

P3 MUPPETS
HELP REFUGEE
KIDS



P7 CAN
PETS EAT
PLANTS?



P5 OUR
CHAT WITH
SIR DAVID



FN

PLAY P20
THE LIVE
FN QUIZ

First News

Issue 713 £1.99 14 - 20 February 2020

OUR TRUSTED
NEWS GETS MORE
THAN 2 MILLION
READERS!*

CORONAVIRUS

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON



Main pic: a tourist in Kathmandu didn't let his face mask get in the way of a good selfie. Above and far left: the Chinese city of Wuhan is the centre of the outbreak and has been virtually shut down, so streets are deserted and trains are all stuck in the depot

WE know many people are worrying about the coronavirus, so we just want to point out again that it's not as scary as some people want you to believe.

by Ian Eddy

Although some sections of the media have been making us believe the worst about the new coronavirus, COVID-19, health officials in the UK say that the "risk to individuals remains low".

There were some scary-sounding headlines on Monday about how the number of UK cases had doubled, but that only meant it had gone from four to eight, which is still pretty small.

As we went to press, the coronavirus

had killed 1,016 people in China. Only two deaths, in the Philippines and Hong Kong, had occurred anywhere else. In Britain, 1,114 people have been tested, but only eight had the virus, and four of those caught it from the same person.

Most people only have mild symptoms, and most of the people who died were either old or had a serious health condition, such as cancer or lung disease.

"The overall pattern has not changed," said World Health Organization (WHO) boss Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"99% of reported cases are in China, and most cases are mild."

Obviously for any families who have lost someone, the deaths are a tragedy, but the media has been doing a very good job of scaring people unnecessarily. The flu kills up to 650,000 people every year around the world, and we hardly talk about that. We told you last week that 456 pedestrians were killed on UK roads in 2018, but did you also know that in 2014, 732 people in the UK died from falling down stairs? Whether you

picked up this issue of First News by walking downstairs, walking to school or walking to the shops to buy it, all of those things are statistically speaking more dangerous, but you're still here, right?

So enjoy the rest of your day and don't worry too much about some of the headlines.

There's been a lot of fake news about this outbreak, so for reliable info see the WHO or Government's websites:

tinyurl.com/whocv2019

www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

KidsPost

CHIP SAYS The presidential candidates will have a series of debates this fall. The debates help voters decide for whom they want to vote.



TODAY Not so hot (but not bad, either)
HIGH 75
LOW 54
Source: The National Weather Service, 4:30 p.m. EDT



KIDSPOST.COM Test your civics knowledge by taking our online citizenship quiz!

We the People includes kids, too

There is a lot of discussion about the U.S. Constitution during this election year, but do you understand what all the fuss is about? Why should kids care?

Thomas Jefferson, our third president, cautioned that a nation cannot be ignorant and free. Today, we interpret that to mean our freedoms are stronger if each person understands how our government works, listens to both sides on important issues and, when 18 years old, votes.

You're never too young to learn about civics — the study of the rights and duties of citizens. What is the Bill of Rights, and what freedoms are included in it? Are there limits on what our government can do? For example, can the government restrict freedom of speech or religion if it believes the restrictions would benefit most citizens?

See the government in action. Since 1987, more than 30 million students from sixth to 12th grades have explored these and other questions through a nationwide program called We the People.



Teamwork helped Brown Academy win We the People's Virginia contest. From left: Savannah Adke, Taylor Moran, CJ Abd, Justin Boone and Will Gorman.

ingus placed second in citywide 5-6th grade. Those at Alexandria's Brown Academy won Virginia's middle school championship.

Each class prepared for a hearing

Pomroy, 14, of Stuart-Hobson Eked the challenge of answering follow-up questions designed to encourage students to logically defend their statements. "It made me feel like I could

Why is understanding how the government works important?

Washington area students who participated in the "We the People" program have some answers:

"It's important to know what goes on and how things work in government."
 — Cleo Fraser, 12, a student at Stuart-Hobson.

"I have a different perspective when looking at candidates now."

— Savannah Adke, 14, a student at Brown Academy, on how the role of the presidential race.

"You are able to vote if you are a citizen."
 — Diamond Fowler, 12, of Stuart-Hobson.

at-Hobson, the Constitution's protections are special. "Kids need to know what this country gives them." Kids think "that everyone in the world" has the same rights as Americans, she said.

Theresa Browner of Stuart-Hobson said she used to change TV channels whenever charities' news returned on

TODAY'S NEWS



J.K. Rowling wrote the book, "The Casual Vacancy" is for adults.

With adult book done, Rowling returns to Harry

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling sure is busy these days.

Earlier this month, Rowling announced that her first book for adults, "The Casual Vacancy," will go on sale in September.

Now she's working on a Harry Potter encyclopedia.

"For a long time I have been promising an encyclopedia of Harry's world, and I have started working on this now," Rowling said.

"Some of it seems the new content in Pottermore," which is her new Harry Potter Web site. (The site is free but requires registration.) It also has a growing list of new content.

