

RONALDO SAYS CHOOSE WATER

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

FOOTBALLERS have been taking a stand against unhealthy drinks being promoted during the Euro 2020 championship.

One of the tournament's best known players, Cristiano Ronaldo, captain of Portugal, removed two bottles of Coca-Cola during a press conference. Renowned for looking after his health, he held up

a bottle of water, saying "agua" (Portuguese for water). The next day, France star Paul Pogba moved a

non-alcoholic bottle of beer away from his press conference table. He's a Muslim and, for religious reasons, doesn't drink alcohol. Italy's midfielder Manuel Locatelli was next, also replacing the Coca-Cola bottle on his table with water.

While the players' actions were praised by those concerned about healthy diets, UEFA, who run the tournament, were upset. They warned teams that they could face fines if their players moved drinks provided by sponsors at news conferences.

continued on p3

What do you think?

Should unhealthy food and drinks be allowed to sponsor sport? Vote at first.news/polls

Cala

2. QUICK NEWS

AI SHIP SETS SAIL



A 'robot' ship with no human crew has begun its ocean journey from the UK to the US. The Mayflower Autonomous Ship (MAS) is solar-powered and controlled by artificial intelligence (AI). It is expected to take about three weeks to travel the 3.500 miles (5.630km) from Plymouth, UK, to Massachusetts, USA. The voyage follows the historic journey to the 'new world' by the Mayflower in 1620 - but the MAS also has a modern mission. It will collect data on marine life during its journey as well as taking samples to detect plastic waste in the ocean.

COVID SCHOOL RISE

The number of pupils absent from school for COVID-related reasons in England has nearly trebled in a week. Figures from the Department for Education show that 3.3% of state school pupils – around 239,000 children – were not in class on 17 June. That compares with 1.2% on 10 June. On 17 May, the Government ended the rule requiring children to wear face coverings in secondary schools. Overall coronavirus case numbers are rising rapidly across the UK.

DORMICE REWILDED



The adorable dormouse is making a UK comeback. The 1,000th hazel dormouse has just been released into the wild as part of a rewilding project. The project aims to get more dormice back into their natural habitats after a decline saw the mammals disappear from 17 English counties.

OUCK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

TOP DAD JOKE

To celebrate Father's Day last week, and ahead of International Joke Day on 1 July, the UK's top dad joke has been announced! Thousands of so-bad-it's-good jokes were sent in for the Aldi Mamia Best Dad Joke competition. Austin May from Warwickshire won for this joke: "I once hired a limo but when it arrived, the guy driving it walked off! I said: 'Excuse me? Are you not going to drive me?' The guy said that the price didn't include a driver. So I'd spent £400 on a limo and had nothing to chauffeur it!"

Here are some other cheesy favourites that almost took the top spot:

- Why did the man fall down the well? Because he didn't see that well!
- What did the daddy buffalo say to his son when he left for work? "Bison!"
- Two guys walked into a bar. The third guy ducked.

COVID WAVE IN AFRICA

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that Africa is "in the midst of a full-blown third wave" of COVID-19. Less than 1% of people living in the continent have been fully vaccinated, according to WHO Africa chief Dr Matshidiso Moeti. Tunisia, Zambia, Uganda, Namibia and South Africa are currently the worst affected countries, making up 76% of new African cases in recent weeks.





The Conservative Party have lost the seat of Chesham and Amersham for the first time ever, following a by-election. **Chesham and Amersham is one** of the UK's 650 constituencies. The people in a constituency are represented by their MP in parliament. Liberal Democrat Sarah Green won the seat, which had been held by Conservatives since it was created in 1974. She received 21,517 votes, 8,000 more than the Conservative candidate who came second. Ms Green said she was humbled by the faith that voters had shown in her and promised to hold the Government to account.

ONE IN FIVE GET FREE SCHOOL MEALS

More than 1.7 million children, or 21% of all pupils in England, receive free school meals, official figures just released show. That's up from 1.4m last year. However, the Department for Education has changed the way free meals are paid for. Jenna Julius, a senior economist, has said it "will leave many schools with less funding to support their low-income pupils".

ANCIENT RHINO

Researchers have discovered evidence of an ancient giant rhino that would have been one of the largest mammals to have walked on land. The Paraceratherium linxiaense was taller than a giraffe and weighed as much as four elephants! It lacked the horns of modern-day rhinos and its head looked closer to a tapir. The findings are based on studies of fossils found in China and were published in the Communications Biology journal.



GLASS BOTTLE TRIAL

Supermarket chain Morrisons is trialling glass milk bottles as part of a drive to reduce plastic. The trial includes seven stores in Kent and four around Sheffield. Local dairy farms will deliver milk to the supermarkets and once the bottles are bought and returned by shoppers, they will be collected and sanitised to be used again. Natasha Cook, Morrisons Packaging Manager, said: "We want to help our customers live their lives with less plastic. Reusing glass milk bottles is an easy leap for many people to make because they remember that this was how milk used to arrive."



BICYCLE BOOM

More than three million bicycles were bought in the UK in 2020, a 22% increase compared to the previous year. Spurred on by lockdowns, the value of the UK bike market rose 44% to almost £1.2bn. Research from Mintel shows that the bike boom is far from over, with 42% of surveyed cyclists saying they plan to buy a bike in the next year. John Worthington, Senior Analyst at Mintel, said: "Cycling has been one of the clear winners during the upheaval of the past year."

NAKED SKYDIVES?!

A man from Nebraska, USA, has set a new world record by skydiving naked – except for a safety harness and a parachute, thankfully! Rian Kanouff's chilly challenge involved 60 nude skydives in one day, all raising money for a mental health charity.

3. BIG NEWS

Continued from front page

Some of the world's biggest companies - like Coca-Cola, Adidas and JustEat - have spent millions of pounds to be associated with Euro 2020. This includes having their products displayed on advertising in stadiums, and drinks on press conference tables. McDonald's has been a sponsor of the Euros before, as well as World Cups, the Olympics and Paralympics.

It's a difficult puzzle to solve because, while athletes like Cristiano Ronaldo don't want to promote food and drinks that aren't part of a healthy diet, the money that sponsors pay is important. Not only does their cash help pay for sporting events to take place, but some of it is also used to fund local sport facilities and activities, which you might take part in.

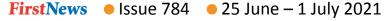
England manager Gareth Southgate says it's a balance: "I think there are lots of sponsors in sport and the impact of their money, at all levels, helps sport to function. Grassroots sport in our country requires investment and without some of those companies it would be very difficult to have the facilities we need.

"We're mindful in our country of obesity and health but everything can be done in moderation, and anything that is done in moderation is rarely a problem."

The advertising and promotion of unhealthy food and drinks, high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS), is banned in the UK during children's TV programming and, you might have noticed, First News does not allow advertising of this kind. The UK Government is also bringing in a total ban on online adverts for HFSS products by the end of 2022, as well as extending the ban on TV ads for any HFSS foods before 9pm.

But should it be allowed during major sporting events when both adults and children are watching?







THE United Nations (UN) has warned that drought could become "the next pandemic" if urgent action is not taken.

The comments come from Mami Mizutori, the UN's special representative for disaster risk reduction. Speaking before the release of a special report on the dangers of drought, she said: "Drought is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic and there is no vaccine to cure it."

The report says that at least 1.5 billion people suffered from the effects of a lack of rain between 1998 and 2017, while the cost to the global economy has been estimated at \$124bn (£89bn).

The UN also says that water shortages are a global problem. They expect to see droughts occur more frequently in Africa, central Asia, southern Australia, southern Europe and the Americas.

Just last week, California in the USA declared a state of emergency because of drought. People were warned to keep out of the sun and stay in air-conditioned areas. Temperatures in California have hit 43°C, but some areas like Death Valley in neighbouring Nevada passed 50°C.



A STUDY has found that jays and thrushes are responsible for planting more than half the trees in two English woodlands.

A jay

The research looked at two fields in a Cambridgeshire nature reserve. One grew into a young wood over 24 years with 132 live trees per hectare. The other grew into a mature woodland, with 390 trees per hectare. Oak trees made up more than 50% of both woods.

The woods were able to grow thanks to thrushes spreading seeds of spiky shrubs like brambles. These then protected newborn oaks, which had grown from acorns buried in the ground by jays.

Dr Richard Broughton, lead author of the study, said: "The jays and the

thrushes basically engineered these new woodlands." The process is called 'passive rewilding' because the growth happens naturally without human intervention.



Ms Mizutori said: "People have been living with drought for 5,000 years, but what we are seeing now is very different. Human activities are exacerbating [making worse] drought and increasing the impact."

UK DELAYS CUTTING AIR POLLUTION LIMIT

PRESSURE is mounting on the prime minister, Boris Johnson, to reduce the UK's legal air pollution limit in line with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.

Members of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change want the Government's environment bill to commit to reducing legal limits of PM2.5 - the name given to tiny particles of pollution. The WHO recommend that PM2.5 levels should not be higher than 10 micrograms per cubic metre, but the current UK limit is two-and-a-half times higher.

