

23. SPECIAL REPORT

♥ PAPERWORK PROBLEMS

Although Charlotte and Deborah don't want to move, other leaseholders do. However, they can't sell or rent their flats until the renovation work is done. The building then needs to be inspected and a certificate called an EWS1 is awarded if it's safe.

Unfortunately, EWS1 inspectors remain in short supply, which is creating a backlog. Some freeholders don't even think they have to apply for a certificate, creating further potential problems for leaseholders.

With leaseholders continuing to fear for their safety and facing huge renovation costs, plus long delays for building inspections, the scandal of combustible cladding is likely to continue for many years to come.

We contacted the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on several occasions to put forward the concerns of our interviewees, but we weren't given any answers to our questions.



A memorial to those who died in the Grenfell Tower fire. Campaigners hope that action will be taken before another avoidable tragedy occurs

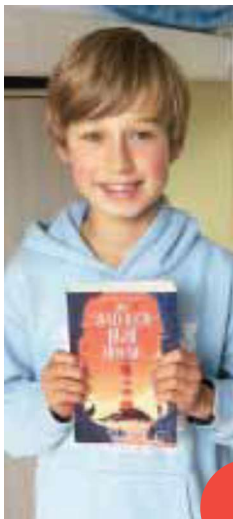
KEEP CALM AND KEEP SAFE

If you have any worries about anything you've read on this page, do talk to an adult about it, and remember these safety tips:

- Check your home has smoke detectors and that they are tested regularly
- If you see something that could be a fire risk, such as a box of matches that has been left out by mistake, always tell an adult
- Make a fire escape plan with everyone in your home, so that they know the best routes to leave the building. Organise a fire drill to practise the plan
- If a fire does break out, follow a safe route outside unless advised otherwise
- Agree on a safe place well away from the building, where everyone can meet
- Call the fire service and never return to a burning building for any reason

BOOKS

YOUR READS!



THE BAD LUCK LIGHTHOUSE NICKI THORNTON

The Bad Luck Lighthouse is based on a young kitchen boy who finds himself swept away into his second magical adventure.

Seth Seppi becomes stranded on a small cove by the glistening sea. He pretends to be the new kitchen boy at a nearby lighthouse, but as he gets himself settled in, multiple unexplained deaths occur! What unspeakable horrors await?

I would rate this mystery book five out of five stars and recommend it for ages 9-15.

I absolutely loved this book and was so attached to it that I couldn't put it down! I would thoroughly recommend you read it.

reviewed by
Daniel Salmon,
aged ten

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

SPEND time with Tracy Beaker and Jacqueline Wilson.



Our author of the week in the Virtual School Library is Jacqueline Wilson!

Schools might be closed again, but there's no need to miss out on reading. The Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and Oak Academy, the online classroom, provides free books and access to your favourite authors and illustrators.

Inside the library this week, there's an exclusive video with Jacqueline Wilson, and you can read the book about everyone's favourite rebel, *The Story of Tracy Beaker*, for free! There are also fun Tracy activities to make and do from home.

Jacqueline recommends these children's books:

- *Ballet Shoes* by Noel Streatfeild
- *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell
- *Do You Speak Chocolate?* by Cas Lester

Head to library.thenational.academy to find out more.

Words for Life

Virtual School Library

FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK

24. GAME ZONE

FirstNews ● Issue 760 ● 8 – 14 January 2021

LONG-LOST GAME RELEASED

A JAPANESE game for the original PlayStation has finally been finished, 23 years after work on it began!

Back in 1997, a small team of Japanese developers spent eight months working on a game called *Magic Castle*.

Although the game went down well with bosses at Sony, they asked the team to work on another project instead. But they said no and the game was never published. Eventually the team went their separate ways.

However, after more than 20 years, one of the original developers decided to finish the game, which can now be downloaded free.

In the game, you've got to make your way through 20 floors of enemies as one of four different characters. Along the way, you'll find new weapons and upgrades to help you beat bad guys as you descend!



BUGSNAX

BUGSNAX is a bizarre adventure that puts you in the shoes of a journalist investigating the story of an island filled with half-bug, half-snack creatures. Reviewed by Amelia, aged 11.

"In the world of *BugsNax*, the people are called Grumpuses and look sort of like puppets. You're a journalist Grampus on the hunt for Lizbert Megafig, an explorer who has invited you to check out the goings-on on a mysterious island.

When you get to the island, lots has already happened! The Grumpuses who arrived with Lizbert have left their homes and, to make things worse, Lizbert herself has gone missing!

