

WORLD BOOK DAY IS HERE!

THAT'S right, World Book Day has arrived again – a day dedicated to promoting reading for pleasure. It offers young people across the UK the opportunity to choose a book of their own (sometimes their first) from a range of £1 books, using a free £1 token.

NATIONAL BOOK tokens

With lots of you across the UK not in school this year, World Book Day is going to be a little different. For one thing, lots of you got your £1 Book Token in First News last week, instead of receiving them in class.

For the first time, events hosted by the authors are being held online, and the World Book Day organisers are launching a Book Club.

Reading for pleasure can be a way to escape to another world and experience the life of someone else. So while we're mostly stuck at home, why not give it a shot?

You could 'Share a Story' by reading with someone else. Even for just ten minutes a day, sharing a story can boost your creativity and imagination – and make you feel a whole lot better!

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library

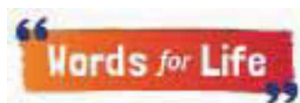
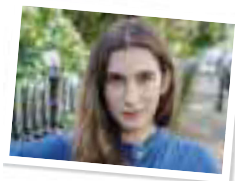
STEAL a moment with Katherine Rundell.

Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read Katherine's *The Good Thieves* for free!

Katherine recommends these books:

- *High-Rise Mystery* by Sharna Jackson
- *To Liberty! The Adventures of Thomas-Alexandre Dumas* by Catherine Johnson and illustrated by Rachel Sanson
- *Charmed Life* by Diana Wynne Jones

Step inside the library this World Book Day to find tips on spending your £1 World Book Day book token. And keep an eye out for some exciting surprises, happening from 1 March. Visit library.thenational.academy to find out more.



FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://wordsforlife.org.uk)

WORLD BOOK DAY

4 MARCH 2021

ILLUSTRATION Rob Biddulph

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR ACADEMY

A series of fun and fascinating tutorial videos from World Book Day £1 book authors and illustrators have been produced to celebrate the day.

Available now on the World Book Day YouTube channel

SHOW YOUR SHARES

We want to see you sharing a story with your family! Read along with a family member, a friend or even a pet who's in your bubble, and share it on social media.

From 1 March onwards

SHARE A STORY LIVE

Loads of the World Book Day authors will be sharing stories over on the World Book Day YouTube channel – including Sita Brahmachari, Joseph Coelho, Jonny Duddle, Tom Fletcher, Jess French and more!

The hosts include motivational speaker Kenny Baraka, TV presenter Nigel Clarke and actor, comedian and writer Jessie Cave.

Live from 3-5 March

For the full list of events, and to sign up to the World Book Day Book Club, head to:

[WORLDBOOKDAY.COM](https://worldbookday.com)



WORLD BOOK DAY AUTHORS LOVE THEIR BIG DAY!

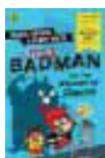
WE all know that World Book Day is an amazing day that helps to get books into the hands of young people across the UK – but what do the authors think of the annual event? We asked and, as you might have guessed, they're pretty big fans!



HUMZA ARSHAD AND HENRY WHITE

"We're so excited to be part of this year's World Book Day. It's such a great way of inspiring kids to love books and we're honoured to be involved. Every time we see a photo of a student dressed up as Little Badman on

World Book Day it blows us away. We can't wait to share our new story, Little Badman and the Radioactive Samosa, with as many children as possible."



LITTLE BADMAN AND THE RADIOACTIVE SAMOSA



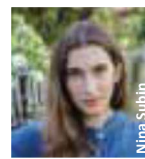
DEREK LANDY

"I'm not letting it go to my head, the fact that this will be my second book released for World Book Day. Is it gratifying to be asked twice? Absolutely.

Is it heartening to know that countless children are clamouring for more molten drops of word-goodness? Indeed it is. But as a seasoned World Book Day contributor, I am well aware that this day isn't about me. It's about books, it's about stories, and it's about readers... and a little about me. But no more than 20 percent – 25 at the VERY most."



SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT: APOCALYPSE KINGS



KATHERINE RUNDELL

"I have loved World Book Day ever since I dressed up as a Moomin more than 20 years ago: it is a joy and an honour to be part of it now – part of an effort by so many people to galvanise [encourage] and nurture a love of reading. I absolutely can't wait for children to read my WBD book; I hope it will seize them by the wrist and take them on an adventure, up and away into another world."



SKYSTEPPERS



HOLLY JACKSON

"Stories and storytelling are in everything we do; they are an intrinsic [essential] part of being human. I love that World Book Day is an entire

day dedicated to celebrating the power of stories and introducing young people to the love of reading. I am thrilled to be a part of it this year, waving the flag for thrillers!"