Pressure to lower the limit has increased following the death of nine-year-old Ella Kissi-Debrah. Ella, who had asthma, became the first person in the UK to have air pollution listed as a cause of death earlier this year.

The Government said it would ask the public what they thought, but not until January, and would aim to set new air pollution targets in October 2022.

Meanwhile, research from Global Action Plan found that more than a quarter of UK schools are in areas where air pollution is over the recommended WHO limit. Dr Maria Neira, from WHO, said: "Schools should be safe places of learning, not places where students are at risk of health hazards."



4. NEWS IN PICTURES



HUMAN rights activists build a monument on World Refugee Day (20 June) to commemorate 44,000 migrants and refugees who have died on the European borders. The UN Refugee Agency's latest Global Trends report shows that the number of people fleeing wars, violence, persecution and human rights violations in 2020 rose to nearly 82.4 million. • • • • • • • • • • •

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FOREST for Change – The Global Goals Pavilion brings together exhibitions from all over the globe to the courtyard of Somerset House and asks the question, 'Can we design a better world?'. Forest for Change includes 400 trees from 27 different species, along with 17 mirrored pillars, representing the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The trees will be donated to London boroughs as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a tree-planting initiative that encourages everyone to Plant a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee.



RED Regatta participants sail in the lagoon. The regatta includes more than 50 Venetian traditional boats with sails in 52 shades of red. The event intends to celebrate the ancient Venetian maritime tradition and to raise awareness about the delicate balance between the city and the sea.



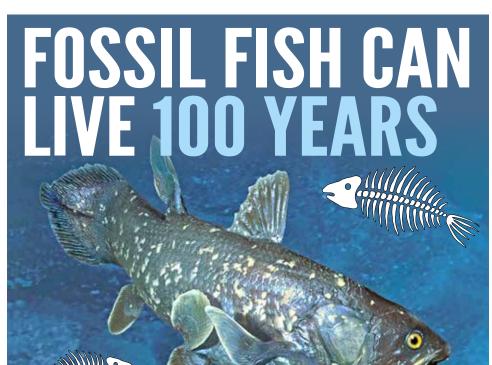
SENIOR druid King Arthur Pendragon performs a ceremony outside a fence after a large number of people enter the closed site at Stonehenge. English Heritage, which manages the site, said: "With this week's news that the Government is delaying the lifting of the remaining COVID-19 restrictions, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel the planned summer solstice celebrations."



ELEVEN iconic Looney Tunes characters have been unleashed on the streets of Manchester in a vibrant, outdoor art trail by street artist Captain Kris. They will be on display until the end of July. QR codes are hidden within each piece of character art, revealing a virtual map and the opportunity to discover what else is new from the Looney Tunes, including the Space Jam: A New Legacy trailer.



5. BIG NEWS



SCIENTISTS say that the cave-dwelling coelacanth, known as the 'fossil fish', can live for up to 100 years.

The creature was previously thought to have a life span of just 20 years.

French researchers who studied the marks on the scales of a coelacanth in a museum found that those marks could be used to tell the age of the fish, just like the rings of a tree.

Coelacanths, which were once thought to be extinct, haven't changed much in the 300 million years that they've been on Earth. The fish grow slowly but can reach 1.8m (6ft) long and weigh 90kg (200 pounds). It's thought they're likely to be more sensitive to changes in our ocean, so may be more vulnerable to climate change.

Scientists hope to understand how the creatures might be affected by global warming, by studying whether temperature affects how large the creatures grow.

BIDEN MEETS PUTIN

JOE Biden has met Russian leader Vladimir Putin for the first time since becoming US president.

Both the US and Russia had said that relations between the two countries were at an all-time low before the big meeting.

President Biden had accused Mr Putin and Russia of meddling in the 2020 US election and blamed them for recent cyber attacks. President Putin denied both accusations.

After three hours talking privately, both leaders held separate press conferences, and described the talks as "positive" and "constructive". President Biden said that he told President Putin that the two countries "need to have some basic rules of the road that we can all abide by". Mr Putin said that it seemed that he and Biden "spoke the same language".

The two agreed to continue talks, and put out a joint statement pledging that a "nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought".



EDITOR'S COMMENT

THE results are in – and it's a tie between tomatoes and sweetcorn! We asked you what your favourite vegetables are, and those two finished on top (see page 7). We ran the poll after reporting on the Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign, which aims to encourage children to eat veg and stay healthy. Around 80% of kids are not eating enough vegetables. But as well as being packed full of vitamins and minerals, they're really tasty, too. Keep on munching!

GOOD WEEK

JASON REYNOLDS

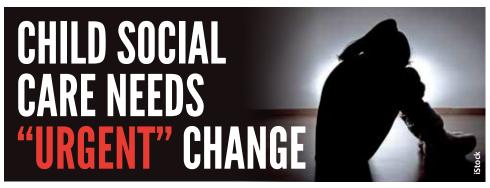
THE American author has received the UK's top children's book prize, the Carnegie medal, for his book *Look* Both Ways, a collection of stories about children on their way home from school. Reynolds said that it was "amazing" to win.



BAD WEEK

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS

FOUR social media influencers have been named and shamed by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), for failing to mention when their Instagram posts were actually advertisements. The ASA has posted the names and accounts of the "noncompliant social media" influencers on their website, where they'll stay for three months.



CHILD protection services in England need more money and to change the way they look after children, says an independent report.

"Too often children are moved far from where they have grown up, are separated from their brothers or sisters, are forced to move schools, and have a revolving door of social workers," says the report. "We are failing to build lifelong loving relationships around these children."

The Case For Change review, which heard from more than 1,000 young people and care staff, described the current system as a "30-year-old tower of Jenga held together with Sellotape: simultaneously rigid and yet shaky," and said that social services spent more time investigating the families which were struggling to care for children, rather than giving them support to help them through their difficulties.

Josh MacAlister, who chaired the independent review, said: "If we carry on like this, children's social care will both become more expensive and continue to be inadequate in the support it gives to children and families, so we need to change."

The Government, which set up the review, said it was boosting funding.

6. BIG NEWS FirstNews • UFOS A "CONCERN" FirstNews • UFOS A "CONCERN" FOR ANERICA

A NEW report has suggested that UFOs pose a big threat to national security in America.

The report has been put together by a group of American politicians and looks at unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs), which used to be referred to as UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects). There have been several mysterious sightings of UAPs across the USA, including leaked military footage showing a strange oval flying object near a navy ship near San Diego.

Some members of the American Congress have expressed concern at the report's findings. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democratic congressman from New York, told the New York Post newspaper: "We take the issue of unexplained aerial phenomena seriously... we're dealing with the safety and security of US military personnel or the national security interests of the United States."

The UAPs are believed to have caused problems with nuclear technology and have been spotted flying very close to military bases.

Suggestions the objects could be advanced military aircraft from other countries, such as Russia, or even visitors from another planet or galaxy, have been dismissed by some experts. So, just what could they be?



Many people are furious at how the pandemic is being handled by President Jair Bolsonaro, who does not believe in social distancing, vaccines or mask rules. He has repeatedly dismissed COVID-19 as a "little flu".

Thousands of people are still losing their lives with the virus every day in Brazil, where the number of deaths has now passed half a million – the second highest death toll in the world after the United States.

Protesters say the president is not doing enough to combat the spread of COVID-19, not encouraging people to follow restrictions (even being fined himself for not wearing a mask) and has delayed buying vaccines for Brazil. Only a very small proportion of the population has been fully vaccinated.

Mr Bolsonaro and former ministers are now being investigated by the Brazilian parliament for their COVID response.

The president faces a new election next year, but many are keen to see him leave before then.







SCIENTISTS are turning used plastic bottles into vanilla flavouring!

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh have discovered a way to turn terephthalic acid (TA) from plastic drinking bottles into a chemical called vanillin. This chemical is used a lot in food and cosmetics, such as body lotion.

The transformation occurred using engineered E coli bacteria. Scientists warmed a liquid containing the bacteria to 37°C for a day, and found it converted 79% of the TA into vanillin. The discovery could encourage more people to recycle, as well as tackle the growing problem of global plastic pollution. The research was published in the journal Green Chemistry.

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DIARY DATES

TOUR DE FRANCE STARTS 26 June

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The famous cycling race kicks off in Brest this year, and will finish up in Paris on 18 July. It consists of 21 stages, taking cyclists on a long and intense journey across France.



NATIONAL DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK 27 JUNE – 3 JULY

Around 400,000 people are affected by sight and hearing loss in the UK. That's enough to fill Wembley Stadium nearly five times! This week aims to raise awareness of deafblindness. Visit: deafblind.org.uk.

FIRST DAY OF WIMBLEDON 28 JUNE

Time to get out the strawberries and cream, as the iconic tennis tournament is back! Catch the likes of Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams in action.

7. BIG NEWS LAST DINO FOOTPRINTS FOUND



FOOTPRINTS of the last dinosaurs to roam the UK have been discovered in Kent.

