HURRICANE Irma has caused billions of pounds’ worth of damage and nearly destroyed some islands in the Caribbean, so the cleanup is going to be a huge task.

A lot of media attention focused on Irma’s path across Florida, but the tiny Caribbean island of Barbuda was hit so hard that Gaston Browne, the prime minister, said that 90% of the island’s buildings are destroyed and 60% of the population of 1,600 is now homeless.

The Red Cross has launched an appeal to raise money for those in the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Irma, and the UK Government has promised to match every pound donated.

Read our special report on p18 to find out where and how hurricanes form.

The cleanup has also begun in southeast Asia, where record monsoon rains killed more than 1,200 people. More than 41 million people in Nepal, India and Bangladesh have been affected, with hundreds of thousands of people losing their homes, crops and animals. Monsoon rains aren’t caused by hurricanes, but a seasonal shift in wind direction.
1. **FARTING FINE**
Last year, a Berlin man was ordered to pay €900 fine after farting twice in the presence of a female police officer. The leader of the police unit said the incident was an insult to his staff. The man, Christoph, appealed against the fine and the case went back to court, and last week the judge agreed with the man’s right to fart in public.

2. **ROMANTIC RACE**
New Zealand runner Jake Robertson made sure the Great North Run was one to remember, after he proposed to his fellow runner, Kenyan Magdalyne Masai at the finish line! Jake (left) came second in the race behind Mo Farah.

3. **TREE OF THE YEAR**
The public is being asked to vote for their favourite tree, as part of this year’s Tree Of The Year competition. The competition is organised by the Woodland Trust, who have shortlisted ten trees across the UK. Visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk to cast your vote!

4. **NEW CHOCCIE**
A company has made a new type of chocolate! Barry Callebaut has created a pink chocolate, made from the ruby cocoa bean. The chocolate is said to have a fruity taste, but it’s not being sold in shops just yet, so we’ll have to wait for a taste test. Boo!

5. **JEANS FOR GENES DAY**
Has your school signed up for Jeans For Genes Day on Friday 22 September yet? It’s not too late! The day aims to raise money for the half a million children in the UK who are affected by a life-altering genetic disorder. Find out more at www.jeansforgenesday.org.

6. **SPORTY BUNNY**
Bini the bunny has set a new Guinness World Record for the most slam dunks by a rabbit! Slam dunks are when basketballs are pushed (rather than thrown) into a basketball net.

7. **MYTHICAL CREATURES**
Britons know mythical creatures better than real-life fantastic beasts, a new survey by ZSL (Zoological Society of London) has found. The survey of 1,000 people found that we have greater awareness of mythical creatures like mermaids, unicorns and the Yeti than some of the world’s most unique real-life species, like the axolotl (below) or the numbat.

8. **MAN V MONKEY**
Photographer David Slater has won a two-year legal battle over the rights to a photo. A curious macaque took a selfie using Slater’s equipment, but a row broke out over whether the image belonged to Slater or the macaque!

9. **CAT TRAIN**
The first ever cat train opened for one day only in Japan on Sunday (10 September). Passengers were given the chance to cuddle and play with around 30 cats, as they travelled around Ogaki. The unusual event was held to raise awareness of stray cats.

10. **BACK FROM THE DEAD**
Nala the bearded dragon surprised her owner by coming back from the dead! Nala was declared dead by a vet, so the Haspel family made a grave for their pet and buried her in the garden. Five weeks later, however, they got rather a shock when Nala was found alive and well on the lawn! Bearded dragons can enter a state that makes it seem like they’re dead, where their temperature drops and they don’t need food or water.

11. **TOP SAUCE**
Mayonnaise is selling better than ketchup for the first time ever in the UK.

12. **NEW NOTES**
The new plastic £10 note, featuring author Jane Austen, went into circulation this week. Austen is buried at Winchester Cathedral, which appears on the new £10 note.

13. **COMMONWEALTH GAMES**
Birmingham has beaten Liverpool to lead England’s bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The Government will now have to decide whether to make a formal bid to the Commonwealth Games Federation.

14. **MUSIC BREAK**
Pop star Lady Gaga says she is taking a little rest from music, but told fans she has “some things up my sleeve.”

15. **MOVING PLANETS**
Professor Stephen Hawking believes we will be able to live on other planets in 100 years. The famous scientist says we must do more to explore Proxima b, which is believed to be the nearest potentially habitable planet to Earth – even though it’s 4.2 light years away! Hawking has also warned of the threats that humans on Earth face now, such as climate change and pollution.

16. **WRITING COMP**
Do you love writing? Alma Books is offering ten children the chance to have their story printed in a special collection. All you have to do is write a 500-800-word story about ‘journeys’ and get an adult to send it to competitions@almabooks.com, with your name and age. The comp is open to 7 to 11-year-olds in the UK. Find out more at almabooks.com/journeys-writing-competition.

17. **XMAS MOVIE**
Mariah Carey’s hit song All I Want For Christmas Is You is now a movie! The animated film will be available to buy in time for Christmas.

18. **ARENA REOPENS**
Manchester Arena reopened on Saturday 9 September, with a huge We Are Manchester charity concert. Comedian Peter Kay and singers Liam Gallagher and Pixie Lott performed. The event was held to remember the victims of the terror attack that happened at the arena in May, as well as to raise money for a memorial.

19. **FIRST APPEARANCE**
Prince Harry and his girlfriend Meghan Markle are reportedly set to make their first official public appearance together. It’s believed the couple will attend the Invictus Games in Toronto this month.

20. **RUBIK’S RECORD**
Fifteen-year-old Patrick Ponce has set a new world record by completing a 3x3 Rubik’s Cube in 4.69 seconds!
THE FARM WITHOUT A FARMER

A FIELD of barley in Shropshire has become the first in the world to be planted, grown and harvested by robots, with no human entering the field.

The field at Harper Adams University (left) has had robotic tractors and combine harvesters doing the work, with the crops monitored from above by drones on autopilot. The pilot project has seen around 4.5 tonnes of barley harvested, and scientists there say that the future of farms will involve fleets of smaller vehicles and drones doing the work.

In other robot news, the ex-head of Wellington College has said that artificial intelligence (AI) will revolutionise teaching. Sir Anthony Seldon says that AI will use pupils’ individual ways of learning to tailor lessons, so that students can advance faster.

EIGHT LIVES SAVED BY ONE GIRL

The donated organs from one 13-year-old girl have helped to save the lives of a record number of people, according to NHS Blood And Transplant.

The astonishing record was revealed during Organ Donation Week, which aims to highlight the problem of a lack of organ donors.

When people die, if their organs are healthy they can be used to save the lives of people who need a transplant. When Jemima Layzell died of a brain aneurysm (a bulge in a blood vessel), her organs saved eight lives, including those of five children. Her heart, lungs, kidneys, liver and pancreas were all used, as well as her small bowel. Her kidneys went to two different people and her liver was split in two so that two patients could benefit from it.

NHS records show that 35,707 people have donated their organs, but none saved as many lives as Jemima.

