

A RESOURCE FOR SCHOOLS?



Speaking to Year 6 teachers at Portway Primary School in London, they all admitted they rarely use Wikipedia in the classroom. However, they all agreed that the site could be a valuable resource for education.

Newly qualified teacher Ahmed Diria said: "When I was in education, using Wikipedia was frowned upon, but I think in recent times there is space for it in research. You have to apply a little scepticism [doubt] but it can still be a useful tool for learning."

Steve Trask, on the other hand, is very positive about Wikipedia's role in the classroom. As lead consultant for computer science across 50 primary and secondary schools, he thinks that "Google and Wikipedia are the go-to methods of research for students".

He believes the issue isn't about Wikipedia's reliability but more about making sure teachers help students to use it correctly. In an instance where a student

has copied work from Wikipedia, he says: "The next step should then be that the teacher actually formally teaches searching techniques and in particular discusses the ever-changing nature of Wikipedia articles, and how they can be biased."

It's something our own Head of Education at First News agrees with. Nic Smallshaw says: "I'm a big fan of Wikipedia. It is incredibly useful and there is so much to learn by dipping into it. There is a very important 'but' though! You need to know how it is put together..."

SEEKING OUT SOURCES

Nic recommends keeping an eye on those little numbers in brackets that regularly pop up next to the information on Wikipedia. Those show you where the information has come from.

She says: "It is really important that we think about and question the sources of our information. Understanding reliable sources of information, and being able to recognise misinformation, are important skills needed now and in the future."

Although Wikipedia can be a great help for research, Daria believes its real power is not in reading it, but writing it. "Writing Wikipedia encourages people to understand, navigate, and evaluate information, while helping create this global, open educational resource for everyone else to use."

Her work at Wikimedia UK has involved setting up projects with schools and universities where students write Wikipedia articles for a grade. At the very least, she points out, "by getting students to write Wikipedia articles, they can't copy them to create their essays!"

A SOUND STARTING POINT

Wikipedia itself isn't shy about its problems. It even points out on its website that it "is not a reliable source for academic writing or research". But for school work, as a place to start, Wikipedia can prove invaluable. The site recommends you follow two simple rules:

1. **Do your research properly and wisely. Remember that any encyclopedia is a starting point for research, not an ending point.**
2. **Use your judgement. Remember that all sources have to be evaluated.**

As someone who has been teaching for 23 years, Steve sums up his feelings on the site pretty clearly: "The bottom line is that students want an easy way to find information, and they need to be formally taught about misinformation and the reliability of sources. If used properly in lessons, Wikipedia offers just that."



WIKIPEDIA'S WEIRDEST

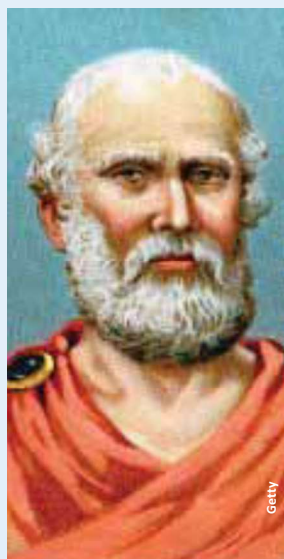
WIKIPEDIA will always be vulnerable to pranksters to some degree. Here are some of the weirdest lies that made it onto the website. It should be noted that these all made it onto Wikipedia several years ago and have long since been deleted!



It was claimed that pop star Robbie Williams eats pet hamsters "in and around Stoke".

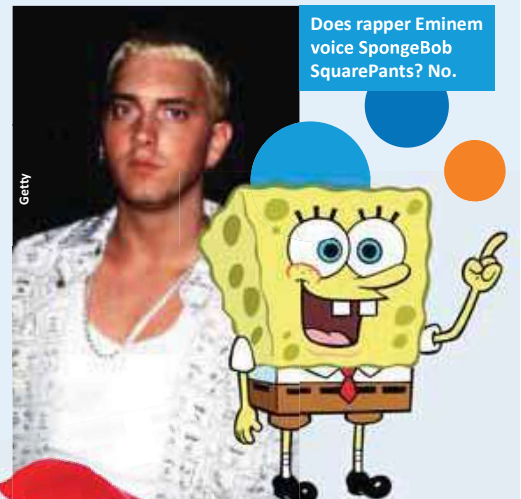


Footballer David Beckham was apparently a Chinese goalkeeper in the 18th century. He looks pretty good for someone over 200 years old!