KILL JOY



JESS FRENCH

"I still vividly remember the excitement I felt when selecting my World Book Day books

as a child. It's an incredible honour to be selected to write one myself, especially to address such a crucial and timely issue as protecting our planet."



PROTECT THE PLANET



SITA BRAHMACHARI

"I am so excited to have been chosen to be among this year's World Book Day authors. I have never lived through a time

when children's lives have been so disrupted and their access to stories and learning impacted on. As I wrote The River Whale, the thought of it being made available to so many readers in need of dream time inspired and guided me. Equality is at the heart of my writing, and that these WBD stories are accessible to so many children – often being the first treasured books some children own and potentially a catalyst to a lifelong love of reading – makes my heart sing."



THE RIVER WHALE



ZANIB MIAN

"World Book Day has always been special to me and my sons, so being involved as an author for 2021 is an absolutely incredible feeling! I'm so excited

about Omar taking readers worldwide on a special, very bookish adventure, where they get to meet a goofy British Muslim family!"



PLANET OMAR: OPERATION KIND



ALEX BELLOS AND BEN LYTTLETON

"We are over the moon to be part of World Book Day 2021, the Football

School dressing room is buzzing! We will give 110 percent to make this World Book Day the best ever!"



FOOTBALL SCHOOL



WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

MATILDA TOTE BAG TRUFFLESHUFFLE.CO.UK £16.99

If you've got a book habit that could beat Matilda's, then what better place to keep your favourite books than in this marvellous Matilda tote bag? With plenty of room for all those books, this delightful Quentin Blake design is a must-have for fans of Roald Dahl's little bookworm hero.



MARY POPPINS COSTUME SET TUCLOTHING. SAINSBURYS.CO.UK £16.00



This magical Mary Poppins costume is practically perfect in every way, so you can bring your favourite book character to life. The blue dress comes with a blouse and brooch, a jacket, and a skirt with an enchanting rooftop print. It even comes with a hat on an Alice band and a little carpet bag to complete your new Mary Poppins look.



SMIFFYS ACCESSORIES KIT ARGOS.CO.UK £6.00 EACH

These fantastic kits from Smiffys are great for easy and fun fancy dress. With a palette of face paints, applicators, headband and tail, you'll be able to pull together a



cute fancy dress outfit in no time. Choose from a tiger, lion, fox or cat.



*All prices correct at time of printing

WIN! A ROBO FISH BUNDLE FROM ZURU

PREPARE for a whale of a time with the all-new Robo Fish from ZURU.

The new ZURU Robo Fish are the most realistic robotic swimming pets ever! Drop them in water and watch them swim in five different directions and dive up to 6ft (2m) as ZURU's water-activated technology brings them to life like magic! There are six colours to collect, each with water-activated colour changing abilities!

Create an underwater spectacular for your fishy friends with the Robo Fish Tank Playset. Drop them into the fishbowl and watch them flip and dive their way through their watery wonderland! There are two exclusive fish to collect with the playset, and it also comes with Never Wet Sand to build and sculpt your own coral reef creations.

We have eight bundles, including two Robo Fish and a Fish Bowl Playset up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What do fish use gills for?

- a) to see underwater b) to balance underwater
c) to breathe underwater

ZURU Robo Fish are available from Smyths, The Entertainer, Argos, Asda, and B&M.

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY FISH

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 19. The closing date is 11 March 2021.



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COOKING TUTORIALS

by Sienna Cecco

DURING lockdown last year I started doing live online Italian cookery tutorials with my dad, to inspire others to get cooking and have fun with food.

The videos became really popular and we even got nominated for an award at the Manchester Food & Drink Festival Awards 2020. This inspired me to create my own cooking YouTube channel called Sienna's Cucina, where I post tutorials of my favourite Italian dishes and encourage other kids like me to learn how to cook.

I started to cook at the age of three with my Italian nonna (grandmother) and dad, who are both from Italy. I love making fresh pasta and my favourite dish is parmigiana, which is made with aubergine, mozzarella and tomato, and is a great dish for vegetarians.

Since the third lockdown was

announced in January and schools closed, me and my dad decided to bring back our weekly live tutorials to help out parents and children who are spending more time at home.

In our most recent video, we made red and green coloured pasta using beetroot and spinach. These are both superfoods and look amazing, so it was fun to make and really healthy.

I hope my videos inspire young people to give cooking a go. It is such an important life skill and it's great to know what's going into your food.

Check out Sienna's recipes on her YouTube channel, Sienna's Cucina. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.



Sienna's fresh pasta

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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.