Many people find the conversation about donation uncomfortable, but it is important because it saves lives. The NHS’s Anthony Clarkson says: “If you are unsure, ask yourself: if you needed a transplant, would you accept one? If so, shouldn’t you be prepared to donate?”

Take part in our Poll Of The Week to share your thoughts with us and your fellow First News readers.

Good week for...

Tigers

THERE haven’t been any wild tigers in Kazakhstan for more than 70 years, but the government there has announced a plan to set aside a nature reserve for tigers and their prey. The WWF is backing the plan, with the aim of releasing the first tigers in 2025.

Bad week for...

The Queen

THE woman who is expected to become the next prime minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, says that the country should have a debate about cutting the country’s links with the British royal family. The Queen is New Zealand’s head of state, but Ardern says that New Zealand should be “carving out our own future”.

Editor’s comment

Nicky Cox MBE

THERE are some complicated issues in the news right now.

It’s our job to make sure you have the tools to get to grips with big news issues, like gender issues, organ donation and fake news – all in this week’s issue. If you ever want us to cover something that’s confusing you, please email us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk and we’ll do what we can.

Poll of the week

Would you be prepared to be an organ donor? Vote at first.news/polls

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PM’s letter to First News readers

LAST week we published First News’ Children’s Brexit Charter.

It was delivered to 10 Downing Street by four readers, representing the thousands of First News readers who have been sharing their views with us about Britain’s exit from the EU.

Gavin Barwell, Number 10’s chief of staff, promised to share the charter with the Prime Minister, Theresa May. This week, we received a letter from the PM, saying: “I was very interested to learn of your readers’ views on the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union and the priorities that you highlighted.

“We believe that the views of young people are very important as we negotiate the future relationship that the UK will have with the EU and I would encourage you to continue to engage with the Government on this.”

Go to first.news/letter to read the full letter from the Prime Minister.
AN American boy, who First News Live! filmed campaigning against guns in the US, brought his message to Britain this week.

Christopher, ten, started his campaign after his brother was shot dead in New York. He misses his brother every day but, in his words, “has turned his pain into action”.

Christopher has been campaigning in America ever since his brother was shot but, this week, we brought him to London to appear on ITV’s Good Morning Britain with presenter Piers Morgan, who supports his cause.

You can watch Christopher’s film at first.news/christopher. His story is being turned into a longer documentary for CBBC.

PARENTS THREATEN TO SUE SCHOOL OVER UNIFORM RULES

THE parents of a six-year-old boy were making headlines this week, after they pulled their son out of classes because of a row over school uniform.

Sally and Nigel Rowe gave a series of interviews saying that they removed their son from lessons because another boy in his class was wearing a dress to school one day, and “boys’ clothes” another day.

The Christian parents from the Isle of Wight said their son’s mental health was suffering as a result, and that they might sue the school.

Mr Rowe explained: “When he got home from school one day, he said: ‘Daddy, I’m confused. There’s a boy in my class who says he’s now a boy but then sometimes he’s a girl.’”

The boy’s classmate wants to be recognised as transgender (someone whose personal identity and gender does not match the sex they were assigned at birth). According to Mr and Mrs Rowe, this is “confusing” their son.

They also believe that the boy at the centre of the row is “not old enough to make those decisions.”

The school say that by allowing the boy to come to school in a dress, they are doing nothing wrong; they say they are providing “inclusive, safe spaces where pupils learn to respect diversity of all kinds.”

A complicated gender row has grown from the school to the rest of the UK, as more and more people are hearing about the story.

Lots of you have been thinking and talking about gender issues this week. In last week’s issue of First News we asked you: Should kids’ clothes be gender neutral?

Hundreds of you voted and commented on this poll, with 68% of you voting YES. Head to first.news/polls to read some of the interesting comments.

BOY’S FIGHT TO END GUN VIOLENCE

AN American boy, who First News Live! filmed campaigning against guns in the US, brought his message to Britain this week.

Christopher, ten, started his campaign after his brother was shot dead in New York. He misses his brother every day but, in his words, “has turned his pain into action”.

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SPOTTING FAKE NEWS

DO you know what ‘fake news’ is and can you tell when you are reading it?

First News has joined forces with the National Literacy Trust (NLT) for an inquiry into fake news and how you are taught about it.

Fake news means a news story that looks real, but has been made up, perhaps as a joke, to encourage people to click on a web page, to advertise something or to try to influence certain things, such as election results.

With so much information available on the internet, which can be shared quickly on social media, it can be difficult to tell whether a story is real or fake.

A recent report by the NLT found that young people need to be taught the skills to identify fake news. For example, learning the difference between fact and opinion, and understanding how authors use language to influence people.

As part of the inquiry, the NLT would like to find out how much you know about fake news and what support your teachers might need to teach the subject. There are surveys for primary and secondary school pupils and their teachers at www.literacytrust.org.uk/fakenews.

The surveys are open until 22 October, so be sure to make your voice heard.

POLLUTED PLAYGROUNDS

THOUSANDS of schoolchildren are playing in polluted playgrounds, shows new research.

More than 950 schools in the UK are near roads that have illegal levels of air pollution.

This is bad for the health of pupils, because pollution can cause breathing problems like asthma, and affect the body’s development.

Now, a campaign has been launched to protect children from dirty air. The environmental law charity, ClientEarth, wants to create clean-air zones around schools and encourage more walking and cycling. They also want the Government to do more to help.

As part of the campaign, billboard adverts will be put up in some of the most polluted towns and cities, such as Birmingham, London and Manchester. These will highlight the number of schools near polluted roads in these areas.
5. **THE WEEK'S NEWS IN PICTURES**

**LOFOTEN ISLANDS, NORWAY:** The northern lights (properly known as the aurora borealis) light up the night sky. Pretty!

**NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND:** The Skybolt 2 research rocket during its successful launch. Standing at over 8m tall, the reusable British-made rocket is the UK’s biggest ever rocket and will pave the way for manned tests of Starchaser’s planned rocket, which could be used to send tourists to space.

**MARSEILLE, FRANCE:** French slackliner (walking or balancing along a suspended rope) Antony Newton crosses a 250m-long line that was suspended 50m above the harbour.

**CALIFORNIA, USA:** Elon Musk has shared a photo of the new spacesuit designed by his SpaceX company. The suits have been created to protect astronauts while they’re in the capsule and when moving over to other vehicles (like the International Space Station) under pressurised conditions, but they’re not designed to survive the vacuum of space.

**CALIFORNIA, USA:** French artist JR (second left) poses for a group photo near his giant toddler artwork on the US-Mexico border.

**LUDWIGSBURG, GERMANY:** Carved pumpkins designed by US artist Ray Villafane for a pumpkin exhibition.

**MARSEILLE, FRANCE:** Carved pumpkins designed by US artist Ray Villafane for a pumpkin exhibition.

**LOFOTEN ISLANDS, NORWAY:** The northern lights (properly known as the aurora borealis) light up the night sky. Pretty!
**UK**

**Butterfly boost**
Warm conditions in spring enabled many species of butterflies to emerge and breed early, meaning that the UK could be about to experience a bumper crop of the insects this autumn. Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation wants people to keep spotting the insects over autumn and early winter by taking part in the Garden Butterfly Survey to help find out just how late in the year butterflies can still be seen regularly.