Greek philosopher Plato was supposedly a Hawaiian weatherman and surfer.

Actor Gary Oldman had an interesting birth as someone posted that a doctor thought he was a girl before realising he was a giraffe!



Does rapper Eminem voice SpongeBob SquarePants? No.



As a tribute to his cat, Ed Wild made up a 1970s kids' TV show called *Olimar the Wondercat*. Olimar had magical powers and battled his nemesis, Evil Derek the Dark Dalmatian. Of course, the show never existed, but Ed put in a lot of effort to pretend it did, creating fake episode titles and pictures from the show.



HI! Do you remember us? We're Lampo and Milady, two friends who are in the band The Buffycats. Our other band members are Meatball and Pilou. The four of us live in the garage next to Granny Pina's house and that's where we play The Buffycats music to all our pawtastic friends.

One of the things we love to do is spend time outside and playing with our friends. We know that being in the fresh air is very good for us and it's where we learn about plants, flowers, animals, and the seasons.



LAMPO

In the last year we've been spending lots of time outside at a wonderful entertainment park for kids and families, called Gulliver's World. Every day Milady and I have been saying "hi" to children who've been visiting and enjoying the rides and activities at Gulliver's. We're really sad that we've not been able to give them bear hugs this year but, instead, we've been doing socially-distanced selfies and air hugs! Let's hope this year is better for everyone.

Check out our competition on this page for three lucky families to come to see us in 2021 and have a pawtastic weekend away.



MILADY

2020 was a strange year, wasn't it? No hugs, no holidays and lots of time spent at home. We've learned that having friends is so important as we can help each other, especially when things are a little bit different. In our TV show on POP TV we spend time helping each other, and the music from our band, The Buffycats, always puts a smile on our cat-tastic friends' faces. Don't forget, there's nothing more important than friendship! Let's hope that 2021 is a year where we can spend more time outside, playing and having fun with friends and family.



WIN!

A pawtastic weekend away for three families of up to five people each at Gulliver's World in Warrington, near Liverpool, where the 44 Cats are currently making daily appearances. The prize includes accommodation for one night, evening meals and entrance to the theme park resort for two days. Travel expenses will also be included and a 44 Cats goody bag for the kids! To enter, just answer this question:

Who is NOT a member of The Buffycats?
a) Meatball b) Granny Pina c) Pilou

Send us your answer, along with your name, age and contact details to: win@grapevine-pr.co.uk

The competition closes on 30 January 2021

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*The prize can be redeemed on any weekend during 2021 subject to availability and COVID-19 restrictions. Entry is open to residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Please make sure you have your parent or guardian's permission to enter. Full terms and conditions can be found at live.firstnews.co.uk/terms

44 Cats is on Pop TV every morning, seven days a week.
It's also available on Nick Toons, Netflix and YouTube.

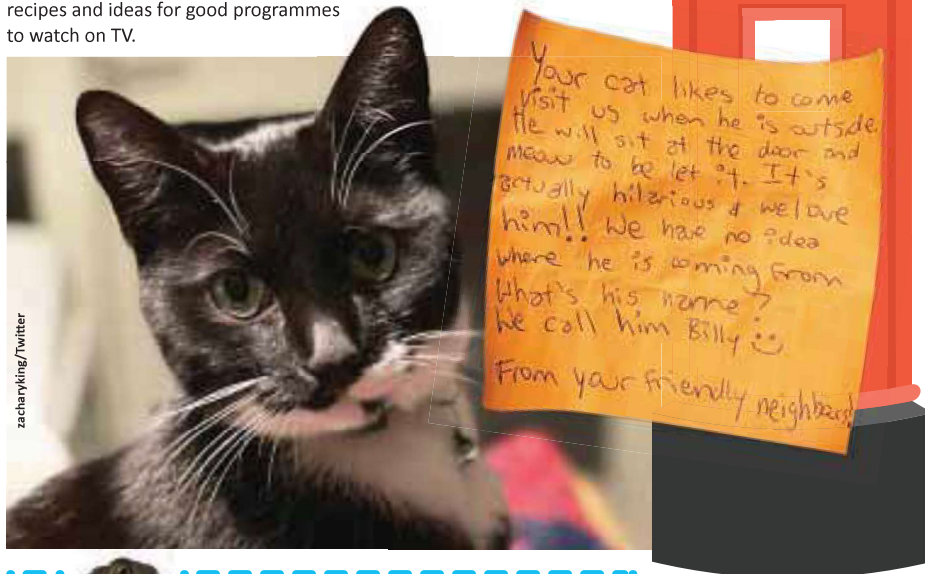
PURRFECT POSTIE

A CURIOUS cat has become an unlikely postie, delivering notes between neighbours.

