

### Parents' grief after knifing death of son

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD boy who died of a stab wound in his home has been described as "the most beautiful child in the world".

David-Mario Lazar was found with severe injuries on Tuesday and confirmed dead at the scene.

A 49-year-old woman who had been caring for the boy at the house in Coventry was arrested on suspicion of murder and has since been sectioned.

Devastated parents Cristina and Dorinel said: "He was a very happy boy. "He was always smiling from when he woke up to when he went to sleep. "He is all of our hearts, all of our love and is everything to us."

### 70% of NHS staff think of quitting role

SEVEN IN 10 NHS workers have considered quitting in the past six months.

A poll of 1,000 GMB union members working in the health service in England found 70% had thought about finding a new job, compared to 61% in a similar poll a year ago. Half cited stress or pay as reasons, and around one in six blamed bullying.

NHS workers said stress levels were 36% higher than the average for workers across the economy.

Rachel Harrison, GMB national officer, said: "We have a staffing black hole of almost 100,000 and stress and poverty pay are set to drive thousands more out of the door."

1.3m missing out on £7.3k benefit cash

SOME 1.3 million people are missing out on Universal Credit despite being eligible, a report claims.

The New Economics Foundation says 390,000 families would get £7,300 a year each on average if they were automatically enrolled for the benefit.

A Department for Work & Pensions spokesman said: "Placing every person on the Universal Credit system would be neither practical nor feasible." "The DWP also faced a backlash for a new crack-down on claimants. "They will face sanctions four weeks after making a claim if they turn down any job - even if it is not in their area of expertise."

# CORONAVIRUS CRISIS:

## Rules go ..as many masks stay on



MIXED REACTION On the Tube yesterday

BY ALETHA ADU Political Correspondent FACE masks were still widely in evidence yesterday despite rules on their use being relaxed.

As part of the lifting of Plan B curbs in England it is no longer a legal requirement to wear them in indoor public places and on trains and buses.

However, public health guidance is to continue using masks. Both Sainsbury's and John Lewis chiefs are asking customers to comply and train passengers will also be asked to wear them.

People out and about yesterday were nearly all in favour of continued

use. Carol Grant, 74, who was shopping in Newcastle, vowed to keep wearing her mask.

She said: "It's not nice and I feel I can't breathe but it's worth it for safety. "I've been careful over the past two years and managed to avoid Covid, so I plan to go on doing the same."

Patrick Tait, 20, a politics student at Newcastle University, said: "It seems reasonable to keep wearing masks for others' safety. I use other people as a guide. If someone else is wearing one or they're elderly I'll put one on."

Hull city centre was full of customers wearing masks in and out of stores. Shop worker Rebecca Adnelli

# CHANGES BRING HOPE

believed it would take some time for people to give them up, even with restrictions lifted.

She said: "I prefer to wear one and I will continue for at least a few more weeks. "I don't ask people to put a mask on but when they come in and see me wearing one they usually tend to put theirs on too."

Rob Froggett, 56, said: "In shops I will continue to wear a mask. I have never had a problem with it. "It has helped and you have got to protect people who are having to work." However Borbala Bosi, 18, who was happy to use a mask while the rules were in place, said she will not wear one any more as they are "uncomfortable and itchy".

Trade union Usdaw, which represents 360,000 shop workers,

urged customers to continue to observe safety measures.

General Secretary Paddy Lillis said it is "deeply disappointing that the Government had ploughed ahead with ending mandatory face coverings in shops".

He added: "Staff have borne the brunt of the virus throughout the pandemic, working through lockdowns, tiered restrictions and various waves of Covid."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan urged commuters on the capital's public transport network to "do the right thing" and remain masked.

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WEAR OR NOT TO WEAR? Liverpool bus passengers



### Wills: George is a big fan of video games

BY RUSSELL MYERS Royal Editor

THE Duke of Cambridge has revealed Prince George is an avid video gamer. As William met aspiring showbiz stars at the revamped Bafta HQ in London he offered an insight into family life.

Speaking of eight-year-old George and siblings Charlotte and Louis, William said: "They're fascinated by [gaming]. George particularly. At the moment it's [about] trying to monitor his screen time. "The other two are a bit too small but they love the films. I adore film and gaming as well."

William was launching his Bafta bursary with scheme mentor, Vigil actress Suranne Jones.

It is aimed at helping underprivileged kids make it big in showbiz.



SHOCK Chew with Sir Chris Whitty

### Thug is jailed for harassing Whitty in park

BY REBECCA SPEARE-COLE

A YOB who confronted Prof Sir Chris Whitty has been jailed for eight weeks.

Jonathan Chew, 24, admitted intending to cause harassment, alarm or distress in England's chief medical officer.

