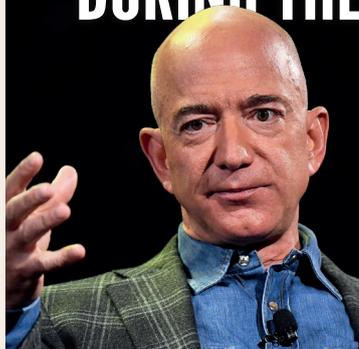


## MONEY NEWS

# BILLIONAIRES GET EVEN RICHER DURING THE PANDEMIC



In September, the richest man on Earth, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, could have paid each of Amazon's 876,000 employees a \$105,000 (£76,000) bonus and still been as wealthy as he was at the start of the pandemic

Oxfam has said that the world's richest ten men have seen their combined wealth increase by \$540 billion (£400 billion) during the pandemic – enough to pay for a vaccine for every person on the planet, and reverse the rise in poverty over the last year.

Oxfam's report was released on the first day of the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland.

It says that, unless the world's governments tackle rising inequality, half a billion more people could be living in poverty (on less than \$5.50 (£4.00) a day) by 2030.

The chief executive of Oxfam GB said: "The virus hit an already unequal world and, without urgent action to make our economies work for everyone, things are set to get much, much worse."

**It can be quite difficult to know just how much one billion is. Here's one way to look at it: if you were to count to one million, one number every second, it would take 11 days, 13 hours, 46 minutes, and 40 seconds. Counting to one billion would take you 31 years, 251 days, 7 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds of counting, non-stop.**

## NORTH YORKSHIRE

### Coin sells for record price

A gold coin featuring Oliver Cromwell has sold at auction for a staggering £471,200. The coin dates back to 1656 and there are only 12 in existence. It had an estimate of £100,000-£150,000 but smashed that when it went under the hammer. The sale sets a world record for a Cromwellian coin. Oliver Cromwell was an English general who helped lead a revolt against King Charles I during the English Civil War. The king was beheaded and Cromwell ruled the British Isles until his death.



## BOY FIGHTS TO SAVE CHARITY



Oliver enjoying the outdoors with dad Gary and mum Sarah

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy has raised more than £64,000 (at the time of writing) to help save the Lake District's Calvert Trust, a charity that helps disabled people to enjoy the outdoors.

Oliver Voysey suffered a brain injury when he was just two days old, leaving him with lots of difficulties and in need of specialist care. He hasn't let that stop him though! With the help of the Calvert Trust, Oliver has enjoyed activities like horse riding, abseiling and rock climbing.

But Calvert Trust is at threat of closure. The charity has lost more than £1m during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oliver, who is 13 tomorrow (30 January), has been setting himself themed challenges to raise awareness. He has completed a 13-minute walk and stood independently for 13 seconds, something that is very hard for Oliver to do.

Sarah Voysey, Oliver's mum, said: "Oliver's biggest birthday wish is for the Lake District Calvert Trust to survive. Forget cards or presents, he just wants to return to his favourite place in the world."

Sarah has set up a Go Fund Me page called Oliver's Calvert Army to raise money and hopefully save the charity that has changed Oliver's life.

## FOSSIL HUNTER HONOURED

A 13-YEAR-old schoolgirl has campaigned successfully for a statue to be built of famous fossil hunter Mary Anning.

Evie Swire learned all about Mary three years ago and decided to start fundraising for a monument to her.

The hard work has clearly paid off, as the campaign, Mary Anning Rocks, has now reached £80,000!

Once the £100,000 target has been reached and Mary's statue can be made, it will be displayed in her home town of Lyme Regis in Dorset.

Mary Anning is famed for being a palaeontologist and fossil collector. Among other things, she is credited with discovering the skeletons of two extinct marine reptiles – the ichthyosaur and the plesiosaur.



The statue will also feature Mary's beloved dog, Tray

NEWS STORY



GLOSSARY

**CEO – Chief Executive Officer** – The person in charge of a company  
**billion** – A thousand million: 1,000,000,000  
**Oxfam** – A large charity that aims to tackle poverty around the world  
**World Economic Forum** – A gathering of leaders from government and business that happens every year in Switzerland. Many wealthy and powerful people attend to discuss the world’s problems.  
**economies** – The wealth that is made in countries from their systems of business and industry

**poverty** – Being extremely poor  
**palaeontologist** – “PAL-ee-n-TOL-o-jist” - People who study fossils in order to learn about life on Earth  
**abseiling** – An activity where you descend down a steep slope attached to a rope  
**‘under the hammer’** – An expression meaning to be sold at an auction

■ Look at the article ‘Billionaires get even richer...’.

1. The charity Oxfam has just published a report. Which sentence **summarises** the key message?

- The world’s richest men should really pay for everyone in the world to get a vaccine, they can afford it.
- The wealthiest people on Earth have just got a whole lot wealthier, and when so many people live in poverty this is wrong.
- The wealthiest people on the planet have just got a whole lot wealthier, this should be very inspiring to young children.

2. Understanding a billion.

How long does it take to count to a million?

\_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ days, \_\_\_\_\_ hours, \_\_\_\_\_ minutes, \_\_\_\_\_ seconds

How long does it take to count to a billion?