The footprints are from at least six different dinosaur species including the spiky Ankylosaurus, meateating theropods and plant-loving ornithopods. The footprints were found near the White Cliffs of Dover and are thought to have been left around 110 million years ago.

David Martill, professor of palaeobiology at the University of Portsmouth, said: "[The dinosaurs] were walking around close to where the White Cliffs of Dover are now. Next time you're on a ferry and you see those magnificent cliffs, just imagine that!"

NO JABS FOR KIDS?

UK CHILDREN aged 12-17 are not expected to be offered a COVID-19 vaccine, according to reports.

Vaccine experts who advise the government are due to make their final recommendation shortly, after looking at data from other countries which have vaccinated children, such as the USA. The current focus is on getting all over-18s a first dose by

19 July, but some children aged 12-17 may still be offered a vaccine for health or personal reasons.

The risk of younger people becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 is very small and there is a debate over whether more vulnerable people around the world should be vaccinated before kids. Some people argue that vaccinating children would help to reduce infections in society and enable schools to stay open. What do you think?

SMILE TO GO TO WORK

EMPLOYEES at an office in Beijing, China have to smile to be allowed into their office!

An artificial intelligence (AI) camera outside Canon Information Technology's office requires workers to smile in order for the front doors to open.

Employees are also required to show their happy face if they want to book meeting rooms or print out documents.

The "smiling face recognition" technology has replaced key cards.

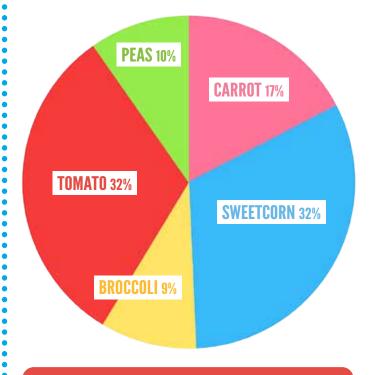
A spokesperson for Canon China said: "Mostly, people are just too shy to smile, but once they get used to smiles in the office, they just keep their smiles without the system which created a positive and lively atmosphere."

However, some have criticised the new technology. One person on Chinese social media wrote: "So now the companies are not only manipulating our time, but also our emotions."

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TO mark the new Eat Them To Defeat Them healthy eating campaign, we wanted to find out what First News readers' favourite veg are! Here are the poll results, along with some of your comments!



TEAM BROCCOLI! I love broccoli a lot, it's juicy, it comes in two parts: the stem and the bits at the top. It's great!

superpug27

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Peas! Yum! No-one seems to like them but I love them. Come on guys, EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM!

sadiepinkie

I love sweetcorn with butter and salt but other veggies are good too, like peppers.

kittymoi

I like tomatoes because they have a nice juice in them that tastes very nice.

8. HOME NEWS



NORTHERN IRELAND



DUP in crisis

As First News went to press, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) was looking for a new leader after Edwin Poots (above) resigned only 21 days after taking office. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson was the only nominee to succeed him. Mr Poots' fellow MPs disagreed with his decision to nominate Paul Givan as the new First Minister of Northern Ireland, and were unhappy with a deal he made with the Sinn Féin party about protecting the Irish language. Mr Poots has now decided to quit the job and says a new election will take place.

ISLES OF SCILLY

Two special animal sightings

Locals have been delighted by two special sightings this week. First, it's thought a very rare Egyptian vulture was spotted on the islands. If confirmed, it would be the first time the bird has been seen in the UK for 150 years! Experts believe it may have travelled across from northern France. Later in the week, Wally the Walrus popped up off Porthcressa Beach. The famous walrus has also visited Wales and Cornwall on his recent travels.

CUMBRIA

Runner breaks peak record

A runner has broken a new record by completing all 214 of the Lake District's Wainwright peaks in less than six days. Sabrina Verjee (pictured on the right) managed to complete the impressive challenge in five days, 23 hours and 49 minutes. The course is 325 miles long and features England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike. Sabrina said she only stopped for food, running repairs and rest. She hopes that by achieving the feat she will have inspired others, especially girls and women.

SCOTLAND

Scottish public libraries host #StreamMyStory

Local public libraries across Scotland have launched a new series of children's



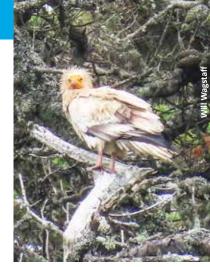
digital events called #StreamMyStory. The events aim to bring together authors, illustrators, storytellers and libraries to encourage young people to get reading and writing this summer. The UK's Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell, introduces the new campaign, which has its own dedicated YouTube channel. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media and ask an adult to help you visit via #StreamMyStory.

PORTSMOUTH

Fancy travelling on a flying ferry?

Flying ferries could soon be taking people from Portsmouth to France. Brittany Ferries is looking at introducing electric seagliders, which are part ship and part plane. They'll start off on the water, then ride slightly above it for the duration of the journey. The vehicles are being developed in America and should be able to travel at speeds of up to 180mph, making them six times faster than normal ferries. It's hoped they could be in full operation by 2028 and complete the journey across the English Channel in just 40 minutes!





LONDON

Orchid found on London rooftop

An orchid believed to be extinct in the UK has been discovered in a rooftop garden. Mark Patterson, who manages the garden, found the small-flowered tongue orchid in the 11th-floor garden of the Nomura bank. It was last seen in Cornwall in 2009. It's not known exactly how the orchid ended up in the garden, but Mr Patterson says seeds could have been carried by the wind from abroad.



First News has teamed up with SKY KIPS show FYI and the about the news, which you can watch on First News Education TV.

PRIDE MONTH

JUNE is Pride Month, celebrating LGBT communities all over the world. In part 2 of our Pride Month report, we find out what LGBT means and why Pride matters. Watch this episode at first.news/EducationTV.

WHAT DOES LGBT MEAN?

9. FYI

LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Sometimes other letters are added on to represent different groups. Lesbians are women who are attracted to other women, while gay men are attracted to other men, and bisexuals are attracted to both sexes. Transgender people feel like they were born into the wrong body. For example, they may have been born with male body parts, but inside they feel certain they are female.

The thing to remember is that there are lots of different kinds of families. Some of your mates may have two mums or two dads – it really doesn't matter.

(ISH)



PICTUR

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Watch our IDGI news explainer to find out what it means to be LGBT, and learn about the history of the Pride movement, which campaigns for people to have equal rights, whatever their background. first.news/IDGILGBT



audiences to make programmes and videos

WHY IS PRIDE IMPORTANT?

Here in the UK, it's only in recent years that same-sex couples have been given the same rights as male-and-female couples. In some countries, it's still illegal to be in a same-sex relationship, and being gay can be punished with a long prison sentence, or even death.

That's why flying the rainbow flag, the symbol of the LGBT movement, is important for so many people. It's a reminder that it's fine to be whoever we want to be. For more on the LGBT movement, watch the latest episode of FYI at

first.news/EducationTV.

BE,



Join in the discussion and set up an FYI News Club in your school! Ask your teacher to go to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more about the FYI News Clubs.

THOUSANDS waved rainbow flags at an "equality parade" last week in Warsaw, Poland.

a long torott

Campaigners say prejudice towards gay people and anti-LGBT attitudes are on the rise in the country.

Politicians and religious leaders have been accused of making things worse for LGBT people in recent years.

10. WORLD NEWS



No-confidence vote

Sweden's parliament has backed a noconfidence vote in its prime minister for the first time in the country's history. The vote was called by the nationalist conservative party, the Swedish Democrats, who called the government "weak". PM Stefan Löfven now has a week to resign, or to call snap elections. An election is already scheduled for next year, which would still have to take place.



A new holiday

US president Joe Biden has made the day that slavery was abolished in the US a national holiday. Known as Freedom Day, Liberation Day or Juneteenth, the holiday celebrates the day on 19 June 1865 when the final US state, Texas, officially announced the freedom of enslaved people. It's the first new holiday since Martin Luther King Day was designated in 1983.



CHINA

Space station trip

Three astronauts took off from the Gobi Desert last week, aboard the Shenzhou-12 "Divine Vessel" spacecraft, on China's first manned space mission in almost five years. They're travelling to the Tiangong space station, also known as the "Heavenly Palace", which is currently under construction in Earth's orbit. They'll stay on the space station for three months, testing the life support systems, performing maintenance and trying out their new spacewalk suits. Huang Weifen, one of the chief designers on the mission, said there's a good chance that the astronauts will face problems on the station, so will need to be skilled in "emergency decisionmaking". Due to political tensions between the US and China, Chinese astronauts haven't been allowed on the International Space Station, so have been building their own space station instead.





Newspaper shutdown

Apple Daily, a pro-democracy newspaper, may be forced to shut after Chinese authorities arrested the newspaper's editor and directors, and stopped the company from being able to access \$50 million in funds. Last June, a national security law was introduced in Hong Kong by China. Critics have said that the law is being used to stop political debate and silence politicians and activists who disagree with China. China said that the law was necessary to restore "stability" to Hong Kong after widespread protests in 2019.