He filmed Sir Chris on his phone while pal Lewis Hughes put him in a "humiliating" headlock.

The pair jeered as the victim tried to break free at St James's Park, in Central London, last June.

At Westminster magistrates court yesterday, Chew, of Chelmsford, Essex, also admitted obstructing police and was ordered to pay £1,058.

Hughes, 24, of Romford, Essex, received a suspended eight-week sentence last July, after pleading guilty to a charge of assault by beating.

# CARE HOME HELLO

### EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY THORNTON

THE families of care home residents were "ecstatic" last night as it was revealed visiting restrictions will be lifted in England on Monday.

There will be no limit on the number of visitors allowed, while self-isolation periods will also be cut and homes will follow outbreak management rules for 14 rather than 28 days.

Diane Mayhew, co-founder of Rights for Residents, who has campaigned against care home restrictions, said she could have "cried with relief" after the "inhuman" rules were finally ditched.

She said: "It has been hell so this is a huge step forward and we're ecstatic. This has been a nightmare for families."

Isolation took a terrible toll on care home residents, and families want their right to visits from an "essential care supporter" enshrined in Gloria's Law, named after the mother of actress Ruthie Henshall, who was her mum's essential caregiver before her death.

### DESTROYED

One essential caregiver, Karen Rogers, 53, released a shocking set of pictures of her mother Marion Searle to show how she was "totally destroyed" after being separated from her family in lockdown.

At one stage Karen, from Plymouth, feared her 76-year-old mum, a great-grandmother who has mixed dementia, would die in isolation.

Karen said: "Her family were her world. My mum declined so much when we couldn't get in. She was put on anti-psychotic drugs to calm her down and ended up like a zombie. "She now can't walk because she didn't get the physio she needed when her muscles became so weak."

"For a year we had window visits and she didn't understand why. This should never happen again, it's



MARION & FAMILY NOV 2021 Karen and her family take Marion for a trip out of care home

## Families' relief as limit on number of visitors is finally lifted in England



MARION IN FEB 2020 Looking well just before the pandemic



MARION IN FEB 2021 Almost a year of isolation took terrible toll



MARION IN NOV 2021 Looking so much better after family visits



FRANZISKA AND BIRGIT Birgit hopes to be let into daughter's home

## It is a victory and it is a step forward but it doesn't mean we are there yet

- mum Birgit Clark on care home visits



RUTH & SAM Switch helped boost Sam's mental health

inhuman." Marion had wept when her great-grandchildren went to see her through the window after 10 months.

Karen said: "She wasn't talking before and now you can have a conversation with her. It shows how important that contact is."

Marion's care home has been on a rolling lockdown since a Covid outbreak at Christmas so the rest of the family still won't be able to go in on Monday.

Birgit Clark, from Surrey, whose daughter Franziska,

26, has severe learning difficulties and lives in a care home in Cheshire, said there would be "fireworks going off" if she was allowed in on Monday.

She has not been inside the home for close to two years, although she has seen Franziska outside and taken her on trips.

Birgit said: "It is a victory and it is a step in the right direction but it doesn't mean we are there yet until we go back to where we were. We need Gloria's Law. "Until we get rid of those rolling lockdowns a lot of care homes will still be like prisons." Michelle Cunningham,

from Bournemouth, told how her mum Hazel, 93, rallied after she was allowed in as an essential care giver.

She said: "At first she was just staring at the wall. I went in every day for two months until one day she smiled. It was the first time I'd seen her smile for two years."

Her mum has now moved care homes and Michelle, who visits most days, said: "Yesterday she was talking about The Chase. I told her, 'SUPPORT Michelle with mum Hazel, 93

told me, 'Stop showing off'. It is so heartening to see her return to how she was." Julia Knight, 67, from Lincoln, whose 92-year-old mum Evelyn Church is in a care home, said: "I have been one of the lucky ones because my mum's care home interpreted all the guidelines wisely and humanely."

"I hope all the other homes do the same. It's been terrible as loved ones have felt abandoned. Some people feel loved ones gave up and died of a broken heart."

Ruth Adams, 68, whose son

Sam, 34, is in a residential home, battled to see him until she got him moved to a new home in Boxhill, East Sussex, in July.

The home let Ruth and her family to celebrate a belated birthday with Sam. She said: "The difference in Sam since I was allowed in has been phenomenal. He smiles a lot and laughs. His mental health is massively improved."

He was in his chair 17 hours a day at his old home. Now, I am part of the care team and it's made everything better. But

there are thousands who are still not getting quality access to their loved ones."

Health Secretary Sajid Javid said: "I know how vital companionship is to those living in care homes. "I urge care homes to do all they can to allow as many visitors as they can. But if a care home needs to act a bit differently due to an outbreak then that is understandable."

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