**Back-to-school worries**
A survey commissioned by the Be Real Campaign found that more than one in four secondary-age pupils said the way they look is one of the biggest worries about going back to school. This concern can prevent pupils from taking part in PE lessons or even raising their hand in class.

**Goodbye to breakfast clubs?**
Teachers fear that thousands of breakfast clubs across the UK could close over the next three years, because of cuts to the education budget. A poll commissioned by Kellogg’s found that nearly 7,000 clubs could be lost. Breakfast clubs are important to families who can’t afford to give their children a proper breakfast at home.

**SCOTLAND**

**Two-wheel tributes**
Golden bikes and scooters are popping up across Aberdeen and Stonehaven, to help raise awareness during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Each bike or scooter is marked with the name of a young victim of cancer, and it’s hoped that these personal stories will hit home.

**LEWES**

**No more school skirts**
A secondary school in East Sussex has introduced a ‘gender neutral’ uniform, meaning that girls starting the school have to wear trousers. Priory School says it’s because of concerns that some girls wear skirts that are too short, and to avoid problems due to gender identity issues.

**WARMINSTER**

**Balloon bonanza**
Longleat is set to stage what is hoped to be the UK’s largest balloon festival. From 15-17 September, the annual Sky Safari will take place, filling the skies with 130 balloons. Longleat’s own lion-shaped hot-air balloon, Simbaloo, will be taking off alongside penguins Puddles and Splash, who will also be accompanied by a cute new penguin chick balloon at the event.

**LONDON**

**Time for takeoff**
From 22 September to 29 October, the Emirates Air Line cable car in east London is getting a Thunderbirds makeover. As part of celebrations for Thunderbirds Day on 30 September, ITV Studios Global Entertainment and TFL are partnering on the Thunderbirds Are Go takeover, which will see visitors travel through the Tracy Island themed cable car terminal featuring large models of Thunderbird 1 and Thunderbird 2, and take off in one of the themed cabins to the iconic 5-4-3-2-1 countdown.

**London**

**Pooh on show**
This December, original drawings of Winnie-the-Pooh will go on display at the V&A Museum for the first time in nearly 40 years! It’s part of the UK’s largest ever exhibition on Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends from Hundred Acre Wood.
CAN you imagine having no water to drink at school? And what would you do if your school had no toilets; where would you go?

This is sadly the reality for millions of children across the globe who are not getting the education they deserve, as around one in three schools have no clean water or toilets.

Without water to drink during the day, it’s difficult to concentrate in class. Drinking dirty water causes sickness such as diarrhoea, which leads to missed school days and can even be deadly. In fact, 800 children die every day from diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.

Having nowhere to go to the toilet means children either have to leave class and go home when they need it; find somewhere outside to relieve themselves; or hold it in all day. As girls get older, the lack of toilets becomes an even bigger problem. Girls often skip school during their period, or drop out altogether.

Meanwhile, one in ten children have no clean water at home, and girls in particular spend hours walking to collect water, leaving little time for education. Around 263 million children do not go to school at all; this is equivalent to a third of the population of Europe.

Meet Zakir
Zakir is ten and his school in Pakistan has no water or toilets. The children go outside to find a place to go to the toilet, wasting time when they could be studying or playing.

He said: “We collect water from the canal, and when we need the toilet, we go to the jungle. It takes 15 minutes to walk there. Our clothes and shoes get dirty, so we sometimes have to go home to change. It’s not right; we should have proper toilets in our school.”

WaterAid will soon be working in Zakir’s community to help them build water and toilet facilities.

Transforming Mary’s school
Mary is 15 and WaterAid recently fitted taps and toilets in her school in Zambia. As a result, the students’ attendance and performance have improved.

She said: “We used to go to the bush to answer the call of nature before the latrines were built. It felt unsafe and there was no privacy. Girls used to stay away from school during their period but with the new facilities we are now able to stay in school. I like learning because it’s a way to my future success.”

How is WaterAid helping?
WaterAid wants clean water and decent toilets to be normal for all children by 2030. The charity works in schools and communities to help them access these simple but important facilities, which are vital for a healthy and successful life. They also teach people about good hygiene and the importance of handwashing with soap.

How can you make a difference?
Do you and your classmates want to help get taps and toilets to children around the world? Then why not become a Water Warrior and raise money for WaterAid by holding a non-uniform day? There is also a free resource pack full of fun craft activities to transform the whole school into Water Warriors. Your teachers can sign up for a pack at www.wateraid.org/uk/water-warriors.
Peace day
Did you know it’s the International Day Of Peace on 21 September? The day was founded back in 1981 by the United Nations and aims to create peace across the globe, despite people’s differences. Amnesty International has teamed up with Frances Lincoln Children’s Books to create a special book called Imagine to mark the day.

MEXICO
Deadly earthquake
An earthquake described as the country’s strongest in a century has struck off the southern coast of Mexico. The president of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, said the quake had a magnitude of 8.1. It started at 23.50 local time on Thursday 7 September in the Pacific, about 54 miles southwest of Pijijiapan, but could be felt hundreds of miles away in Mexico City. At least 65 people were killed.

ITALY
Heavy rainstorms
At least six people were killed after heavy rainstorms hit the city of Livorno in Tuscany, causing severe flooding. Mayor Filippo Nogarin said “a crazy amount of rain” had fallen. Rome, which has recently seen three months of drought, was also hit by heavy rain, forcing some underground stations to close.

MYANMAR
Fortune teller dies
A famous Burmese fortune teller, known as ET, has died aged 58. Swe Swe Win predicted the fortunes of some of Southeast Asia’s most powerful people, including prime ministers. Fortune telling is still a very trusted and respected skill in Myanmar.

JAPAN
Super train
How cool would it be to jump on a train in London and end up in Tokyo? Well, Russia and Japan are planning to extend the Trans-Siberian Railway, which currently stops at Vladivostok, all the way to Tokyo. If the plans go ahead, you could travel the 8,400 miles (13,500km) from London to Tokyo by train!

AUSTRALIA
Goodbye to guns
Nearly 26,000 guns have been handed in as part of Australia’s gun amnesty. It is illegal to own an unregistered gun in Australia, so the amnesty was set up to help fight a growing terrorism threat and the flow of weapons into the country. The amnesty runs until 30 September. If Australians have guns outside of the amnesty, they could be fined.

IRAN
Female football ban
Iranian women were not allowed to go into Tehran’s Azadi Stadium to watch their national football team’s World Cup qualifier, despite having tickets. Women are banned from attending men’s football matches in Iran and the country’s football federation said the tickets were sold by mistake. However, Syrian women were allowed in to the match after showing passports.

Name: Firas
Age: 17
Lives: Syria

FIRAS lives in Aleppo, a city in Syria that has seen a lot of intense fighting.