SOUTH AFRICA

Crystal mistake

Last week, thousands rushed to South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, after a diamond-like crystal was discovered. Tests have now been conducted, and officials have said the stones are quartz crystals, the second-most common mineral on Earth. The 'diamond rush' damaged the land, covering a massive area in holes up to one metre deep and posing a danger to cattle. An official said that the rush was an example of South Africa's problem with inequality, and high rate of unemployment.



PERU

Reweaving a 500-year-old bridge

A 500-year-old rope bridge in Peru's Cusco region has been weaved back into place using entirely traditional techniques. The Q'eswachaka hanging bridge has been used for hundreds of years to connect communities divided by the Apurimac River. During the pandemic, the rope bridge wasn't maintained and began to fall apart. Balancing on large ropes stretched over the river, workers have weaved the bridge back into place. "[The bridge] is like an answer to the pandemic itself," Cusco Governor Jean Paul Benavene said. "This bridge is strung up and we can tell the world that we are coming out of this little by little."



11. SCIENCE NEWS by Jane Tarrant



PUTTING the two fastest things on Earth – racing cars and aircraft – together sounds like a great idea, and a team in Australia have made it happen!

Have you ever longed to get out of a holiday traffic jam by getting in a plane and soaring over the long lines of cars ahead? If so, that may not be a fantasy for much longer. Gridlocked roads, air pollution, a lack of parking and endless roadworks have made travelling by car less and less attractive. It may be several years before they are widely available, but eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) craft are already here.



The team completing their checks for the tests in the desert

Alauda Aeronautics, the company who are building the electric flying cars, have recently completed the first historic flights at a secret test location in the deserts of southern Australia. So far, the vehicles have all been remotely controlled.

In order to take testing to the next level, Alauda are planning a series of virtual Grand Prix races using real drivers in simulators. Pilots will remotely control the vehicles across augmented reality sky tracks. Avatars with the size and shape of real human beings will sit in the cockpits.

It is hoped that drivers and pilots from a variety of backgrounds, including motor racing and eSports, will race the vehicles. It's possible that we may even see F1 aces like Lewis Hamilton or Max Verstappen testing out these vehicles in races in the future!

While the races are designed to attract fans of motorsport they will also be a unique chance to test out every aspect of the vehicles. The combination of an exciting new spectator sport with new vehicle technology should be an attractive prospect. For the developers, more detailed information on how the vehicles perform should also enable them to take them to the next level – manned racing cars that can take to the air.

Flying taxi, anyone?

JUPITER'S MOON SNAPPED UP CLOSE

REMARKABLE new pictures of Ganymede, Jupiter's largest moon, have been captured and sent to Earth by the NASA space probe Juno.

The stunningly clear photographs show craters and grooves which scientists think could be fault lines linked to tectonic plates – the interlocking slabs that make up the surface.

Ganymede is the largest moon in our solar system and was discovered by Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei 400 years ago. Having completed its primary mission of exploring Jupiter, Juno is in such good condition that it will not be destroyed as planned. Instead, it will now orbit the planet until 2025. The spacecraft is expected to reveal much more about Ganymede, including the amount of radiation in its environment.

BALLOONING SPIDERS



FLOODS in Australia have caused spiders to create vast webs to avoid them being washed away.

Recent heavy rains in the state of Victoria led to millions of spiders moving to higher ground. While people left their homes, the spiders made their own escape bid by throwing out streams of spider silk, forming a veil over vegetation. The process, known as ballooning, occurs when the spiders climb up bushes and shrubs as far as they can go and then fling the silk threads into the air, where the wind catches them and lifts the spiders to safety. The threads mingle and create a fine layer of delicate silk. Local councillor Carolyn Crossley said it was as if they had coordinated to make an incredible landscape art feature.

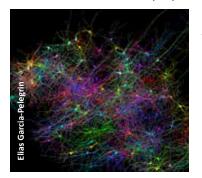
BRAIN Mapping

GOOGLE has helped produce the most detailed map ever of part of the human brain.

The image below shows the huge number of connections in just one tiny piece of a human brain. A joint

study between Google and scientists at Harvard University in America found almost 130 million of these connections, called synapses. The research has established patterns of connections between neurons in the brain and revealed what may be a new type of neuron.

The research began when a tiny sliver of brain was taken from a woman having a life-saving brain operation. Doctors had to take away some of the brain tissue and this was given to researchers who then prepared it for study. Having made



some new discoveries in just a few months, scientists are continuing to explore what makes our minds work. This minute piece of tissue has become a treasure trove of data. Researchers are hopeful that more fascinating details will be discovered in future.



12. SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S BOOKS Advertisement feature FirstNews • Issue 784 • 25 June – 1 July 2021

* BEING A SUPERHERO IS THE * BEST THING EVER, RIGHT? WRONG!



HELLO! My name is PIZAZZ and I'm a superhero. You probably think that's really AWESOME, and while it can be, it's also REEEEEEEAALLLLY annoying.

Even though I'm saving the world ALL THE TIME, there are still LOADS of bad guys about.

Like super baddie PERFECTO! She's younger than me, and just... well, PERFECT! But I have a plan. Maybe I just need to be perfect too – even more perfect than Perfecto. Easy-peasy, right?!

> **'A SPECTACULAR superhero story that fizzes with fun on every page!'** Liz Pichon, bestselling author of the

TOM GATES series.

Can you find these super words in the grid below?

PIZAZZ
PERFECTO
SUPERHERO
EYE ROLL
POWERS
MISSION
AWESOME
KABOOM
BADDIES







 Sophy Henn
 WITH SUPERHERO FUN AND ACTION-PACKED COMICS THE PERFECT READ FOR FANS OF WIMPY KID AND DOG MAN

LISTEN TO THE FIRST PIZAZZ AUDIOBOOK FOR FREE AT FIRST.NEWS/PIZAZZ



13. ANIMAL NEWS

FirstNews Issue 784 25 June – 1 July 2021

A BROWN bear at Wildwood Trust in Kent has had dental surgery to fix problems with four of his teeth!

Scruff was having a routine dental check when Peter Kortez, an animal dentistry expert, discovered the troublesome teeth. As the bear was already under anaesthetic for the check-up, the dental surgery was done immediately to stop any toothache he might have been having. It is believed that the tooth problems are a result of poor care while Scruff was a young cub.

He was rescued, alongside his brother Fluff, from an

unsuitable home in Bulgaria where they were badly treated for the first 15 years of their lives. They were moved to Wildwood Trust in Kent six years ago. Mark Habben from Wildwood said: "Scruff and Fluff really suffered in their formative years so we're determined to make sure they have the very best treatment."

HAPPY NEIGHBOURS

A RANGE of environmentally friendly ways to stop conflict between humans and forest elephants will be trialled in Equatorial Guinea.

Bee fences, motion-sensor lights and bell alarms are just a few of the options that will be tested by conservationists from Bristol Zoological Society and the University



of the West of England. Bee fences are a series of beehives connected by wire. Elephants are known to be scared of bees, as they can fly up their trunks and sting them. Farmers in the west African country have asked for help in managing the situation after years of elephants raiding their crops and destroying their gardens. Little is known about the forest elephants in this area, so the team of conservationists plan to gather as much data about them as they can.

CASH FOR WILDCATS

CONSERVATION measures to help Scottish wildcats have been given a boost after receiving a £400,000 grant from the Scottish Government.

The extra funding has been granted to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland to help fund the Saving Wildcats project. The project aims to prevent the critically endangered cats becoming extinct in the wild by breeding them in captivity and releasing them into the wild when they are old enough to care for themselves. It is hoped that the first batch of wildcats will be ready to be released in 2023.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TRY 3 ISSUES FOR £1



Delivering the news to your door every Friday Learn about the changing world around you while keeping up to date with the latest science, sport and entertainment news.

Follow-on price:

www.firstnews.co.uk/subscribe

FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO TO

THE summer is here and, after the disruption caused by the pandemic, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in Japan will soon be underway.

But while COVID-19 has set the Games back, nothing could dampen the excitement for a thrilling summer of sport. So as we all prepare to watch the

Games this summer, there's just time to brush up on some Olympic history and find out how the Games became such a must-see part of the sporting calendar.

ANCIENT ORIGINS

The ancient Olympic Games were held every four years in Greece with only athletes of Greek descent taking part. The Olympics were rooted in Greek mythology with many legends surrounding their origins. As one legend has it, the great hero Heracles (or Hercules as you may know him) founded the Olympics to honour his father, Zeus, the god of thunder.

The Ancient Olympic Games lay the foundations for the Olympics we know and love today with foot races, wrestling, javelin and discus-throwing all featuring.

Some events like chariot racing are no longer part of the Olympics.

Historians believe the first Olympics took place almost 3,000 years ago in around 776 BCE. But the Games experienced a decline in popularity over the following centuries. After Greece was conquered by the Roman Empire, Christianity eventually replaced the belief in multiple gods and the Olympics slowly fell out of favour.