The other Grumpuses, who are all very funny characters, are hungry. Luckily, there's lots of "food" around the island – the *BugsNax*! These creatures are all over the place and, using tools given to you by other Grumpuses, you can catch some of them.

Different *BugsNax* will require different tools. For example, to catch the French fry-like spider (called a Fryder), you'll need to attract it with ketchup.

By collecting the *BugsNax* and feeding them to the Grumpuses, maybe you can find out what's really going on, but be warned: the answers you'll find are very, very odd indeed!"

STEAM HITS CHRISTMAS PEAK

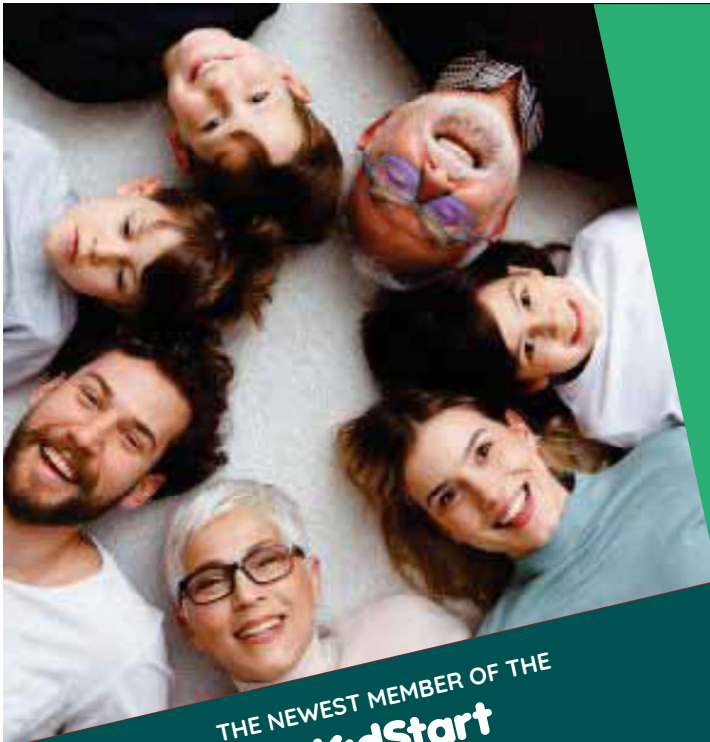


GAMING platform Steam set a new record for players over Christmas.

More than 25 million people were signed into the PC gaming platform on Christmas Day, the largest number ever to be logged on to the platform at the same time.

Of course, not everyone was playing a game at the time. The Steam database reported that 7.4 million people were actually in a game at the time the record was broken.

The previous record of over 22 million was set back in March, when Europe first went into lockdown.



THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE
KidStart
FAMILY

 **BEANSTALK**

Where parents + grandparents

come together to save

for their kids' future



beanstalkapp.co.uk/firstnews

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CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Daisy-Mae

DURING the October half-term break I saw what Marcus Rashford was doing about the free school meal movement and asked my mum: "What can I do to help?" And so the idea of the hampers was formed.

I thought of an idea to make up hampers for people who don't have much money to afford food and gifts at Christmas.

Some friends helped come up with the idea of the reverse advent calendar. Instead of taking something out each day, on the countdown to Christmas, you could donate something to put into a collection box. Then I could make up hampers to give to those that need them the most, and off it flew.

We had lots of support from the community, and the local

estate agents offered to have a collection box at their offices. My school also helped with collections and many local people have donated very generously.

I had a meeting with my head teacher about how our school can help me, and one with the local vicar, who also helped.

2020 was a strange year and Christmas was set to be different due to the coronavirus.

I hope the hampers spread a little sparkle around, and I am very grateful for everyone's support. Thank you.



Hampers ready for delivery

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.

VIRTUAL PANTO

by Amrit Kaur Matharu

I WAS lucky enough to take part in *Sisterhood In The Wood*, a virtual pantomime created by Girlguiding, and had such an amazing time.



Amrit

It was fantastic how all of the children got involved to help guide Goldie and Red (the main characters) in their adventure. I even got to sing *Campfires Burning* as part of the choir. I loved taking part and had so much fun.

Lots of things that we usually do at Christmas have been cancelled due to COVID-19. To take part in the pantomime meant I could look forward to something and see my friends. I felt excited because I love acting and meeting new people.

The pandemic has been difficult as there have been so many changes to our normal lives. I missed my friends and family over lockdown, but Brownies has kept me busy doing all of the challenges and earning badges.

