

BIG NEWS

THE FIGHT BACK

BRITISH people have been asked to make major changes to their lives in order to fight COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

In the UK this week, Prime Minister Boris Johnson told people to work from home, not to travel unless they need to and to avoid places like cinemas and theatres. As you know, schools are closing too to prevent the virus spreading. They will stay open for children whose parents work in the NHS and other vital services.

People over 70 are at particular risk from the disease. They have been asked to shield themselves from others by staying home alone for 12 weeks.

The good news is that, even among the elderly, nearly everyone survives unless they have other serious health problems already. The illness is



generally mild in younger adults and children, no worse than a cold.

Anyone who lives with someone who has a cough or a temperature should stay at home for 14 days. This is to stop their illness spreading, in case it's caused by the coronavirus.

The virus was first found in China on 31st December. Since then it has spread around the world. Now, countries across the globe are at war with it.

Questions on: 'The fight back'

1) What is the **name** of the illness caused by the coronavirus?

2) What is the **main** subject of this news report about the coronavirus?

- ☐ Advice from the UK Government
- ☐ The history of the coronavirus
- ☐ How the elderly are affected

3) At the time of writing what was the advice for:

Work	
Travel	
Cinema	

4) Why have elderly people been asked to stay at home as much as possible for 12 weeks?

5) How are most children likely to feel if they get this virus?

6) If anyone in your home gets a cough or a temperature, what should you do?

7) Which **words** make it seem as though we are in a **battle** against the virus?

8) All around the world, people are being asked to make major changes to their lives.

Make a list of interesting, positive and creative things that you can do at home while you are not at school.

PS. *First News* would like to know what you're up to at home – send us your pictures and stories!

UK NEWS

ESSEX

100 YEARS YOUNG

Marion Watson is 100 years old and still teaches keep fit! The former gymnast teaches exercise classes three times a week at her retirement home in Essex. Marion says: "I just love the joy of movement and seeing people improve."



OXFORDSHIRE

TINY FOREST PLANTED

A tiny forest the size of a tennis court is being planted in Witney. Some 600 trees will be planted by the local council, a charity and volunteers. The idea of tiny forests is to bring a slice of woodland into urban (built up) areas. The trees will attract wildlife, improve air quality and soak up water to reduce flooding. A win-win-win situation!



SALISBURY

GUM CLEAN UP

Salisbury City Council has used chalk to circle all the chewing gum that litters their streets. They say it is going to cost £36,000 (36 thousand) to steam clean the gum to remove it from pavements. A person from the council said: "It costs 3p per stick [of gum] to buy and 10p to prise off the streets. It's a blight on our beautiful city."



Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Fill the gap with the correct place.

In _____, a mini forest is being planted.
In _____, the council is having to spend a lot of money to clean up chewing gum.
In _____, a 100-year-old lady is still teaching keep fit.

Look at the news from Essex.

2) What do you know about Marion Watson?

Age:
Where she lives:
What she used to do:
What she does now:

Look at the news from Oxfordshire.

3) How does the writer help you understand the size of this mini forest?

4) Why is the forest a good idea? Can you find three **benefits**?

1: 2: 3:

Look at the news from Salisbury.

5) How much does it cost the council to remove one piece of gum?

6) Why do you think the council has circled all the gum with chalk?

7) The person from the council says: "It's a blight on our beautiful city."

What do you think **a blight** means here?

- ☐ Something that spoils
- ☐ Something that cleans
- ☐ Something that is sticky

Consider all the news.

8) Which two stories would you describe as '**good news**' stories?
Is the other story '**bad news**'?
Explain your thoughts.

CRAZY BUT TRUE

CRAZY PIG POO FIRE

A GREEDY pig caused a fire at a farm last Saturday, after a very strange chain of events.

First, you need to know that one pig on the farm in Yorkshire was wearing a pedometer. This is a gadget that keeps track of the number of steps you take. The pig was wearing the pedometer to prove that the pigs were 'free range' animals and could roam around freely.