The conflict in Syria is now in its seventh year. Firas lost both of his legs during an attack in 2015. “I was helping my father in the shop when a mortar landed, killing my father, and leaving me severely injured,” he says. After a referral from UNICEF to a local organisation, Firas underwent surgery at a health centre and is due to receive prosthetic legs within a month.

“Once I receive my prosthesis, I will be able to walk again,” says Firas. UNICEF is working with partners to provide assistance to families in Syria, including those with children with disabilities. Find out more at unicef.uk.
WIN a Kid Normal event with Greg James and Chris Smith for your school!

In the heroic and hilarious new book Kid Normal, Murph Cooper ends up at a school for kids with superpowers by mistake. His fellow students and teachers have amazing abilities like controlling the weather, or flying, or conjuring tiny horses from thin air! You could be in with the chance of turning YOUR school into a Super School for the day by winning a visit from Greg James and Chris Smith – radio personalities and authors of Kid Normal! You’ll also get a bag of Kid Normal goodies!

To enter, we want you to invent your school’s very own superhero!

The competition

If your school had its very own resident superhero, who would it be? To enter, draw your superhero creation (and add labels if you like)!

- What would their name be?
- What would their outfit look like?
- What superpowers would they have?
- Do they have a motto?

Try to think about all of the things that make your school and local area special, and use this as inspiration for your superhero. Individual and class entries will be accepted.

Email your answer to kidnormal@bloomsbury.com with ‘Kid Normal School Superhero Competition’ in the subject line, or post to: Kid Normal School Superhero Competition, Children’s Marketing Department, Bloomsbury Publishing, 50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP.

Don’t forget to include your name, age, school name and school address.

Deadline for entries is 13 October 2017. Good luck!

Terms and conditions here: bit.ly/KidNormalFirstNewsSchoolSuperheroComp

About the book

When Murph Cooper rocks up to his new school, he can’t help but feel out of his depth. His mum has enrolled him at a school for kids with superpowers by mistake. And unlike his fellow students, Murph has no special abilities whatsoever. But just because you don’t have superpowers, it doesn’t mean you can’t save the day. Let’s hope Murph realises that, and quick – because not far away is a great big bad guy who is half man and half wasp, and his mind is abuzz with evil plans...

Greg James and Chris Smith

Greg and Chris are radio presenters, friends and now authors, too! They love nothing more than making people laugh – and their first book will certainly do that! First News interviewed the guys, who told us: “Some of the teachers in the book are named after our actual teachers. Neither of us had a head teacher called Mr Souperman, though!” Check out our video at first.news/kidnormal.
Supersonic train

ENGINEERS are working on a new high-speed train that could reach top speeds of 4,000km/h (2,485mph) – that’s three times the speed of sound!

The so-called ‘flying train’ is actually a pod that takes passengers between cities through a giant vacuum tube. It would be ten times faster than the world’s fastest bullet train, which is also in China and can reach a top speed of 400km/h (250mph).

We are still a long way off seeing these supersonic pods in action, though. The first step for the China Aerospace Science And Industry Corporation (CASIC) is to get the train to speeds of 1,000km/h (620mph).

If it all goes according to plan, the train would be about five times faster than commercial jet planes.
A charming and uplifting twist on The Wizard of Oz told by an unforgettable character: Dorothy’s pet dog, Toto

www.michaelmorpurgo.com
**GIANT SHELLEBRATIONS**

THERE have been some new arrivals at ZSL London Zoo this week: four young Galápagos tortoises.

The animals belong to the biggest tortoise species on Earth, although it’ll be many years before they reach their full size. Galápagos tortoises can live to be an amazing 200 years old. At the moment, the three-year-olds weigh just 2kg each, although eventually they’ll top the scales at a whopping 400kg each!

They’ve settled in to their new home in the Attenborough Komodo Dragon House and are busy exploring at a speedy 0.3mph!

Keepers have named them Isabela, Santiago, Cruz and Cristobal, after four of the Galápagos islands.

Check out some very cool footage of the tortoises enjoying their lunch, by heading to our website at first.news/tortoises.

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**Dinky ducks**

A PAIR of critically endangered Baer’s pochards have hatched at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo.

The ducklings are the first of the species to hatch at the zoo and keepers are thrilled because Baer’s pochards are so rare. The new arrivals are part of an international breeding programme to help safeguard the future of the species.

Jo Elliott, animal collections manager at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, said: “The new arrivals have been well looked after by both parents for the last few weeks and have recently been learning to dive and forage on their own. The species is well known for its diving abilities and the ducklings are already picking up this skill.”

Baer’s pochards can dive to around two metres and spend 40 seconds at a time under water.

---

**Super sneezes**

RESEARCHERS have claimed that African wild dogs use sneezes to vote on pack (group) decisions.

The study by teams from Swansea, Australia and America found that after the dogs made camp, they used sneezes to decide when they should go and hunt. Scientists found that the more sneezes there were, the sooner the pack would leave to hunt.

It was previously thought that the strange sneezing noises the dogs make was just a way to clear their airways.

African wild dogs are among the world’s most endangered species. They live in packs of 10-40 and can sprint at speeds of 70km/h (43mph).
RESEARCHERS have claimed that African wild dogs use sneezes to vote on pack decisions. The study by teams from Swansea, Australia and America found that after the dogs made 10-40 sneezes, they used sneezes to decide when they should go and hunt. Scientsts found that the African wild dogs are among the world's most endangered species. They live in packs of 10-40 and can sprint at speeds of 70km/h (43mph). To clear their airways, they used sneezes to decide when to hunt. Scientists found that the dogs made 10-40 sneezes after eating. After the dogs made 10-40 sneezes, they used sneezes to decide when to hunt.

ANIMAL NEWS

Zoo this week: four young Galápagos tortoises. Keepers have named them Cristobal, after four of the Galápagos islands. They've settled in to their new home in the Attensonborough Dragon House and are busy exploring. The animals belong to the biggest tortoise species on Earth, weighing up to 400kg each! Although eventually they'll top the scales at a whopping 400kg, the new arrivals are only 2kg each. They're part of an international breeding programme to help safeguard the future of the species.

ROYAL Mail has revealed a new stamp issue featuring some of the most iconic and much-loved British toys from the last 100 years. Evoking feelings of nostalgia across generations, the toys featured are: the Merrythought bear; Sindy doll; Spirograph; Stickle Bricks; W Britain toy figures; Space Hopper; Fuzzy-Felt; Meccano; Action Man and Hornby Dublo trains.

Inspired by fairy stories and traditional tales, the Festival of Light brings works to life with giant and awe-inspiring illuminated lantern displays! You can improvise and act out parts from the magical stories, comparing characters, settings and themes. You might even be inspired to write your own fairy tales or create art pieces based on fairy tales.