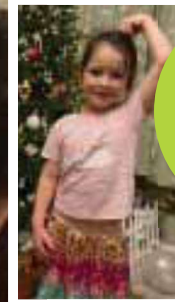
I look forward every week to my Brownies meeting and seeing Snowy Owl, my Brownies leader. I have designed a chocolate bar (as part of our marketing challenge) and recently took part in Children in Need, where I raised £100 by doing a sponsored silence for nine hours.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

BRILLIANT BALLET



The ballet barre lesson online



JUNIOR JOURNALIST

by Madison

MY sister Eleanor and I took part in a virtual ballet barre lesson to help launch a new show on Disney+.

The lesson took place online over the Christmas holidays with a professional dance teacher called Stephanie. She sent us some special ballet shoes before the lesson, which were fun to wear. During the class we tried some special stretches that ballet dancers learn when they are training. She also showed us some moves from the ballet *The Nutcracker*. The new show on Disney+ is called *On Pointe* and it is all about a famous ballet school in America. My sister and I want to learn how to do big ballerina twirls, but we might need a bit more practice, as we keep falling over when we try!

On Pointe is on Disney+ now!

SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL – FIND OUT MORE AT [SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](https://schools.firstnews.co.uk)
CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: [SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:schools@firstnews.co.uk)

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

JURASSIC PARK 3D DESK LAMP

NUMSKULL.COM £24.99

This cool, 3D moulded lamp is just the job when you want to sit down and watch your favourite movie. The logo lights up to give a subtle glow to the room and the lamp fits easily onto the wall or on a side table. It's the perfect collectable for any fan of the iconic films.



*All prices correct at time of printing

JURASSIC PARK DANGER! BOARD GAME

MENKIND.COM £25.00

A strategy game based on the popular Jurassic Park franchise. Play as the main characters, working as a team, and try to escape the island before the dinosaurs get you. The clever board is made of a series of hexagons that you can arrange any way you like, meaning that the board can be different every time you play, bringing new challenges and making it more nail-biting.



LEGO JURASSIC WORLD CLAIRE MINIFIGURE LINK WATCH

IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £15.99

Claire Dearing is the operations manager of Jurassic World and features on this LEGO watch. The LEGO Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom buildable watch comes complete with interchangeable, multicoloured watch links for you to build and design as you like.



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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.

WIN! 2020 ROYAL MAIL YEARBOOK

IF you entered any of our stamp competitions last year, then this competition is definitely one for you!

The 2020 Royal Mail Yearbook invites you to look again at the diverse range of subjects featured in last year's stamp programme. With each chapter written by a specially commissioned expert, it offers a new, often unusual perspective on each of the topics celebrated on special stamps.

It takes a particular talent to create a great stamp image. The constraints of working on such a small canvas mean that designers need to think differently, finding original ways to convey their ideas.

Last year's stamps have portrayed areas as far apart as classic British computer games and the much-loved Coronation Street; the Gothic Revival Palace of Westminster and the flamboyant rock band Queen; the UK's brilliant pollinating bugs and the perennially inspiring Romantic poets.

We have one 2020 Royal Mail Yearbook up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

When was Parliament's Westminster Hall first built?
a) 1016 b) 1136 c) 1097

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BOOK

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 21 January 2021.

FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB



THE First News iHub is an interactive e-learning platform created to support children aged 7-14 to develop key reading, comprehension, writing and oracy skills, while also learning about key news stories from around the world.

With hundreds of activities available, this is a fantastic tool for parents to support their child's learning at school and for home educators.

"The iHub is fun, educational but most of all informative. I love it!"
Mete, ten years old, May 2020

AWARD WINNING!

"The iHub has become a regular and popular choice for our 'home-school' during lockdown!"
A Crawford, parent, May 2020

