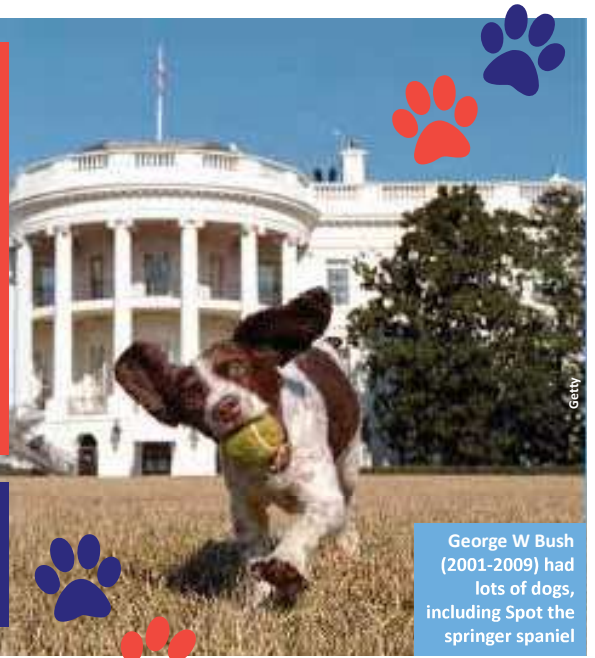




PRESIDENTIAL POOGHES



George W Bush (2001-2009) had lots of dogs, including Spot the springer spaniel

DONALD Trump (who was US president from 2017-2021) was the first president to not have a dog since William McKinley (1897-1901) and the first to not have any pets since Andrew Johnson (1865-1869). With new president Joe Biden, dogs are back in the White House, so let's look back at some of the past presidential pups...



dbideny/instagram

First Lady Jill Biden with current White House dogs Major (left) and Champ



Getty

Bill Clinton (1993-2001) gets a great big kiss from Buddy, his Labrador retriever



Getty

Barack Obama (2009-2017) poses with his family and their gorgeous fluffballs, Sunny (left) and Bo. Both pets are Portuguese water dogs



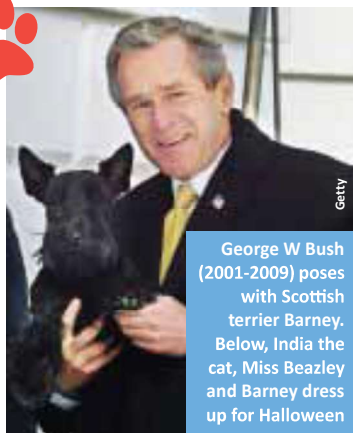
Getty

Gerald Ford (1974-1977) enjoys the company of his pet golden retriever, Liberty, in the Oval Office



Getty

Lyndon B Johnson (1963-1969) was often photographed walking his seven dogs. Here he is walking Him, a beagle, and Blanco, a collie



Getty

George W Bush (2001-2009) poses with Scottish terrier Barney. Below, India the cat, Miss Beazley and Barney dress up for Halloween



Getty

IT'S NOT JUST DOGS...



Getty

As well as pet dogs, Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) and First Lady Nancy had two cats, Cleo and Sara



Getty

The wife of Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929), First Lady Grace Coolidge, had a pet raccoon called Rebecca. Kids loved her!

PAVÉ PARTY!

JANUARY'S *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* update has landed, and it's bringing the party!

The update adds the Festivale celebration, which will take place in-game on 15 February. At the Festivale, you'll meet the party-loving peacock Dancer Pavé.

By catching feathers for the colourful peacock, you'll be treated to a special performance from Pavé.

Also coming to the game are some sweet Valentine's Day items, including chocolate hearts and heart-shaped bouquets!

Along with all that excitement, Nintendo have teased a special Mario-themed update coming in March! Wahoo!



SWITCH SUCCESS...

A FEW weeks ago, it was rumoured that the Nintendo Switch had been a sales success – and this week, Nintendo confirmed it.

The latest figures are in, and it's been revealed that 79.87m Nintendo Switches have been sold since its March 2017 launch, more than the total of 75.94m Nintendo 3DS consoles that were sold between 2011 and 2020!

The top-selling Switch game has been *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe*, which is now up to a whopping 33.41m copies sold.



...BUT MORE JOY-CON COMPLAINTS

SINCE the Switch was introduced, some of Nintendo's Joy-Con controllers have been troubled by 'Joy-Con drift', an issue where the controllers' sticks move on their own, often ruining gameplay.

After receiving more than 25,000 complaints from countries across Europe about Joy-Con drift, the European Consumer Organisation has asked the European Commission to investigate the issue, and has called for Nintendo to repair faulty Joy-Con for free. The European Commission has said that it is "considering potential action".

In 2019, over 5,000 gamers in the US united to take Nintendo to court over the issue, claiming that the controllers are "defective". The case is ongoing.

Nintendo has previously apologised for "any trouble caused" by Joy-Con drift, and encouraged those who are experiencing the issue to visit support.nintendo.co.uk.