Billy, the British shorthair, has been paying cheeky visits to another home during lockdown. One day, the couple he's been visiting decided to attach a handwritten note to Billy's collar, informing his owners of his antics.

Zack King and his girlfriend Olga were so amused by the note that they decided to write back.

The neighbours, who live in Hackney, East London, have now become pen pals. They've sent and received around ten notes, which Billy takes back and forth between them. The new friends have been sharing recipes and ideas for good programmes to watch on TV.



zacharyking/twitter



istock

OFFICIAL DINOSAUR

KIDS in Massachusetts, USA, are being asked to help pick an official state dinosaur.

While some places have flags, birds or flowers, politician Jack Lewis wants his state to be represented by a dinosaur.

Mr Lewis has invited young people to vote between two dino species discovered in the area. The first is *Podokesaurus holyokensis*, famed for being named by Mignon Talbot – the first woman to name and describe a dinosaur. The second is *Anchisaurus polyzelus*, which is among the oldest dinosaurs to have been found in North America.

Mr Lewis is filing the paperwork today (15 January). Which one do you think has scooped the win?

DID YOU KNOW?

Twelve states in America already have a state dinosaur!

BAKE OFF



Guinness World Records

That's a lot of pies!

A DELICIOUS new record has been set for the longest line of pies.

Chefs from the United Arab Emirates joined forces to bake a whopping 2,209 pear pies and place them in a very long line.

The Guinness World Record attempt took place in Dubai and smashed the previous record of 1,608 pies.

The fruity creations didn't go to waste: the organisers donated them to a charity called Sahem for Hope, which gives food to those in need.



Scottish SPCA

TINY TEARAWAY

A PET hamster has been reunited with its owners, after making a great escape on New Year's Eve.

The tiny animal was spied heading to the shops in Glasgow on 31 December. CCTV footage caught him clinging on to an unaware shopper entering a Poundland store, before heading for the pick 'n' mix!

The Scottish SPCA collected the escapee, with animal rescue officer Amy Stirton saying: "We've named the little adrenaline junkie Tom Cruise for now, given his Mission Impossible-esque attempt to get some treats."

After a rescue appeal to find the hamster's owners, the cheeky rodent is now back home where it belongs.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer

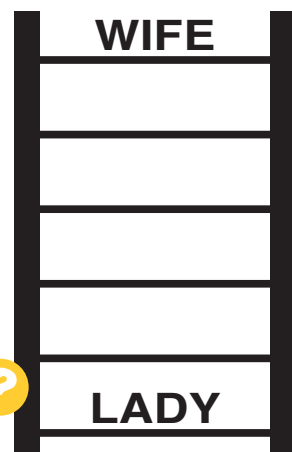


SUDOKU!

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

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.



CROSSWORD

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

		1	2		3		4		5	
6							7			8
9							10			
					11					
12		13						14	15	
							16			
17								18		

ACROSS

- 1 Not cautious; inattentive (8)
- 6 Sorcery (5)
- 7 Series of linked metal rings (5)
- 9 Swallow food or drink quickly (4)
- 10 Scratches (6)
- 12 This is collected by bees (6)
- 14 A lasting mark on the skin (4)
- 17 Warning sound (5)
- 18 Fourth month of the year (5)
- 19 Increase greatly in number (8)

DOWN

- 2 A spiritual being that has wings (5)
- 3 A Sketch; drawing toy (4)
- 4 Cause to feel very enthusiastic (6)
- 5 Break into lots of pieces (5)
- 6 A purplish red colour (7)
- 8 Part of the nose (7)
- 11 E.g. monkey or whale (6)
- 13 State something is the case (5)
- 15 Type of hard substance that forms large reefs (5)
- 16 A vehicle that transports people in exchange for money (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?