HEAD TO WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB TO FIND OUT MORE

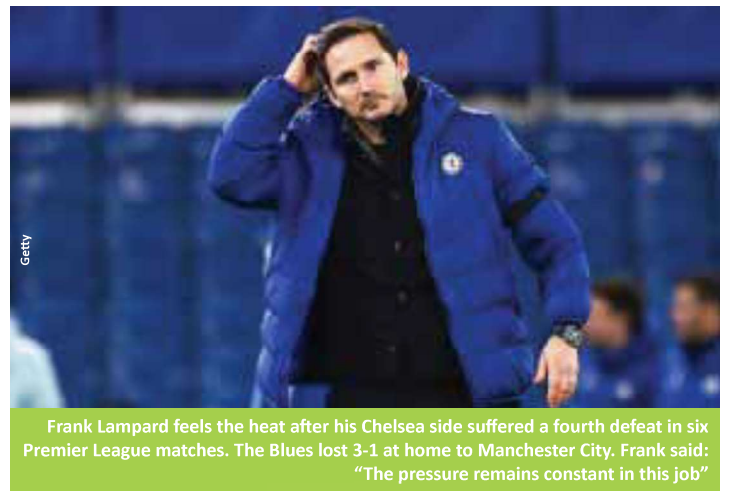
SPORT IN PICTURES



Poland's Dawid Kubacki soars through the air during the third leg of the Four Hills ski jumping tournament at Innsbruck, Austria. Dawid won the second leg at Garmisch-Partenkirchen on New Year's Day, setting a record hill jump of 144m in the process



Linn Svahn of Sweden leads the way at the women's Tour De Ski in Switzerland. Linn won both the sprint free and the 10km classic mass start



Frank Lampard feels the heat after his Chelsea side suffered a fourth defeat in six Premier League matches. The Blues lost 3-1 at home to Manchester City. Frank said: "The pressure remains constant in this job"



Gerwyn Price of Wales holds the trophy aloft after winning darts' PDC World Championship. Gerwyn won his first world title after beating two-time champion Gary Anderson 7-3 in the final



Robert Jackson of the Cleveland Browns (left) clashes with Diontae Johnson of the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Browns won 24-22 to secure an NFL play-off spot for the first time since 2002

SPORT IN NUMBERS

62 points were scored by basketball star Steph Curry as his team, the Golden State Warriors, beat the Portland Trail Blazers 137-122. Steph, 32, became the second oldest player to score over 60 points in an NBA game. Kobe Bryant set the record in his final game when he was aged 37.



27-year-old Dutch rider Denise Betsema won the fourth round of the UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup in the Netherlands. She served a ban last year after failing anti-doping tests. Fellow Dutch cyclist Mathieu van der Poel won the men's race.



3 conversions and five penalties were scored by Leicester Tigers' George Ford as his side beat Bath 36-31. The exciting Premiership match saw Bath go 14-0 up at Welford Road, before a stunning comeback left the two sides level with just 17 minutes to go. Leicester then took control, with George scoring a total of 21 points.



"Queen" Petra Vlhová wears her crown – and a fetching cape – after winning the World Cup slalom race in Croatia

SNOW QUEEN!

ALPINE skier Petra Vlhová of Slovakia has been crowned "Snow Queen" for the second year in a row after narrowly winning the World Cup slalom event in Zagreb, Croatia.

The Snow Queen race went ahead even though the mountain it took place on, Medvednica, is just 50 kilometres away from the epicentre of a major earthquake that took place at the end of December (see page 8).

Petra's two runs had a combined time of 1 minute 59.08 seconds. She pipped second-placed Katharina Liensberger of Austria by just five hundredths of a second! Switzerland's Michelle Gisin came third, 22 hundredths of a second behind the winner.

The victory took Vlhová 128 points clear at the top of the World Cup standings. She said: "Today was a really tough day... but I found something and pushed more before the finish."

The races in Croatia have been named Snow Queen since 2005, in honour of local legend Janica Kostelić, a three-time World Cup champion. She never won the Snow Queen trophy herself, but came third in 2006.

As First News went to press, the men's race was due to take place on 6 January.



Erik Lamela (left), Giovanni Lo Celso and Aleksandar Mitrović (below) are among several players who broke COVID-19 rules

STARS BREAK COVID RULES

FIVE Premier League clubs have promised to punish footballers who have recently broken coronavirus restrictions.

Fulham, Manchester City, Tottenham, West Ham and Crystal Palace are all under the spotlight after some of their players were found to have breached Tier 4 restrictions over the New Year period. City said they were "disappointed" that Benjamin Mendy invited people over for a New Year's Eve party at his house. The club said they would hold an "internal investigation". Separately, pictures on social media showed Fulham striker Aleksandar Mitrović apparently at a New Year party with Palace star Luka Milivojević and several other people. Fulham said the matter would be "dealt with internally," while Palace boss Roy Hodgson said: "We condemn it, we certainly apologise for it."

Tottenham manager José Mourinho said he was "disappointed" after a picture on social media showed Spurs stars Erik Lamela, Sergio Reguilón and Giovanni Lo Celso at a party with West Ham's Manuel Lanzini.

Some ex-players and fans have called for clubs to dish out tough punishments – including dropping players from the first team – for breaches of COVID-19 rules.