SO LONG, SONIC!

VOICE actor Roger Craig Smith has announced he will no longer be voicing Sonic the Hedgehog, after ten years in the role.

After a decade voicing the blue blur in videogames and on the *Sonic Boom* TV show, Roger Craig Smith announced on Twitter that he was moving "onward to new zones!" He also sent "much love to the fans who've been so kind."

As *First News* went to press, there was no news on who would be stepping up to voice Sonic next, but our money is on Ben Schwartz, who played the world's fastest hedgehog in the *Sonic the Hedgehog* movie that came out last year.



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FELINE FUNDRAISING

by Joss Tyson

FAR from using the excuse of horrid weather and another lockdown to hibernate, I set myself the challenge of running every day in January to raise money for cats in need.

I was inspired to take on the feat to raise money for Cats Protection after spotting a neighbour's vegan cake sale that was fundraising for the feline charity, and having got our family cat, Margherita, from a local rescue centre.

As a member of a local running club, and with a love of training in the beautiful surroundings of my home town, I have set myself the task of getting out every day in January, as that's my birthday month. I initially had a sponsorship target of £50; I have already smashed that, and have so far had donations nearing £800 and still counting.

With schools now closed, we are juggling homeschooling and getting out for our permitted daily exercise.

Despite the freezing weather, and with snow on the ground, I have not been deterred. I'm not worried about the cold or wet weather, I just want to help cats! I run for my local running club, Ambleside AC, in all kinds of weather, so I am used to it.

Cats Protection Events Officer Gina Rogers said: "We want

to say a huge thank you to Joss for his absolute dedication to this challenge, for running through sub-zero temperatures and snow; the cats in our care will really benefit from all those miles."



Joss running in the snow

Jim Tyson



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



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.

BOOKS

YOUR READS!

THE BOY WHO SANG WITH DRAGONS ANDY SHEPHERD

reviewed by Isabella Irvin, aged eight



This is the fifth and final book in the Dragons series by Andy Shepherd. This exciting book also has some wonderful illustrations by Sara Ogilvie, who illustrated one of my favourite books, *Dogs Don't Do Ballet*.

The book is about Tomas and his friends, the Superhero Squad. Tomas has a secret... his grandad has a dragon-fruit tree in his garden that grows real dragons. He and his friends help to look after the dragons, but are faced with new challenges when they discover a hidden secret about the dragons.

They have to launch into action when they also discover that some mysterious people are trying to take dragon-fruit seedlings and experiment with them.

With their own dragons, Zing, Rosebud and Flicker, Tomas and the Superhero Squad hatch a plan to rescue the seedlings and save the future dragons.

I really enjoyed the pace of this book, which is a real page-turner. You need to have read the previous books in the series, as this book continues where the others left off.

It has inspired me to do lots of creative writing during lockdown and I especially like the idea that the most incredible, fantastical things can happen in the most ordinary places.

WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk.



National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library

OUR author of the week in the Virtual School Library is Konnie Huq!



Head to the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to listen to the audiobook of *Cookie And The Most Annoying Boy In The World* completely free! Konnie Huq recommends these books:

- *The Boy At The Back Of The Class* by Onjali Q. Raúf
- *Kay's Anatomy: A Complete (And Completely Disgusting) Guide To The Human Body* by Adam Kay, illustrated by Henry Paker
- *Superfudge* by Judy Blume

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WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

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FUNKOEUROPE.COM £9.99

The famous characters of Star Wars have been given a special Valentine's makeover. Now in pink and red, each lovable character is holding a heart-shaped box in their hands, plus they come in a special edition Pop! box.



BRICKHEADZ VALENTINE'S BEAR

LEGO.COM £9.99

This cute LEGO BrickHeadz Valentine's Bear is the perfect way to let someone know how much they're loved. Holding a large red heart, the adorable little bear sits on a picnic blanket together with his bee friend, a honey jar and flowers. Built and displayed on a baseplate, the Valentine's Bear is a gift that will last all year.



VALENTINE'S DAY

HEART SCRATCH ART MAGNETS

BAKERROSS.CO.UK £3.95

Create a stunning heart scratch magnet for someone special this Valentine's Day. Simply scratch a design onto the specially coated heart surface to reveal rainbow colours. Each heart comes with a scratch tool and self-adhesive magnet for you to create your own messages and designs.

*All prices correct at time of printing



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THE Tobii Robot Smartwatch combines all the interactive features of a smartwatch with a playful robot that's packed with personality.

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From learning to tell the time, playing augmented reality games to dancing and using the built-in pedometer, the Tobii Robot Smartwatch offers hours of fun! Plus, it has two cameras for taking selfies and videos, room for up to 3,000 photos or 30 minutes of video, and you can customise your photos with stickers too.

Six lucky winners will each win a Tobii Robot Smartwatch.

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



What does a pedometer measure?
 a) Steps b) Heart rate
 c) Pulse

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firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 21. The closing date is 18 February 2021.

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