Which is the correct well-known game title?

a) Trivial Ladders  
b) Trivial Pursuit  
c) Trivial Chess

The heyday of the British toy industry remains a magical era, one that shaped childhoods across the generations. And with many of the best-loved toys from the past still with us, or perhaps relaunched after temporary absences, you can still have fun with some of the world's most iconic toys. 15 lucky winners will each win a Classic Toys Special Stamps set. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is a famous gaming duo?

a) Mario and Luigi  
b) Mary and Luigi  
c) Mike and Luigi

Laser X is the ultimate high-tech game of tag. It creates a real laser arena at home and can be played inside or out, day or night!

Gameplay allows unlimited players. As you are blasted, your receiver vest will gradually change colour; get hit ten times and you’re out! You get voice coach guidance, full colour lighting effects, stereo sound and music, and it works up to 60 metres away with pinpoint accuracy. Laser X really is the complete gaming experience.

We have four Laser X two-player packs up for grabs! To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is a famous gaming duo?

a) Mario and Luigi  
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c) Mike and Luigi

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Enjoy the magic of storytelling at Longleat

ONCE upon a time, in a land surrounded by wonder, where lions roar, Christmas trees sing and stories come to life, there was a Festival of Light.

Inspired by fairy stories and traditional tales, the Festival of Light brings works to life with giant and awe-inspiring illuminated lantern displays!

You and your classmates can dance with The Nutcracker’s Sugar Plum Fairy, marvel at the dizzying heights of Rapunzel’s tower, hide from the Snow Queen, make friends with the Ugly Duckling, meet the charming Frog Prince, and lose yourself in Thumbelina’s toadstool valley.

You can improvise and act out parts from the magical stories, comparing characters, settings and themes. You might even be inspired to write your own fairy tales or create art pieces based on fairy tales.

The Festival of Light runs on selected dates from 10 Nov 2017 – 2 Jan 2018.

Ask your teacher to visit www.longleat.co.uk/education or email education@longleat.co.uk. Resources are also available.
**THIS WEEK**

1. **School Of Rock – The Musical** will host this year’s BBC Radio 2’s BBC Children In Need Gala at the New London Theatre on 6 November. The gala will see the station’s presenters, VIPs and members of the public rock out with the cast to raise money for charity.

2. Frozen fans are in for a festive treat this November, as Disney will release a brand-new Frozen mini-film called Olaf’s Frozen Adventure. The special mini-film will be shown for one weekend only (25 and 26 November) at cinemas showing Frozen. Check out the trailer at first.news/olaf.

3. Sam Smith has released his first single in two years, called Too Good At Goodbyes. The 25-year-old’s last single, Writing’s On The Wall, won Best Original Song at the 2016 Oscars.

4. The first trailer for Aardman Studios’ Early Man, starring Eddie Redmayne, has been revealed. Check it out at first.news/earlyman.

5. If you think you could be the next Pixie Lott or Danny Jones, then this is your chance to enter the next series of The Voice Kids, as applications are now open. You have until 15 October to apply at itv.com/thevoicekidsuk.

**PIC OF THE WEEK**

**SAY hello to the new Matildas!**

Three new actresses have been cast in the role of Matilda in the West End production of Matilda The Musical. Lily-Mae Evans, Kitty Peterkin and Savannah Read join Emma Moore in the role of Matilda. They start this week. Break a leg, girls! Check out a video of the new Matildas learning some ballroom dancing at first.news/matilda.

**CAST GOSS!**

Rhianna has a black belt in taekwondo!

7. Auditioning is a big part of stage school. Lucia told us: “I always get butterflies so bad. I think it’s a good thing, though. Sometimes if you don’t get that you get a bit comfortable. It gives you adrenaline.” Pupils audition for all sorts of things, including TV, films and adverts.
WE caught up with YouTube’s craziest inventor and author of This Book Is Not Safe!, Colin Furze!

- For our readers who might not have heard of you before, what’s your channel about?
  For me, it’s more about I make YouTube videos, but I suppose more importantly I make crazy inventions and ideas into reality! You name it, I have a crack at it.

- How long have you been inventing?
  I always liked fire and things as a kid, LEGO and Meccano. I was fascinated by fairground rides, too; seeing them put together, off the back of a lorry. I remember trying to make one out of Meccano, with bits of wood and toilet rolls!

- Since then you’ve made some truly epic things!
  What’s been your favourite project?
  I think the magnet shoes! They were really cheap to make, and nobody had done anything like it before. But each one has its own story behind it. It’s really tricky to pick a favourite!

- And I’m sure First News readers would love to know, which was the most dangerous?
  The jet bike or the 360 swing, probably. The jet bike wasn’t very stable, and if you fell off you’d fall into a massive hot jet-engine. I’ve burnt myself on a jet-engine before. I won’t be doing that again…

- Have you had ideas for inventions that you haven’t been able to do?
  Not really. It’s all just stuff I haven’t got around to doing yet! Like the hover bike. That was always one I wanted to do and didn’t. And although when I did, it could have been a bit better, I think for one guy in a shed I did pretty well!

- You used to be a plumber, so how does being a YouTube mad scientist compare?
  You get people looking at you a bit funny sometimes, but it’s more like: “Are they looking at me because they recognise me from the internet,” instead of: “Are they looking at me because I’ve got a bit of toilet paper on my shoe?!”

- Do you still use any of your inventions? Like doing the hoovering with your vacuum shoes?
  The vacuum shoes work, but they’re not exactly easier to use than a normal hoover! Something will go wrong with them. I am in the bunker every day, and the doorbell gets a lot of usage.

- What inspired you to write the book?
  I’ve had all sorts of people ask me: “How do I start doing things like this?” and this book is my answer. Basically me answering 1,000 emails at once. The book is filled with projects, which start off easy – basically screwing in nuts and bolts. But you only need to know a few basic things to make something quite cool.

This Book Isn’t Safe! by Colin Furze is published by Puffin, priced £14.99.

CAST GOSS!

3 Jordi and Josh both starred in the first series, but were a little on the naughty side. Now they’re back to redeem themselves! Jordi revealed: “In the last series, I didn’t portray myself in the best light. This year, the music is the main focus for me.” But he’ll still be a little bit bad!

Josh’s top tip for those who want to go into showbusiness literally never ever give up. If you want something enough, work hard and it will happen.

This Book Isn’t Safe! isn’t safe!

CAST GOSS!

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I THOUGHT I WAS A DOG!

BROADCASTER, journalist, presenter and author Clare Balding talks to First News about her new children’s book, life as a schoolgirl (and a “dog”), London 2012 and the one thing she really sucks at (let’s just say you won’t be seeing her on The X Factor any time soon).

“Don’t be afraid to be different”

“Where did your love of animals come from?”

I grew up surrounded by animals and I just think it’s in me – it makes perfect sense to me. If people don’t like animals at all, I’m a bit suspicious of them. Can I say that? I think it’s important, as human beings, for us to live and work with animals. They’re very important to us and we have a duty to treat them well.

“London 2012 – nothing will ever top that!”

“You’ve worked at six Olympic Games as well as the Winter Olympics, Paralympics, Commonwealth Games, the Grand National, Royal Ascot, Wimbledon and the Ryder Cup – is it basically impossible to pick a career highlight at this point?”