DID YOU KNO

The five rings of the Olympic flag represent the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games. The flag was first raised at the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium



THE MODERN GAMES

So when did the Olympic Games make their triumphant comeback? Well, not for a while... around 1,500 years later in fact. The Olympics as we know them wouldn't return until the International Olympic Committee (IOC) revived the idea with different countries hosting every four years.

In 1896, the first "modern" Olympic Games took place in Athens, with 241 athletes from 14 nations competing across 43 events. They

also featured the first organised marathon, a gruelling long-distance event over 25 miles - slightly shorter than the 26.2-mile race we know today. It proved to be a real challenge for the competitors nonetheless, with many dropping out from exhaustion. One runner was even disqualified for cheating when officials discovered that he took a ride in a horse-drawn carriage for a portion of the route!



TOKYO 2020 (IN 2021)

Fast-forward to 2021 and the 2020 Olympic Games are (finally) ready to get underway in Tokyo, Japan. Around 11,000 athletes are expected to compete across 339 events and 39 competitions.

Tokyo 2020 will feature new competitions, including 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX, and sport climbing. We'll also see debuts for sports like karate, baseball and skateboarding.

International

spectators won't be allowed at this year's Games, but thankfully, you can watch the excitement unfold from the comfort of your sofa.

If you want a piece of the action yourself, be sure to check out Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – The Official Video Game, available now on PS4, Xbox One, Switch, Stadia and Steam.

YO... AND BEYOND! **DID YOU KNOW?**

DID YOU KNOW?

It's always exciting to see the competing nations reveal their Olympic uniforms for the Games, but that wasn't always the case - athletes in the ancient Olympics used to

SPORT DEBUTS

Which of the following sports will feature at this year's Olympic Games for the first time? Tick the sports that are making their debut at Tokyo 2020!

BASEB

The idea for the now-famous Olympic flame came from ancient Greece, where a sacred fire was kept alight throughout the ancient Olympics. To this day, the flame is still lit at the Temple of

Hera in Athens.













OLYMPIC GAMES THE OFFICIAL VIDEO GAME





16. ENTERTAINMENT

FirstNey

• 25 June – 1 July 2021

NAR OF MASTERY

TONY HALE plays the mysterious Mr Benedict as well as his long-lost brother, the devious Mr Curtain, in The Mysterious Benedict Society. We spoke to Tony to find out more.

• You play two characters in this show. Which was the most fun to play?

Oh man, this isn't me just giving a cheesy answer but it is really hard to decide! Benedict was just so full of life and saw the best in everyone and brought so much empathy and love to the table, he was just very free to play. Mr Curtain was super-manipulative and misunderstood and sarcastic, so there were elements of both. This is my process – when you're doing a character you have to find things within yourself that resonate with the character, because if you don't, you're just playing an idea of someone. So, these are just different parts of myself that I was able to find in each one – that is always a really fun discovery!

• What did you do to prepare for the two different roles?

I think in preparation, even though these are two very different brothers, I had to find myself in each

of them. I did read the first book before we started shooting, just to see the world which [author] Trenton Lee Stewart had created. I think as an actor, and I can only speak for myself, sometimes it's really hard not to get overwhelmed. It was shot in Vancouver, Canada. I was there for five months and I wasn't able to go home during that period and it was tricky, so you can kind of get overwhelmed by that. I just had to dive into the fun and adventure and twists and turns that the writers created off of Trenton's book.

• What was the biggest challenge for you during filming?

The biggest challenge for this show was probably the isolation and being away from my family. I used to put down technology, thinking it was separating us, but after this year it has done just the opposite. I'm so grateful that I could connect with my family via FaceTime and see their faces.



What else can you tell us about the series?

This show starts out with a global crisis happening. There's this emergency that is creating fear and anxiety, so I gather these kids together to find the source. These kids don't have magical powers, their superpower is their creativity, their intellect, their empathy and man, after the year we've had, those are superpowers! I'm excited about this story getting out there and being told.

FUN FACT

Tony Hale is also the voice of Forky from Toy Story 4 and Forky Asks A Question.

• What was it like working with such a young cast?

We didn't have a lot of time to hang out, I wish we did! Once we finished a scene, everyone went to their COVID-safe tent and then we went home. I am hoping that if we come back for another series we can all get to know each other a little better. We found a really fun energy and chemistry in our characters when we were on set, but off set it was tricky. These kids, what they stepped into, doing a show in the middle of a pandemic, I didn't have to do that at 14. At 14 I think I was mainly concerned about what I was going to have for lunch. These kids really stepped into a high stakes situation, so I have a lot of respect for them. They're all just really wonderful kids with great attitudes. That was a big gift!

> The Mysterious Benedict Society starts on Disney+ from 25 June



17. ENTERTAINME

FirstNews • Issue 784 • 25 June – 1 July 2021

THIS WEEK

Meet the new monsters joining Sully and Mike in the brand new Monsters, Inc. spin-off Monsters At Work. Fritz, Cutter, Tyler, Duncan and Val all work at Monsters Incorporated, which is a very different place now



that laughter is in and screams are out! The show launches on 7 July on Disney+.

Strictly Come Dancing professional dancer Janette Manrara is swapping the dancefloor for the sofa. The dancer is joining Rylan Clark-Neal to present the spin-off show It Takes Two on BBC2. Strictly Come Dancing will return to our screens later this year.



Biff, Kip and Chip are coming to CBeebies and BBC iPlayer! The characters, who are best known from the Oxford Reading Tree books, have been brought to life in a brand-new, live-action TV series. The show will follow twins Biff and Chip, their little brother Kipper and the rest of their family on their many adventures. Biff & Chip is set (and filmed) in the northeast of England and will be coming to your screens this autumn.

OF THE WEEK

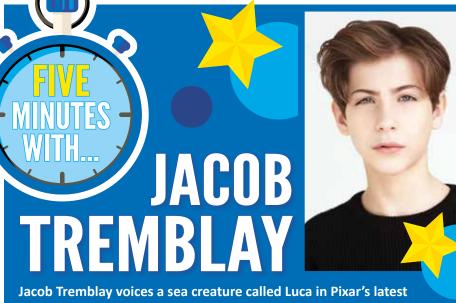


'ONE for all and all for one' is the motto in this new animated film Dogtanian and the Three Muskehounds!

Based on an animated TV series from the 1980s, the film tells a story about the famous musketeers from France, only re-imagined as dogs! It's a swashbuckling adventure with sword fights, a villainous cat and a mission to save the king of France. Plus the theme tune is super-catchy!

Dogtanian and the Three Muskehounds is in cinemas from 25 June.





animated movie. Adam Tanswell chats to the young Canadian actor...

How would you describe your magical new movie?

Luca is a movie about the friendship between two sea monsters who go on an incredible adventure in Italy. It's been a really fun project to work on and I'm really excited about it because I grew up watching Pixar films. It's cool to think that I'm now part of a Pixar movie myself!

Before Luca, what was your favourite Pixar film?

When I was little, my favourite Pixar character was Lightning McQueen in Cars. I thought he was the coolest guy ever and I

had lots of Lightning McQueen toys. I'm really excited that kids will now be able to look up to Luca in the same way that I looked up to Lightning McQueen. I love Luca's innocence and curiosity. And sea monsters are pretty cool!

Luca is set on the Italian coast. Have you ever been to Italy?

I've been to Italy once before. I went to Milan, which is different from where Luca is set. Milan is a big city and it's not by the ocean. I would die to go to Italy right now. I would absolutely love that! My trip to Milan was a lot of fun and I definitely learned a lot about the country. I'm a big history buff, so I learned a lot about Italy's past. I also got to try pasta and a lot of Italian gelato. The food was delicious and it's a big part of Italian culture.

• Your next film for Disney has a fishy theme, too! What can you tell us about your role in The Little Mermaid?

I play Flounder and I'm really excited about it. For me, it's thrilling to be involved with Disney projects. I love the nostalgia. Pixar has been such a big part of my childhood and so has The Little Mermaid, so being able to work on a film that I've grown up watching definitely means a lot to me.

A lot of both those movies take place underwater. Are you a fan of the ocean?

I love the water. I live in Vancouver, which means I live right beside the ocean. We're a 20-minute drive away, but there are also lots of mountains here, too. I do more mountain stuff than ocean stuff, but both are fun. When I go swimming here in Canada, I usually swim at a lake instead of the ocean. There are so many beautiful lakes in Canada. We've got this big floaty that we all chill on!

What do you think is the greatest sea creature in the world?

I love orca. They actually live up here in Vancouver. If you go to a certain spot on the coast, you can see a bunch of them. They're really smart. They're just like dolphins. There are some pretty bad things happening to the environment right now and sea creatures are getting affected by that, so I hope that Luca can remind people to take better care of the ocean.



KITE A CARD FOR KIDS TO SPEND SAFELY

ONE of the most important things you'll learn as you grow up is how to look after your money. That doesn't just mean storing your £10 notes neatly! It's about knowing what money is coming in, what's going out and where it's going, too.

