of the Dr Seuss books and, of course, Roald Dahl. They have introduced me to David Walliams too, who is brilliant!

Mr Dog and the Faraway Fox

is out now. Why not add it to your reading list for the Summer Reading Challenge? It starts on 5 June and this year the theme is about getting silly. Find out all the details and sign up at sillysquad.org.uk.



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS





OUR THANK YOU

by pupils from Douglas Primary School, Scotland

WE take part in an inter-generational programme with our local hospital, Lady Home Hospital. As we couldn't be there in person, working with the nurses and patients, we thought we would send them a message.

Lady Home Hospital is a cottage hospital in our village. Our school has built a strong relationship with the hospital over the last few years and many of our classes visit the hospital regularly to cheer up the patients there.

We do things like carol singing at Christmas, reciting Scottish poetry for St Andrew's Day, plus planting and harvesting vegetables in their garden with some of the staff and patients there.

This term, our class would have visited the hospital and carried on with these types of activities, but are now unable to because of the pandemic.

So, instead of visiting, we have been doing other things to keep the connection and to show our appreciation of the hospital and especially the staff there. Mrs Charnley organised a collage of our rainbows to send to the hospital to show the NHS staff there that we really appreciate them at this difficult time, and to cheer the patients up when they will be getting fewer visitors. Our collage has been hung on the wall in the hospital for all to see.



SCHOOL NEWS

The rainbow collage

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



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

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

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

CHARITY HAIRCUT

by Ollie, Highfield and Brookham Schools

MY dad and I shaved our heads for charity. We volunteered to take part in a fundraiser to show our support and respect for NHS staff and their tireless work throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

The shave took place live over a video conference. My younger brother Sammy and I helped do the honours and shaved dad's head. After we'd completed the shave, I decided that I wanted to show my support and asked dad to shave my head as well.

So far, me, dad and his work colleagues have raised more than £13,000 for NHS Charities Together.

NHS Charities Together provide extra vital funds and services to NHS hospitals, ambulances, mental and community health trusts and health boards. This funding is above and beyond what the Government provides and is spent on enhancing care for patients.



Sammy, Matthew and Ollie

SCHOOL NEWS

RAINBOW ART

by Mimi Nash

I WANTED to create a rainbow for the NHS using everyday objects.

When I started it, I had different expectations for what it would look like, but I'm still happy with how it looks, especially as it took forever to make because I kept changing it!

My school asked us to make mini rainbows, and that gave me the idea to make the sculpture out of different-coloured household objects like pens, rulers, paper, candles, rubber gloves, a magnifying glass, spoons and a dog's lead.

I'm also saying thank you to my family and to two of my friends for being really supportive to me, and a special thanks to the NHS!



JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Mimi's artwork

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