\_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ days, \_\_\_\_\_ hours, \_\_\_\_\_ minutes, \_\_\_\_\_ seconds

3. To help you understand these large amounts, the writer has given examples of what the money could pay for. Can you find two of them?

	What it could pay for...
The wealth increase of the world’s ten richest men	
The wealth increase of Jeff Bezos – the founder of Amazon	

4. This article talks a lot about **inequality**. Can you explain what this means here? It’s a tricky word, but have a go.

■ Look at the other three articles.

5. Complete the details.

Who	Raised or spent?	Amount	For what (or on what)?
	raised		A charity that helps disabled people
Unknown person			A gold coin
Evie Swire		£80,000	

6. What is similar about Evie Swire and Oliver Voysey?

■ Look at the article ‘Coin sells for a record price’.

- 7. Find two words used to emphasise the huge sale price of the coin.
- 8. Why do you think this coin sold for so much money?

■ Look at the article ‘Boy fights to save charity’.

9. How is Oliver shown to be a very brave and determined boy? Find two examples of his character, using evidence from the text.

- 1. ....
- 2. ....

■ News reporting challenge

10. Imagine you work for *First News* as a journalist and you have been asked to interview Jeff Bezos for next week’s newspaper. Think of **three questions** you would like to ask him. Make sure the questions **can’t** be answered with a simple yes or no, you want interesting replies!

NEWS STORY



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1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

**TEACHER ANSWERS**

**AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS:** News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news ‘stories’ are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

**TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE:** The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email [schools@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:schools@firstnews.co.uk).

■ Look at the article ‘Billionaires get even richer...’.

**1. The charity Oxfam has just published a report. Which sentence summarises the key message?**

READING SKILL – Summarise information from more than one paragraph

(NC 2e)

*Expected response*

- The world’s richest men should really pay for everyone in the world to get a vaccine, they can afford it.
- The wealthiest people on Earth have just got a whole lot wealthier, and when so many people live in poverty this is wrong.
- The wealthiest people on the planet have just got a whole lot wealthier, this should be very inspiring to young children.

**2. Understanding a billion.**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

*Expected response*

How long does it take to count to a million?

**0** years, **11** days, **13** hours, **46** minutes, **40** seconds

How long does it take to count to a billion?

**31** years, **251** days, **7** hours, **46** minutes, **40** seconds

**3. To help you understand these large amounts, the writer has given examples of what the money could pay for. Can you find two of them?**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

*Expected response*

	What it could pay for...
The wealth increase of the world’s ten richest men	This could pay for every single person in the world to be given a vaccine.
The wealth increase of Jeff Bezos – the founder of Amazon	This could pay for a bonus of £76,000 for every person who works at Amazon – that’s 876,000 people.

**4. This article talks a lot about inequality. Can you explain what this means here? It's a tricky word, but have a go.**

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context

(NC 2a)

**Expected response**

- A situation where a small number of people in the world are extremely wealthy and yet billions of people live in poverty.

■ **Look at the other three articles.**

**5. Complete the details.**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

**Expected response**

Who	Raised or spent?	Amount	For what (or on what)?
Oliver Voysey	raised	£64,000	A charity that helps disabled people
Unknown person	spent	£471,200	A gold coin
Evie Swire	raised	£80,000	To make a statue of Mary Anning

**6. What is similar about Evie Swire and Oliver Voysey?**

READING SKILL – Make comparisons between texts

(NC 1e & 1f)

**Expected response**

- They are both children.
- They are both raising money.

**Development**

- They are both children of a similar age.
- They are both raising money for good causes.
- They have organised campaigns (with the help of their parents) to raise awareness of an issue and to get donations from the public.

■ **Look at the article 'Coin sells for a record price'.**

**7. Find two words used to emphasise the huge sale price of the coin.**

READING SKILL – Recognising effect of language choices

(NC 2f & 3)

**Expected response**

1. staggering
2. smashed

**8. Why do you think this coin sold for so much money?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- It's made of gold.
- It's very rare.

**Development**

- There are only 12 of the coins in existence, making it extremely rare. When something is rare it often becomes more valuable.
- It is also made of gold – an expensive metal.
- It also marks an unusual moment in British history when the country had got rid of the monarch and it was being led by a civilian. This might make it unusual and attractive to collectors.

**■ Look at the article ‘Boy fights to save charity’.**

**9. How is Oliver shown to be a very brave and determined boy? Find two examples of his character, using evidence from the text.**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence  
(NC 2c & 8)

***Expected response***

- He is disabled but he still does lots of activities.
- He is fighting to save the charity.

***Development***

- Although Oliver is disabled, he still manages to take part in lots of activities. The writer says “He hasn’t let that stop him though!”
- To help his campaign, Oliver is taking on challenges that he finds very difficult, such as standing up without help for 13 seconds.
- Along with his mum, he is fighting hard to make a difference and save the charity he loves.

**■ News reporting challenge**

**10. Imagine you work for *First News* as a journalist and you have been asked to interview Jeff Bezos for next week’s newspaper.**

Think of three questions you would like to ask him. Make sure the questions can’t be answered with a simple yes or no, you want interesting replies!

READING SKILL – Ask questions to help understanding  
(NC2b)

- Children’s own responses