But, the trouble began when another pig ate the first pig's pedometer!

It passed all the way through the pig and came out in its poo. That might have been the end of the story, but then the batteries in the pedometer leaked out copper (a metal). This reacted with the pig poo and set fire to the dry hay!



The fire then spread across four pigpens at the farm and firefighters were called to put out the blaze. Luckily no pigs or people were harmed.

If it was the plot of a film, you probably wouldn't believe it.



Firefighters put out the last of the fire. Imagine the smell!

Questions on: 'Crazy pig poo fire'

1) Where and when did this fire start?

Where:.....

When:.....

2) What gadget was one of the pigs wearing?

☐ smartwatch

☐ pedometer

☐ thermometer

3) Why was the pig wearing this gadget?

4) What “might have been the end of the story”?

5) In **four** steps, explain how the fire started.

1: 2:

3: 4:

6) What is a “**chain of events**”?

7) What **three** substances, or materials, caused a fire when mixed together?

1:

2:

3:

8) What **comment** does the writer make at the end of the news report?

Do you agree?

BIG NEWS

SPOTTING SHARKS FROM THE SKY

BEACHES in Australia are going to be patrolled by drones to keep swimmers safe from shark attacks.

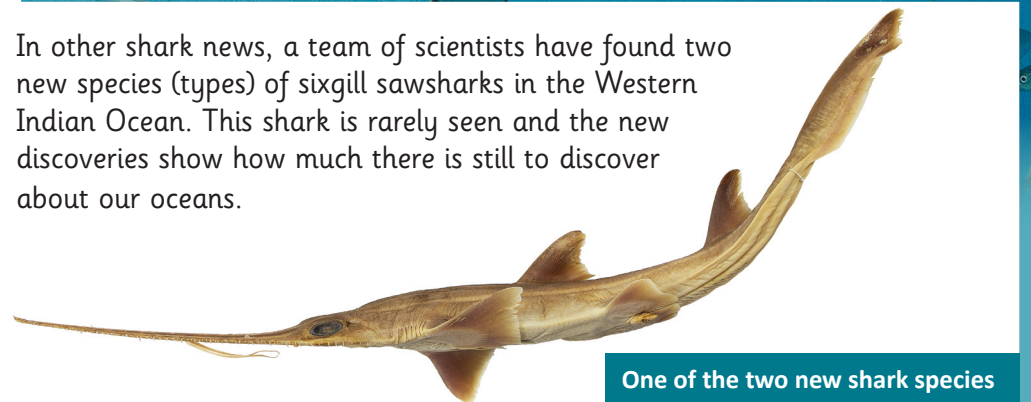
The idea was tested successfully in New South Wales last year. More than 8,000 drone flights patrolled 1,300 miles of beach. Shark attacks halved to just four.

The drones spot sharks swimming too close to the shore and trigger an early warning alarm. This gives swimmers time to get safely out of the water. Drone flights will now become a permanent part of Australia's plans to survey sharks.

Five hundred large sharks have also been tagged. Some of the largest sharks in the world can be found in Australian waters. The tags track the sharks and also trigger an alert if they swim too close to beaches.



In other shark news, a team of scientists have found two new species (types) of sixgill sawsharks in the Western Indian Ocean. This shark is rarely seen and the new discoveries show how much there is still to discover about our oceans.



One of the two new shark species

Questions on: 'Spotting sharks from the sky'

1) Why is the last paragraph different to all the others?

2) Which country is using drones to prevent shark attacks?

- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Wales
- ☐ India

3) The idea was tested last year. Why was it judged to be a success?

4) These **three** steps explain how the system works. Can you match the two halves of each sentence?

A drone

is triggered.

A warning alarm

have time to get out of the water safely.

Swimmers

spots a shark too close to a beach.

5) What other method is being used to stop shark attacks?

6) Why are the two methods similar?

7) Find and copy the unusual **name** of the new sharks.

8) These systems must take a lot of time and effort. Why don't Australians just shoot sharks if they come close to the coast?