No, I can pick it really easily: London 2012, the Olympics and Paralympics. Nothing will ever top that. I loved it. I wasn’t one of the main presenters, but I did have a great role; I did the swimming and then went off to Greenwich to do the dressage and the show jumping. I just threw myself into it and I adored it. I love how everyone was talking about it, how everyone was positive and I think it did a lot for us as a nation. I think it helped restore our confidence in ourselves to organise such a massive event and do it well.

“I THOUGHT I WAS A DOG!”

“Hi Clare, tell us about your new book, The Racehorse Who Disappeared.”

The book explores themes that I’m really interested in: our connection with animals – how we communicate with them, how we bring out the best in them, how we calm them if they’re nervous – and how we work with other people as part of a team. Charlie, who’s my heroine, she’s got two older brothers who really annoy her, but she needs their help. She needs them on her side, so how do you make that work? This one’s a bit of a thriller, actually.

“Do you love about writing children’s books?”

I enjoy children as an audience. I get a lot of letters written to me and most of them are from children. They’ll often have suggestions of what I should do next with characters. They’ll also tell me stories that they’re writing and I love that; the idea that once they’ve finished reading a book, they’ll want to write their own story. They’re really critical [giggles]. It’s a real challenge to keep them onside!

“Is it true you thought you were a dog when you were younger?!”

Yes. When I was younger, in my household the dogs were much higher up the pecking order than children. So when you’re a child and you see that the dogs get love and attention, your logical conclusion would be that life would be better if I was a dog!

“Is there anything you’re really bad at?”

I’m bad at singing. Terrible singer. Terrible.

Clare’s new book, The Racehorse Who Disappeared, is out on Thursday 21 September.
SUPER HEROES never act alone; they always need a trusty friend or two to join them in their quests. To celebrate great teamwork and friendship, we’re on the hunt for an amazing club or team!

**THE COMPETITION**

Are you part of a super club or team, such as Brownies, Scouts, swimming, drama or football? Maybe you’re part of a school team? We want you to design a poster celebrating your club or team’s achievements from the past 12 months, and you could win amazing Justice League film goodies! Your poster should be bright and colourful, with pictures and writing detailing your cool achievements. It should feature the themes of friendship and togetherness.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Once you’ve completed your poster, send it to First News: Justice League, 1 Cotswold Link, London Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0JU or email wbc@nortonpr.com.

The closing date is 13 October 2017.

Please include your name, age and contact details.

**THE PRIZE**

The lucky winner will receive:

- £500 worth of vouchers to put towards equipment for your club or team
- The chance to feature on the Your News page in First News
- £195 worth of Justice League goodies!

The Justice League prize bundle includes: Mattel: Justice League Mega Cannon Batmobile Vehicle, Justice League 6” Deluxe Figures, Justice League 6” Basic Figures, Rubie’s: Justice League Movie Costumes (choice of one character from the following: 640809 Deluxe Batman, 640813 Deluxe Superman, 640815 Deluxe Wonder Woman. Size to be advised by winner). Jakks: Wave 1 Big Figs, JL Big Fig Cyborg, JL Big Fig Flash, JL Big Fig Batman, JL Big Fig Superman. GB Posters: Justice League Badge Mug, Justice League Team Maxi Poster, Justice League Characters Maxi Poster.

www.jointheleague.com
18. SPECIAL REPORT

HURRICANES

WHAT ARE THEY?

This satellite picture shows Hurricane Irma heading towards Cuba (centre) and Florida (top)

Although Hurricane Irma weakened as it approached Florida, it was still strong enough to tip over trucks

DID YOU KNOW?

Hurricanes get their characteristic spiral shape because of the way the Earth spins. Hurricanes usually move away from the equator, so in the northern hemisphere this makes them spin anti-clockwise, and clockwise in the southern hemisphere.

IN recent weeks, hurricanes have devastated the Caribbean and Florida, causing billions of pounds’ worth of damage, killing dozens of people and making thousands homeless. But what are hurricanes and how do they form?

LOTS OF NAMES

It can be confusing talking about deadly weather events like this because there are so many names. You might have heard reports of cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes, but what’s the difference? Nothing really, apart from where on Earth they form. Hurricanes are what they’re called in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific, but they’re known as typhoons in the Northwest Pacific, and cyclones in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. To make it easy, we’ll call them all hurricanes in this report.

All of these things start with what meteorologists (weather scientists) confusingly call a cyclone, which is the technical name for a system of clouds and thunderstorms that spins around an area of low air pressure. However, only tropical cyclones, which form over tropical waters and have warm air at their centre, go on to become hurricanes. The shaded area of the map above shows that the tropics stretch out to around 23° either side of the equator, although tropical cyclones don’t usually form in the narrow band of 8° above or below the equator. We don’t get hurricanes in the UK because the seas are too cold. Plus the patterns of airflow in the upper atmosphere prevent the conditions becoming ‘right’ and allowing hurricanes to form.

HOW DO THEY FORM?

Tropical cyclones usually form in the summer and early autumn in each hemisphere (the northern and southern halves of the globe, whose seasons start at opposite times of the year). They need high humidity (moist air), light winds and sea temperatures above 27°C before they can form.

The area of low pressure at the centre of the cyclone causes warm, moist air to rise up. As it does, the water in the air condenses, releasing heat energy. This heat warms the air even more, making the pressure at the top of the cyclone lower. This causes even more warm, moist air to be sucked up from the surface. It then becomes a chain reaction where the cyclone is fuelling itself and getting stronger.

DID YOU KNOW?

ONCE the winds at the centre of a tropical cyclone reach 74mph (119km/h), it is officially classed as a hurricane. The Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale is used to classify them, from one to five. Five is the strongest, with winds faster than 157mph (252km/h).
WHAT is the Stone Age and why is it such an important part of history? Cheddar Gorge and Caves is here to help you find out!

From this September, the attraction’s Stone Age demonstrator can visit your school! They will arrive ‘in costume’, bringing with them their tools and equipment to set up camp.

During a two-hour session you can discover how early man would have lived and survived, or for a whole day, pupils can also have a go at making their own items. You’ll get:

- A live demonstration of flint knapping
- A demonstration of how fire would have been made
- The opportunity to dress in prehistoric-style clothing

To find out more, ask your teacher to visit www.cheddargorge.co.uk/education or email education@cheddargorge.co.uk
PEOPLE are being transported back in time, thanks to the reopening of a 100-year-old Post Office railway!

The special railway, otherwise known as Mail Rail, was built in 1927. It ran underground between Paddington and Whitechapel in London, carrying millions of letters every day.

In 2003, the Mail Rail was stopped because it was becoming too expensive to run. But, this month, it’s reopened as a tourist attraction.

Visitors can now ride the Mail Rail for themselves, passing below Royal Mail’s Mount Pleasant sorting office and through the old tunnels and station platforms. First News particularly liked testing our skills at sorting post, too!

Find out more at www.postalmuseum.org.

ALL aboard!

GORILLAS will be running through the streets of London this weekend!

Hundreds of people dressed as gorillas will run, jog or walk 8km though the capital for this year’s Great Gorilla Run.