One of the easiest and safest ways to keep an eye on your pocket money is by using a bank account. As you might already know, you use a secret password to see what's in your account and buy things on your card.

If you like the sound of learning more about money, good news! **Starling Bank** has designed a bank card and an app just for you. It's called **Kite**, and if you're aged 6 to 16, you and your adult can sign up and get a bank card with your name on it!

WHAT IS A KITE CARD?

Kite is a card for kids to spend safely, with an app of their own to keep track.

- The Kite card has similar benefits to a child bank account, but it's linked to an adult's account so they can help keep you safe
- Your adult can also safely monitor your spending and if you ever lose your card, they can lock it safely within their app
- Kite is great for saving your pocket money and you can watch where you're spending your money
- Learn more about how money works and start saving your cash for the stuff you really want.



HOW DO YOU GET A KITE CARD?

Your adult will set it up for you through their account, and then they'll help you choose a secret PIN (four numbers that no-one else will ever guess – just make sure you memorise it!). Plus if you have a phone, you can download a version of the app that's just for kids.

Then, when you spend on your card, you and your adult will see the amount pop up on both your phones (if you have one), whether it's something small like a treat at the shop, or something big, like a present for your best friend. You can watch your balance change on the app, which tells you where your money comes from (maybe mum rewarded you for a great school report) or goes to (uh oh, too many ice creams this week).

Remember – your adult will be in charge and can help if things go wrong. For example, if you lose your card, they can cancel that one and get you a shiny new one.

The best part? Kite makes it super easy to save up for something really special (like a new bike or a games console).



INFO FOR PARENTS

Adult permission is necessary and parents/guardians must already have a personal account with Starling before they can order the Kite card from the app. Starling Kite comes with a £2 monthly fee. Their subscription can be cancelled at any time. There are no extra charges for transfers or ATM withdrawals. Kite cards include blocks for certain merchants in order to keep children safe, including gambling merchants, nightclubs and bars.

Like the sound of your own bank card? Ask your parent or guardian to find out more.

Starling Bank is registered in England and Wales as Starling Bank Limited (No. 09092149), 3rd floor, 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP. We are authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under registration number 730166.

19. BOOKS SPECIAL by Serena Lacey

CREATIONS (Contraction of the second second

AUTHOR and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson has just released a brilliant new book called Rainbow Grey. This week she teaches us how to draw one Nim the cloud-cat, one of the fun new characters in the book! Laura says: "Hello! I hope you enjoy drawing your very own Nim the cloud-cat! But why stop there?! Why not create your very OWN cloudcreature? You can have so much fun turning your favourite animal into a floofy cloud. It doesn't matter if it looks a bit wobbly or out of shape either. Because that's the beauty of a cloud. It's always changing and every cloud is beautiful in its own special way."



20. FAMILY FUN



JOIN Hideaway Cinema this summer for a chance to watch your favourite films on the big outdoor screen.

Whether you want to watch a family classic such as Paddington, The Lion King and Moana, or a brand-new film <u>such</u> as In The Heights or



 In The Heights or
 Tom & Jerry, there is something for everyone. Hideaway Cinema will tour across England in
 beautiful outdoor locations such as Cheltenham
 Racecourse, Wentworth Woodhouse in
 Rotherham, St Ives Rugby Club, Stonor Park
 in Henley-on-Thames, the Royal Cornwall
 Showground and Holkham Hall in Norfolk.

Seven lucky winners will each win a family ticket (for five) to your nearest venue.

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

Maui is a character from which film?

a) Moana b) The Lion King c) Paddington

Please visit www.hideawaycinema.com to see which location is closest to you!

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY CINEMA firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 8 July 2021.

HARRY POTTER READING MAGIC Advertisement feature

DISCOVER THE MAGICAL WORLD OF HARRY POTTER!

AS the summer holidays approach, why not dive into the Wizarding World or even discover Harry Potter for the very first time?

Harry Potter Reading Magic is here, and over the next five weeks it's offering lots of free online fun for fans old and new. If you're new to the Wizarding World, there is no better time to discover the exciting story of J.K. Rowling's first book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Get to know more about iconic characters of the Wizarding World like Hagrid, Professor McGonagall, Dumbledore and, of course, Harry Potter! We promise, once your imagination reaches Hogwarts, you won't want to turn back.

Head online for specially curated weekly themes to help guide you through the journey of the first book, and also look forward to chapter challenges, daily quizzes and craft activities. Audio clips from the original Stephen Fry reading are available too!

The Harry Potter Reading Magic hub also features handy guides for parents, carers and teachers to help them make reading fun and keep the kids entertained during the school holidays.

Go to HarryPotterReadingMagic.com to see what's on offer.

Head to HarryPotterReadingMagic.com to learn more about Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, and start your Harry Potter reading journey today. You can also keep up to date with the fun on social using #HarryPotterReadingMagic and following @WizardingWorld

WIN! FAMILY TICKETS THIS SUMMER WITH NIMAX THEATRES

A BILLIONAIRE boy, one tiny Ladybird, magic and illusion, and barmy British history – there's something for everyone at Nimax Theatres this summer!

Nimax's West End theatres are open, with a very exciting programme of family productions with Billionaire Boy, What The Ladybird Heard, Wonderville Magic & Illusion and Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain Part Five playing in July and August.

For your chance to win one of three family tickets, just answer this question:

> a) Michael Morpurgo b) David Walliams c) Roald Dahl

FAMILY FUN THIS SUMMER!



Experience the magic of live theatre once again. For more information and to book your tickets, from just £12.50, visit www.NimaxTheatres.com

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY NIMAX firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 8 July 2021.



21. CRAZY BUT TRUE

·Potions · Notions · Lotions

E ROYAL SH

VILLAGE GIVEN DISNEY MAKEOVER

AN entire village in Ireland has been transformed into a Disney film set!

Local shops in Enniskerry, such as the butcher, baker and pharmacy, have been given magical makeovers to help them get into character for the filming of a new Disney movie. The village, in County Wicklow, will star in the Enchanted sequel, Disenchanted. The shops have been decorated with flowers and given temporary new names for the occasion. We particularly

like Bibidi Bobidi Butchers! Filming will continue in the village during July, with residents hoping to catch more sneak peeks from the magical movie!

<section-header>

A FAMILY of ducks enjoyed a big city adventure when they hit the shops in Brooklyn, New York recently.

The mother and her eight ducklings were helped across a busy road, before entering a local bagel shop for a bite to eat.

Doug Gordon, who stepped in to assist the unusual shoppers, said they spent a few minutes in the Bagel World Park Slope store before heading out and making their way up the street. He wasn't sure if they'd been asked to leave or just didn't fancy anything on the menu. It's believed that the cute family eventually returned safely to Prospect Park. A DIAMOND discovered in Botswana could be the third largest in the world! The impressive gem weighs 1,098 carats and was found by the diamond firm, Debswana. After being shown to Botswana's president Mokgweetsi Masisi, it has now been put on display. The diamond could be worth tens of millions of pounds!

DID YOU







22. PUZZLE FUN 😮 🕜 (?

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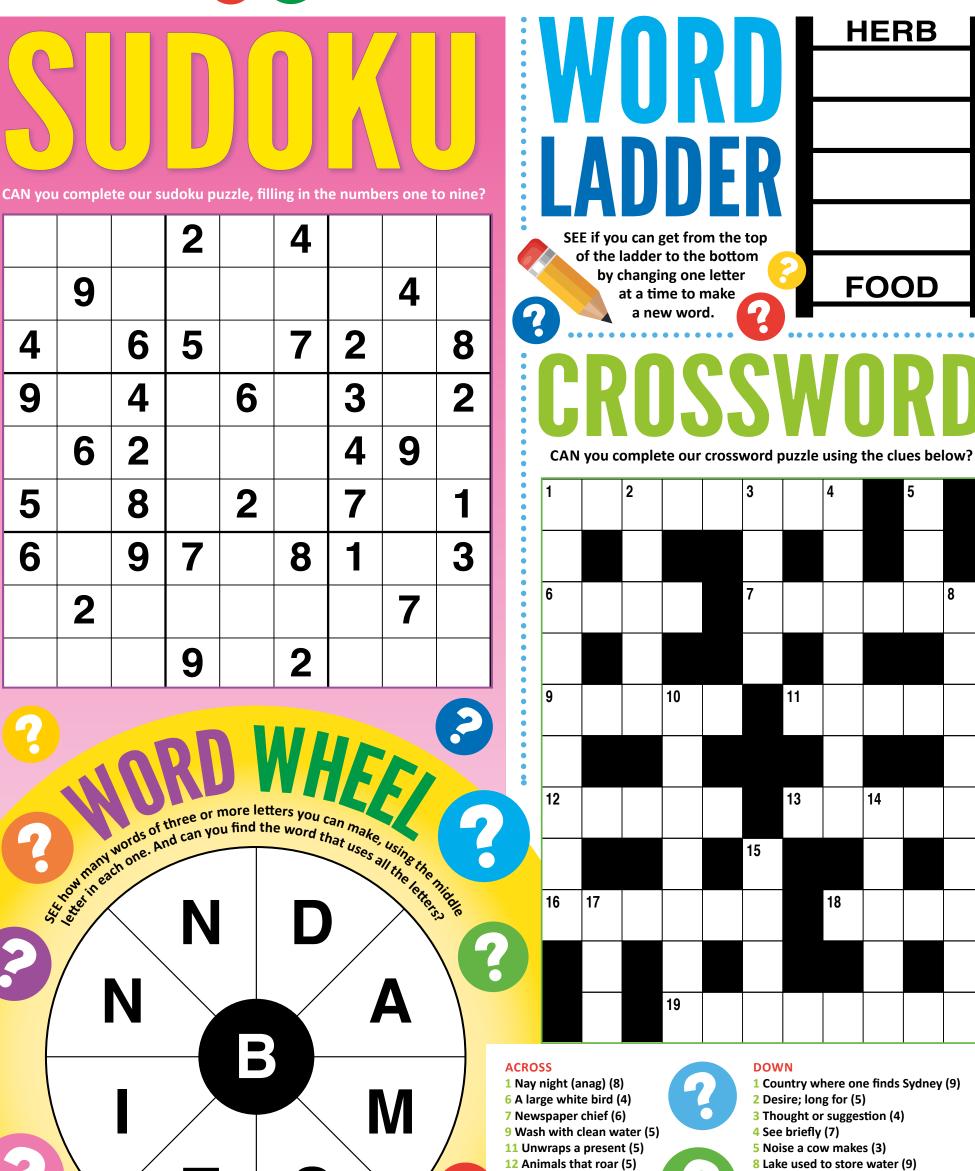
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6