THE CAPTAIN TOM 100 CHALLENGE

by Juliette, St Faith's School

MY school created the Captain Tom 100 challenge after he very sadly died with coronavirus.

We had to pick a sport-related task, like running for 100 minutes, as Captain Tom did 100 laps of his garden.

My sports teachers joined in too. My PE teacher did 100 minutes cycling and cycled 24.35 miles [39.2km].

My netball teacher did 100 over-head passes onto the wall.

My hockey coach, who played for the England women's team, did 100 keepy-uppies on her stick with balls of different sizes, and my other hockey coach, who played for the England men's team, did 100 press-ups!

I really enjoy sport, so instead of doing just one set of 100, I actually did four: 100 hockey goals; 100 netball goals; a rowing triathlon for 100 minutes, which included a turbo trainer for an hour, a 30-minute run and a ten-minute bike



Juliette on her bike

ride; plus 100 conditioning exercises/stretches. Last year, during the first lockdown, I did a 50km run over the course of May and I raised £120 for the NHS, smashing my target of £50.

SCHOOL NEWS

LEARNING TO SIGN

by Connie Carter

LAST lockdown I learnt some sign language and have continued to, so I can keep motivated through all the lockdowns.

Over the second lockdown I have learnt all about sign language. I now know how to sign the alphabet and a rock song called 'Livin' On A Prayer'.

I have really enjoyed learning this, as it's the only way for some people to communicate. I hope to learn lots more songs and words. I check the

BSL (British Sign Language) website regularly to learn more actions.

I first discovered sign language during the first lockdown with my sister, Alice. Did you know the first historical mention of BSL is a record of a wedding ceremony conducted partially in sign language in Leicester in 1576?

I would like to help more people learn sign language, so we can help those who need it. It is also just a handy skill to learn, as you never know who you will meet and when you may need it.

In the UK, there are around 150,000 British Sign Language users and 300 different types of sign language. I hope people see how important sign language is.



Connie signing the word 'friend'

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

8 wickets was the winning margin for England as they beat New Zealand in their one-day international

match. Tammy Beaumont (below) notched up 72 runs, while captain Heather Knight made 67 not out. England finished on 181-2 while the White Ferns were bowled out for 178.



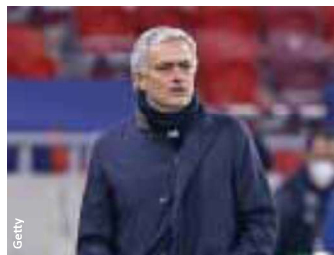
506 Barcelona league appearances have been made by Lionel Messi – a club record.

The Argentinian broke Xavi's record in a 1-1 draw against Cádiz. The all-time record for La Liga appearances is held by Andoni Zubizarreta, who played 622 times for three clubs, including Barcelona.



81 points have been taken from José Mourinho's first 50 games as manager of Tottenham Hotspur.

That's Mourinho's lowest points total after his first 50 matches at any club he has managed. Spurs have lost five of their last six Premier League games.



NOVAK AND NAOMI WIN DOWN UNDER

SERBIA'S Novak Djokovic and Japan's Naomi Osaka won the singles titles at the Australian Open, capping off a dramatic fortnight of tennis.

Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka triumphed at the first tennis Grand Slam of 2021



The first Grand Slam of the season was full of COVID-related controversy. Some Australians complained that the tennis stars were allowed in to the country while thousands of their fellow citizens have had to wait weeks to be allowed back home, due to restrictions on travel into the country. There was also an outbreak of coronavirus cases in Melbourne during the tournament, which led to fans being barred for five days.

Despite all the hullabaloo, Djokovic came out victorious after beating Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 in the final. The Serb now has 18 Grand Slams to his name – just two short of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. Djokovic has won nine Aussie Opens dating back to 2008.

In the women's tournament, Naomi Osaka took home her second Australian title and fourth Grand Slam overall. Osaka, who has never lost a major final, sealed her place as a hard-court specialist. Only three women have won more grand slam titles on hard courts – Serena Williams, Steffi Graf and Monica Seles.

In the men's wheelchair singles, Britain's Alfie Hewett lost 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 to Belgium's Joachim Gérard in the final. But Hewett triumphed in the men's doubles with fellow Brit Gordon Reid (left).



PIC OF THE WEEK



Katharina Liensberger of Austria stumbles after crossing the finish line during the second run of the women's slalom at the Alpine Ski World Championships. She became the first Austrian woman to win the slalom world title in ten years. In the men's slalom, Norway's Sebastian Foss-Solevåg won his first individual world title. Austria finished top of the medal table with eight, including five golds, followed by Switzerland with nine, of which three were golds.