The fun run aims to raise money for gorilla conservation projects in central Africa.

LEGO house

A FULL-SCALE LEGO playhouse is set to open in Billund, Denmark.

LEG0 House – Home Of The Brick will feature a LEGO square, LEGO Store and three restaurants. There will also be experience zones, a bricketacular Masterpiece Gallery where fans can show off their LEGO creations, and a History Collection where you can witness the development of the LEGO company.

The huge project has been created by the architecture firm BIG, led by architect Bjarke Ingels. It’s set to open on 28 September 2017.

HA!

Thanks to First News reader, Sriram.
Share your jokes with us at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk

Q: Why did the boy throw butter out of the window?
A: Because he wanted to see a butterfly!

Q: Why did the child take a ladder to school?
A: Because he wanted to go to high school!

Ha!

Paper Boy

Written and Illustrated by Paul Palmer

FOR INTERNAL SCHOOL USE ONLY. For use on projectors and IWBs. Not to be uploaded to school websites.
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ALL aboard!

wow!

FUN PIC OF THE WEEK!

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HA!

record of the week

TIDDLYWINKS – FARTHEST DISTANCE TRAVELLED IN 24 HOURS
THE greatest distance travelled while playing tiddlywinks in 24 hours is 8.01km (4.98 miles), and was achieved by Andre Ortolf and Christian Bohnenschuh, in the Franz-von-Assisi School in Augsburg, Germany, on 30 July 2014.

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

HOMEBASE Advertisement feature

CREATE YOUR OWN FUN LIGHTING

ADD fun lighting to a room for playing, reading and doing homework.

YOUR HANDY ITEM CHECKLIST:
- LED 200 Copper Wire Battery String Lights
- Home of Colour Lapis Blue – Matt Emulsion Paint
- Fine Decor Blast Off Stickers
WIN! TELESTRATIONS GAME

CAN you complete our sudoku and fill in the numbers one to nine? Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a Telestrations game. Telestrations from John Adams is the fast-paced game of sketching and guessing, with hilarious results! Draw what you see, then guess what you saw. All players simultaneously sketch, pass, guess and laugh to reveal hilarious and unpredictable outcomes from each player’s original word! With over 1,100 words to choose from, you’ll have hours of fun! www.johnadams.co.uk

WIN! MINECRAFT BOOKS

CAN you complete our weekly crossword? Send in your answers and four lucky winners will each win an official Minecraft Guide from Egmont. For insider info and tips from the experts at Mojang, these definitive guides to Minecraft are essential for any fan!

ACROSS
1 School subject (11)
6 Swallow food or drink quickly (4)
8 Retain possession of (4)
9 Premier League football club (7)
10 Throw forcefully (5)
11 A kettle gives this off when it boils (5)
13 Blamed or held responsible for (7)
15 You hear with these (4)
16 Vegetable that is a Welsh national emblem (4)
17 US musician (6,5)

DOWN
1 Very good or beautiful (11)
2 Soft bathroom mineral powder (4)
3 Green substance found on old bread (5)
4 A thought or plan (4)
5 Large shop (11)
7 No chips (anag) (7)
8 A small falcon (7)
12 Relating to the moon (5)
13 Military force (4)
14 ___ Moore: Hollywood actress (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?

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! 13½ INCREDIBLE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVERY BOOKS

CAN you spot the five changes we’ve made to this picture from Monster Trucks? Send in your answers and two lucky winners will win a copy of 13½ Incredible Things You Need To Know About Everything from DK. Discover the world as you’ve never seen it before with exploded images of everyday objects from cars and skeletons to pianos and chocolate! Each image has 13 mind-blowing facts, plus a little myth-buster that takes young readers on an incredible factual adventure.

WHAT ON EARTH?

ALL of these are domestic pets. Can you guess what they are?

A

B

C

D

E

F

WORDSEARCH

CAN you find the words below in our garden-themed wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

Grass
Flowers
Rake
Bench
Butterfly

Shed
Worm
Bumblebee
Tree
Plant pot

Shovel
Mud
Football
Slide
Fence

COMPETITIONS:

You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at ‘competition name’ (e.g. Holiday), First News, First Floor, 58 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AS. Please note: First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are open to those aged 17 and under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First News (UK) Ltd, Trinity Mirror and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS:

Spot the Difference: Dermot’s head is larger, words on chair are missing, cup has changed colour, Simon’s tooth is missing, watch is missing.

Word Wheel: frequency.
**SINGING AT THE PROMS**
by Lucy and Emily Hunter

RECENTLY, we had the amazing opportunity to perform in the BBC Proms as part of the Ten Pieces project with our choir, Finchley Children’s Music Group. The Ten Pieces project has the goal of getting young people interested in classical music.

We were singing the world premiere of No Place Like by Kerry Andrew, with seven other choirs. We first found out about it back in March and thought we were only doing some recordings for the BBC, but it turned out that we were also performing in front of thousands of people at the Royal Albert Hall.

We recorded the piece twice at Maida Vale Studios, where famous singers such as Adele, Ed Sheeran and The Beatles have recorded. Kerry Andrew asked children across the UK about their homes and how they made them feel, then put their answers into a piece that became No Place Like. It is not a normal piece, as it includes lots of body percussion, actions and even beatboxing!

When we were on stage it felt amazing because we got to do something we love in front of lots of people and because most kids don’t usually have the chance to do something like this. We performed in two Proms: one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

We’re so glad that we got to perform in the Proms and hopefully some of you might be able to in the future!

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**FOUNDLING MUSEUM FUN**
by Emily Cornish

WHEN I heard that I was going to the Foundling Museum in London, I was super excited!

The Foundling Hospital wasn’t a real hospital, but it was a place that looked after children who would otherwise have been abandoned on the streets. It was open from 1739 until 1954 and the children there were called foundlings.

As we walked in, we saw the original staircase from the boys’ wing of the hospital. We learned that the boys loved to slide down the banister!

It was sad to see the tokens that the parents gave to their babies before they were admitted to the Foundling Hospital. Tokens were things like coins or scraps of fabric, mostly with the child’s or parent’s name on. They were very important because if a parent ever wanted to reclaim their baby, they could describe the token, and then the hospital staff would know if they were really related.

Also, they had the actual uniform and one of the actual beds from the hospital. It was strange to think that, years ago, another child would have worn those clothes and slept in that bed!

My favourite part was the Hetty Feather exhibition. It was amazing because you could design your own duvet cover and pillow, do a special trail and even try on the costumes from the TV series!

I had a fantastic day at the Foundling Museum and I would definitely recommend it to everyone!

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**YOUNG CARER**
by Archie Machin

I STARTED to look after my mum when I was aged seven. She has a condition called fibromyalgia, as well as hearing and sight problems.

It means she forgets things and says the wrong words. I have to remind her to make sure the bath’s not running over and help her cook, to stop accidents happening.

I do more chores than my mates: changing beds, shopping, and hanging out washing. This means I don’t get to play out as much as I would like and I worry about mum.