FirstNews • Issue 784 • 25 June – 1 July 2021



13 Put off (5)

16 On a train or ship (6)

19 Tiny piece of wood (8)

18 Extinct bird (4)

- 10 Summer shoes (7)
 - 14 A type of fish (5) 15 Hero (4)
- 17 Sound a sheep makes (3)

23. PUZZLE FUN

HOW TO ENTER: Send your finished puzzles by email to **win@firstnews.co.uk**. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 784** in the subject box and include your contact details. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 1 July 2021**.

WIN! YOU CAN GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Disney and Pixar's Luca? Send in your answers and three winners will win a copy of You Can Grow Your Own Food. Get muddy, get green fingers and get growing – it's the how-to book for kids who love gardening. It's easy to understand and tells you exactly what you need to know, step-by-step. There are easy-peasy tips on how to grow all kinds of fruit, vegetables and herbs outside and indoors! Available at www.amazon.co.uk and all good stockists.





WHAT ON Earth?

ALL of these are associated with football. Can you guess what they are?









000

WN A NINTENDO SWITCH AND A COPY OF OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020



THIS summer, Tokyo will finally host the 2020 Olympics after a year-long delay caused by COVID-19.

With 11,000 athletes appearing across 339 events, it promises to be well worth the wait for sports lovers worldwide.

So as we count down to the opening ceremony on 23 July, now's the perfect time to experience the Olympic spirit with friends and family on your sofa or online.

First prize: A Nintendo Switch console and the Switch version of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – The Official Video Game.

Second prize: Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – The Official Video Game on the platform of your choice (Switch, PS4 or Xbox One).

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



Which of the following sports will not be included in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games? a) Skateboarding b) Ice skating c) Football

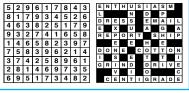


firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 8 July 2021.

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: dog has been added, hair is all black, top hat has been added, Cruella has a wand, dog has been added to the taxi. Word ladder: your, pour, pout, port, part, park. Word wheel: Highlight.



24. SHOPS

TENNIS

JUMBO SOFT TENNIS SET AMAZON.CO.UK £11.99

With this jumbo tennis set you can play tennis or badminton – just take your pick. These oversized rackets are ideal for a fun game at the beach, park or garden. And perfect for a summer's day!



SWINGBALL ALL SURFACE REFLEX PRO TENNIS TRAINER SET THETOYSHOP.COM £18.00

N THE

Swingball Reflex Tennis Trainer is the ideal tennis trainer that will help to improve your skills without the need for a net, court or even a partner! It is the perfect tool to help work on your tennis strokes and maximise your speed, while also building on your hand-eye coordination. Included is an adjustable reflex cord, rubber ball and lightweight Airbat.

> *All prices correct at time

of printi

TRAMPOLINE TENNIS SET HAPPYPUZZLE.CO.UK £24.99

These trampoline-like disks are superb fun and will get you and your family moving. Have fun and perform tricks, all while developing a whole range of skills including co-ordination and concentration. Each set includes two disks plus a special 'string' ball. The Trampoline Tennis Set is also available in a mini version.

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RAVEL TO TOKYO Advertisement feature 82% OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FAMILIES SAY GETTING ACTIVE TOGETHER IS E BEST MOTORYON

WITH less than 50 days until the Tokyo Games kicks off, Team GB and ParalympicsGB are inviting schools and families across the UK to get active this summer through their Travel to Tokyo virtual challenge. Join over 1.5 million people already taking part on their active journey ahead of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



BRINGING YOU NEW AND EXCITING WAYS TO GET ACTIVE Travel to Tokyo empowers young people and their families across the UK to get active and create healthy habits alongside their classmates, and to celebrate their progress online as one school team. Every physical activity, no matter what it is, can be logged online as part of the Travel to Tokyo virtual challenge on the Get Set website.

Recent research shows that 82% of families agreed that Travel to Tokyo could help them

Stay updated with the latest news on Twitter @GetSetCommunity and @GetSetClub on Instagram and follow the journey using #TTTYourway

and their family to be more active, while 79% agreed that Travel to Tokyo could help them and their family to fit activity into their day-to-day lives.

To encourage young people to log activities, Travel to Tokyo allows them to unlock prizes to win for their school and families, including school visits with Team GB and ParalympicsGB athletes, Nintendo Switches and exclusive Team GB Micro scooters.

TRAVEL

Discover the free school and family activities at getset.co.uk/travel-tokyo

25. GAME ZONE

THE Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3, is an annual event where some of the biggest names in games (except PlayStation, who skipped this year's show) reveal what they're working on. We've rounded up a few of the coolest and most interesting games that we're already getting excited about.

LEGEND OF ZELDA: BREATH OF THE WILD 2

We learnt that the highly-anticipated sequel to the smash hit game is just one year away! We got a good look at some gameplay last week, and it looks like a lot of Breath of the Wild 2 will be spent in the skies.

DUE FOR RELEASE: 2022



DEATH'S DOOR

In this dark and silly adventure, you play as a crow who's taking down enormous tyrants in a strange and secretive land. We're definitely intrigued...



WARIOWARE: **GET IT TOGETHER!**

A massive mash-up of mini-games, hosted by none other than Mario's money-grabbing counterpart, Wario. What more could you want?!

DUE FOR RELEASE: 2022



MARIO + RABBIDS: **SPARKS OF HOPE**

The most unlikely of team-mates take on a new galactic enemy in the sequel to the surprisingly fun tactics-based Switch game.



RELEASE: NOVEM

SUPER MONKEY BALL BANANA MANIA

FORZA HORIZON 5

A new Forza game is on the way, and it will have a new "vibrant and ever-evolving

open world" to race across... Mexico! The

gorgeous racer will include a new 'Events

Lab' that you can use to build your own

races and games within Forza Horizon 5.

In this game, you have to guide a monkey, who's in a ball, over to a goal. It's ridiculous, intense and a whole lot of fun! Banana Mania is a collection of the Super Monkey Ball games, packed with lots of fantastic mini-games.







IT'S almost time for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, but does the game win gold? First News games reviewer Dan decides...

I love the Olympic Games, and this year's official videogame has made me even more excited for them to get underway. We've waited an extra year, after all!

This game has a different feel to other Olympics videogames. There's more customisation, like the new avatar creator, and it feels a lot more fun and light-hearted than previous versions.

It's really easy to pick up and play, too. Each event has a handy tutorial before you play, so everyone will have a fair go at winning, and maybe even breaking the world record!

The new events making their real-life Olympics debuts, like sport climbing and baseball, are welcome additions to the usual roster of events that we're used to, like the 100m sprint and swimming.

There are some events that I would like to have seen in the game, like gymnastics and diving, but if you love the Olympics as much as me, then you'll definitely love this game!



BLAST bad guys across dimensions in this next-gen sci-fi shooter!

The latest game, available only for the PlayStation 5, is an absolute ton of fun, and at times can look better than an animated movie!

In case you're unfamiliar, Ratchet, our big-eared and big-hearted hero, is an alien known as a Lombax. Clank is his tiny former war-machine robot sidekick. The game is a shooter, and Ratchet has a crazy cache of weapons to blast space-pirates and evil robots with, like the topiary sprinkler, which turns enemies into shrubberies!

Ratchet is the last of the Lombax species and has never met his family. Clank wants to fix this, and so builds a Dimensionator, a device that can blast portals in reality, which the two can use to find a dimension where the Lombax still exist. Unfortunately, during a fight with the pair's evil nemesis, Dr Nefarious, the device is damaged!

The device sends our heroes through dimensions, and it's here that the game shines. You'll fall into an incredible city, slide down a skyscraper, and be flung into a swamp, with no loading at any point! It's genuinely unbelievable going from location to location almost instantly.

There's loads more, too! Including funky ways to get around, tons of secrets and a lot of fun characters we've no space to mention! If you're lucky enough to have a PS5, this is a must-buy!

26. YOUR NEWS

MYSTICAL MYTHICA

by Madison and Eleanor

WE were so lucky to be invited to stay at the Legoland Windsor Resort hotel and to have a sneak preview of the brand new land MYTHICA: World of Mythical Creatures.

Staying at the Legoland Hotel was so much fun. Our room was pirate-themed and inside was a pirate challenge for us to do. We ate dinner in Bricks restaurant, and Mia and Stephanie from LEGO Friends came over to say hello, which was really exciting, as we love LEGO Friends.

The next morning we went into Legoland to try the new rides in MYTHICA. Straight away we tried The Flight of the Sky Lion. We didn't know what to expect but wow, it was the best ride we have ever been on. You sit in a row and, as the ride starts, you watch a giant screen and the seats move around like you are flying through the different magical worlds. You feel heat, wind and water as you ride. It was so good we went on it three times in a row. The other rides are brilliant too, we loved the water ride Hydra's Challenge and the drop rides were fun too.

All around MYTHICA there are amazing LEGO statues. If you download the app you can even make some of them come to life, which my mum did for us. We also got to enjoy the other rides at Legoland and watch the LEGO Friends do their show in Heartlake City. We had such a fun time and we can't wait to come back to Legoland again.



The Flight of the Sky Lion

LEGO MYTHICA: World Of Magical Creatures is open now at Legoland Windsor Resort. Visits to the resort and stays at the Legoland Hotel must be prebooked at www.legoland.co.uk



Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has the coronavirus affected your school, friends and family? 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.

BOOK BOXES by Kirsten and Aiyven

WE are the creators of Happier Every Chapter, a book subscription box for 8 to 14-year-olds.

Our journey began in March 2019, when we began doing book reviews on our YouTube channel.

A few months later, we entered the BBC 500 Words competition. We didn't win, however we turned our entries into our own books.

We did a Kickstarter campaign to fund the publishing process in February 2020 and raised almost £600 more than our intended goal. In April that same year, we released our books: Sagas of Anya by Kirsten Mbawa and Land of the Nurogons by



Aiyven Mbawa.

However, there was more to be done. We wanted to create a more engaged community of readers to help promote literacy and diversity.

That's where Happier Every Chapter comes in. In each monthly themed box there are two books (one being diverse), two short stories written by us, lifestyle items and more.

Find out more at mbawabooks.co.uk

CYCLING FOR WWF

by Poppy Wilson

I DECIDED to donate money to WWF by cycling 500 times around a tennis court.

I chose WWF because they help nature and I think nature is very important. It actually all started when I was reading First News and saw an article about Captain Tom Moore!

Magical creatures

.

My mum helped me set up a fundraising page. So I set off cycling, and my uncle and my dad had already donated £20 each. Then, after a couple of days, I managed to reach 100 laps! So I asked my mum if we could post an update to tell everyone that I had reached 100 laps.

A few days later, I was cycling in the evening and I managed another 50 laps! To be fair, it did take a while and my hands were so cold when I got back to the house. But I felt good that I had done it. Every day I managed to do some laps, except when it rained. The weather was against me because for about four days it was rainy!

I finished my 500 laps a few days



ago and I felt so glad and happy. What I'm amazed about though is my target for donation money was £300 but I've managed to raise £435 pounds, so far.

SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK Call: (020) 3195 7256 Email: Schools@firstnews.co.uk

27. BOOKS

YOUR READS! THE SWALLOWS'

FLIGHT HILARY McKAY

reviewed by Poppy Littleton

The Swallows' Flight was a great book. Set during World War Two, it tells the story of different children in Germany and England and details how they join up.

Erik and Hans, who are German, like going to the local airfield where they are learning to become pilots, later being conscripted to National Service and training for the Luftwaffe.

Kate and Ruby are English and have been sent to Oxford from Plymouth to avoid the bombing in World War Two.

We learn about the experiences of these young people growing up in the war and discover how their lives are brought together. It's a fascinating book about lives during the war.

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National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



DISCOVER The Legend of Kevin with Sarah McIntyre and Philip Reeve.

Sarah McIntyre and Philip Reeve are our Virtual School Library authors of the week. Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read The Legend of Kevin for FREE!

Sarah and Philip recommend these three reads:

- The Secret Time Machine and the Gherkin
 - Switcheroo by Simone Lia Bunny vs Monkey by Jamie Smart
 - Bad Panda by Swapna Haddow and Sheena Dempsey

Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video with Sarah and Philip and read a Q&A! If you enjoy The Legend of Kevin, why not try Kevin and the Biscuit Bandit next?

Words for Life

Virtual School Library

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WHIZZ...WHOOSH... WOW...WIN!

FirstNews • Issue 784 • 25 June – 1 July 2021



games are all that now separate one team from collecting the Euro 2020 trophy. The first game in

the knockout round of 16 sees Wales (below) take on Denmark on Saturday 26 June, after the final round of group stage matches saw the Danes leap from fourth to second! In 2016, Wales reached the semi-finals.

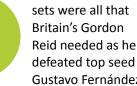




years ago, Randy Barnes set a 23.12m world record for the shot put. That impressive distance

has finally been beaten by Ryan Crouser of the USA with a huge throw of 23.37m. Crouser, the 2016 Olympic champion, wasn't even born when the previous record was set!





Gustavo Fernández and secured the men's singles wheelchair title at the Queen's Club tennis tournament in London. The rapid 6-2, 6-2 victory was the Scot's



Alice Powell testing the Tatuus F3 car used by all W Series drivers (main) and with 2019 champion, Jamie Chadwick (left)

THE 2021 W Series begins today at Austria's Red Bull Ring. Contested by female drivers racing in identical cars, it takes place alongside Formula 1 at eight Grand Prix weekends. First News caught up with Britain's Alice Powell, who won at Brands Hatch in 2019 and finished the season third overall.

• The coronavirus pandemic meant there was no W Series in 2020. Has the wait been difficult and how excited are you to be back racing?

It was the right decision that W Series made for everyone's safety. But from a driving point of view, it was really frustrating! A year with no single-seater racing has definitely dragged. I'm really looking forward to getting the season underway. I've never visited the circuit in Austria before and I'm really buzzing to get on the track!

You had a terrific debut season in 2019. What's your ambition for this year?

I'm expecting it to be more challenging this time. I'm going to try to take it race by race. Obviously, my goal will be to win the championship, like every other driver out there. I know how difficult that's going to be. I feel like I've prepared fairly well, but there are quite a few of the circuits that I haven't been to before.

• Which other drivers do you think have a strong chance of winning the title this year?

People are going to look at Jamie [Chadwick] – she's the reigning champion. She did a lot of racing last year, so she hasn't been out of the seat, effectively. You've got Beitske [Visser] who finished second. And then, me and Emma [Kimilainen], who were really quite dominant in the last two races of the season at Assen [in the Netherlands] and Brands Hatch, so I expect Emma to be strong. It's difficult to say, but you have to look at those who finished in the top six of the championship in 2019 to be strong again this year.

How does the W Series help boost women's participation in motorsport more widely?

I think it's doing a great job. You've got lots of female mechanics and engineers attending the races as part of W Series, which is getting publicity from being on the Formula 1 package. I first started racing 20 years ago when I was eight years old and you could count the amount of females in the paddock on one hand. Now, you're going to need a lot more hands! And there are more opportunities with motorsport colleges around. It's really nice to see the female participation, not just at the driving level.

• There have only ever been five female Formula 1 drivers, with the most recent racing in 1992. Will that improve any time soon?

I think it's going to improve. I'm working with a couple of young female drivers. One's 18 and one's 14, and they have the talent, 100%, to get to the top. But it's an expensive sport. What makes W Series so unique is it is fully funded. Us drivers don't have to bring any finances to the grid. The only reason I stopped racing for four or five years was due to lack of funds. W Series was able to get me back on track again.

The 2021 W Series begins at the Red Bull Ring, Austria, on 25 June. Check out www.wseries.com and follow coverage on Channel 4 and More 4.

ALICE POWELL

Hometown: Chipping Norton, England

- W Series races entries: Six
- W Series races victories: One
- W Series podium finishes: Four
- **Favourite circuits:** Thruxton and Monaco

Championship titles: Formula Renault UK BARC Championship (2010)

Sporting heroes: Michael Schumacher and Jessica Ennis-Hill

Advice for entering the industry: "Have a go at go karting; just find your local centre. If you feel like driving is not your thing, there are other avenues you can go down, such as mechanical, engineering, scientific and the media."