Sometimes I get frustrated, feel angry or sad, but I’m proud of what I do for my mum. We heard about Spurgeons Children’s Charity a few years ago. They help me have fun by taking me to activities where I can relax, let off steam and talk to other young carers. They also make sure we are okay by phoning or popping in.

They help make life easier! 
*Spurgeons helps children like Archie. Visit www.spurgeons.org to find out more.*
LONELINESS can be really difficult to experience, and it’s something many children have to face. It can be caused by many different things, often out of our control, such as starting at a new school or feeling left out of a friendship group.

Loneliness comes in lots of different forms. Some people feel they aren’t loved or given much affection, while others have no-one they feel they can trust or turn to.

Disabled children and young carers can be particularly vulnerable to feeling lonely. Constant feelings of loneliness can damage your self-esteem and hold you back from making new friends or relationships. It can also affect how you get on at school or in clubs.

MP Jo Cox identified loneliness as a serious problem in her constituency and started a project to help tackle the problem. Jo was killed in 2016, so her colleagues took over the project and renamed it the Jo Cox Commission On Loneliness. The charity Action For Children is proud to be supporting the commission.

Lots of things are being done to try and tackle loneliness. Among them are junior mentoring schemes, where people from all ages and backgrounds offer to become volunteer mentors. This helps young people to learn new skills, build confidence and enjoy positive experiences they can take into school with them. In turn, this helps them to make friends and contribute to class discussions.

You can also help people who may be feeling lonely, by simply saying hello. One word can go a long way and maybe even lead to a lovely friendship.
FAMILY FUN

First News QUIZ

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

1. How many silver coins did a caretaker discover at a primary school in Northumberland?

2. When was Mail Rail built?

3. When is the International Day Of Peace?

4. Four Galápagos tortoises have been born at ZSL London. What have they been named?

5. How quickly did Patrick Ponce complete a 3x3 Rubik’s Cube to set a new world record?

6. According to researchers, how do African wild dogs vote on pack decisions?

7. The new plastic £10 note recently went into circulation. Who features on it?

8. What is the name of Sam Smith’s new single?

Words for life

TOM Percival is the illustrator of the striking Skulduggery Pleasant series by Derek Landy. His latest book, Perfectly Norman, is out now. Here Tom tells us what storybook character he would be:

“When I was a child I absolutely loved The Dark Is Rising by Susan Cooper. I really, really wanted to be Will Stanton waking up on that magical, mysterious snowy morning. So probably him, because then I would get to go on that adventure.”

To read Tom’s full interview, visit wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews.

For book recommendations, activities and games, go to wordsforlife.org.uk.

Book review

ROBIN STEVENS – The Guggenheim Mystery
Reviewed by Evelyn Atkinson

The Guggenheim Mystery is a sequel, but written by a different person, after the author of The London Eye Mystery died. This time Ted and Kat go on holiday to New York to visit their Aunt Gloria, who works for the Guggenheim Museum. When a painting is stolen from the museum, all the blame is put on Gloria! It is an incredible book with a lot of twists. Go on, read it! It’s really well written and gets five out of five from me!

BOOK NEWS

YOUR OWN GOLDEN TICKET

For the first time ever, Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory is opening its doors to you. Well, sort of. Roald Dahl’s literary estate has teamed up with Wonderbly to create a very special guidebook to Wonka’s World – featuring you! Every book will include a unique personalised Wonka bar, along with an Oompa-Loompa song inspired by your name. Sounds tasty to us!
GHOST CUBE BRAIN TEASER
AMAZON.CO.UK  £12.99
The Ghost Cube may appear simple, but you couldn’t be more wrong. This cube is a shape-shifter. Ghostly white with black slashes on all sides, this is one tricky puzzle. Once you start twisting, you’ll quickly see that the cube shape disappears, new shapes start to form, and it’s difficult to get back to where you started from.

IQ PUZZLER PRO
FUNLEARNING.CO.UK  £10.00
Put your mind to the test with this IQ Puzzler shape-sorting challenge set. Inside the pocket-sized box, you’ll find a booklet of 101 puzzles that vary in difficulty, challenging you to make all of the shapes fit into a perfect rectangle or stack into a pyramid.

GEAR BALL BRAIN TEASER PUZZLE
PREZZYBOX.COM  £14.99
By twisting this colourful ball, using both hands, the sides shift and form different patterns. The goal is to have each side in a solid colour. Sound easy? It’s not! This is a tough puzzle to solve, and will get logic fans’ brains turning as they try to figure out how to complete this clever puzzle.

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

9 wickets was the winning margin as England won the third and final Test against West Indies at Lord’s. The victory gave England a 2-1 series win. Bowler James Anderson (below) claimed the 500th wicket of his career and also took a career-best 7-42, while Tom Westley and Mark Stoneman notched up 84 runs between them.

38-year-old Bibiana Steinhaus (below) has become the German top football division’s first ever female referee. She took charge of Hertha Berlin’s 1-1 draw with Werder Bremen.

5 games is how long Frank de Boer lasted as Crystal Palace manager, before being sacked. The Dutchman became the first manager in Premier League history to not see his team score a single goal. Palace are also the first top-flight side in 93 years to lose their first four games without scoring.

4 Great Northern Runs in a row have been won by Mo Farah – the first time any athlete has achieved this. Farah won this year’s race in 1hr 6sec, while Mary Keitany of Kenya won the women’s race for the third time, in 1hr 5mins 59secs.

SUMMER OF SLOANE

SLOANE Stephens, ranked 957th in the world just seven weeks ago, has won the US Open after beating 15th seed Madison Keys in the final.

Both women were making their first appearance in a Grand Slam final. Stephens recently returned from 11 months out of tennis due to a serious injury. She wasn’t seeded (ranked as a top player) for the US Open because her world ranking was 83rd going into the competition.

But that didn’t faze the 24-year-old, who went on to beat Keys 6-3, 6-0. She became one of only five unseeded women to win a major title since 1968.

In the men’s competition, Rafael Nadal beat Kevin Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 to win his third US Open trophy and an incredible 16th Grand Slam title overall. Nadal is now just three Grand Slams behind Roger Federer, who has 19 titles – the record for a male player.

Brit Jamie Murray and Swiss star Martina Hingis won another mixed doubles title, after beating Michael Venus and Hao-Ching Chan 6-1, 4-6 (10-8).

FROOME DOES THE DOUBLE

CHRIS Froome has become the first British cyclist to win the Vuelta a España.

The Team Sky rider finished the famous Spanish race two minutes and 15 seconds ahead of Italian Vincenzo Nibali, with Russia’s Ilaur Zakarin in third.

The win was especially sweet for British star Froome, as he has finished second on three occasions in the past.

His victory was also historic. It comes less than two months after he won the Tour de France, making him only the third man ever to win the Tour de France and Vuelta in the same year.

After his stunning Vuelta win was sealed in Madrid, Froome said: “I’ve been fighting for this victory for six years. It’s amazing to stand on the top step this time.”

Froome has already said he wants to win a fifth Tour de France next year.