



LETTERS

from



Picture
News



Hello!

Welcome to Letters from Picture News. I hope this past half term has been a success. As we approach the end of term, let's explore all things Picture News, and get ready for 2024!

In this edition, we'll recap on recent news stories that formed the basis of Picture News packs, how to use your Paper, reflect on HQ happenings, and offer teaching insights.

Enjoy!

Katie N

Pack Spotlight



We've covered a variety of news stories this half term. Here are just a few of them!

How important is it to understand money?

6th November 2023

This week explored a recent government study which revealed 5.4 million children lack money skills needed for adulthood. We used this news to reflect on different financial responsibilities and needs.



Are there some jobs robots could never do?

13th November 2023

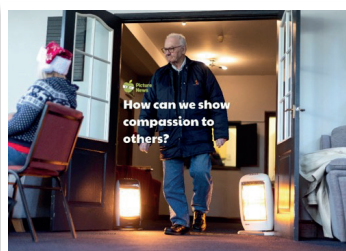
This pack detailed the implementation of Amazon's new robot, Digit, in Seattle warehouses. This event inspired further thinking about our use of robots, and how this may impact workplaces.



How can we show compassion to others?

20th November 2023

Many public spaces in the UK, such as community centres and libraries, have become free warm spaces to provide warmth and companionship this winter. This led to broader questions: how can we be compassionate to others? What are the benefits of warm spaces?



Who is responsible for Antarctica?

27th November 2023

This pack looked at a recent scientific revelation, that more flowering plants have been found in Antarctica in the last 10 years than usually grow in 50 years, a shift underpinned by climate change. This issue inspired discussion of responsibility, and thoughts of what we can do collectively to combat climate change.



How-to...

This time we're delving into the many uses of your Paper!



Homework task

Send the Paper home. Challenge children to read the stories, form their opinions of them, and determine further questions related to the articles.



Inspiration for article writing

Using the news story as the subject, children could conduct further research to prepare to plan and write their own article about the news event!



News display

The Paper makes for an exciting display feature! Showcase the different stories for everyone in school. Here's a fantastic example from Whitegate End Primary School!



Form time task

Start the school day with a news twist, and explore a current news article!



News scrapbook

Document the articles you have read. The scrapbook format makes it easy to look back and reflect on them!



Lunchtime news club

Select one or more of the news articles as the subject of your news discussions.

School Spotlight

I'm always keeping an eye on the socials to see your fantastic posts of how you use Picture News in school! Here are just a few examples of work done by schools this term. Be sure to tag us on social media to have the chance to feature next time, or even be reposted on our social accounts!



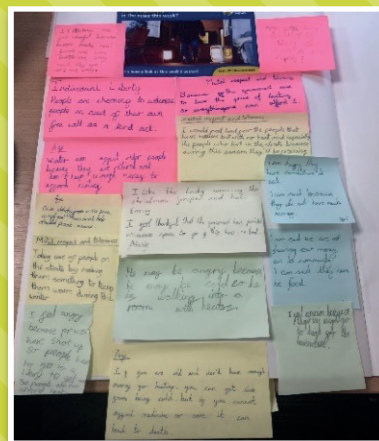
Archbishop Cranmer Primary Academy – Picture News pioneers responding to our big question!



St Stephen's Church of England Primary School – Pupil-led Picture News!



Welbourn Church of England Primary School – Pupil-led Picture News session



Newburgh Primary School – Responses to the big question, 'How can we show compassion to others?'

HQ Happenings



Huge live webinars for children in KS2! 14th & 15th November 2023

Approximately 60,000 children joined us in November for our two British Values & Protected Characteristics webinars, featuring special guest, Jack Lynch from Pop'n'Oilly!

We discussed British Values and Protected Characteristics, and why they are important. We also explored how the news can reflect these values and characteristics.

Stay tuned for future webinars for schools.

Festive Fun

8th December 2023

It was an exciting afternoon of festive activities with schools across the country (of course with a news twist!).

Thank you to the schools who joined us.

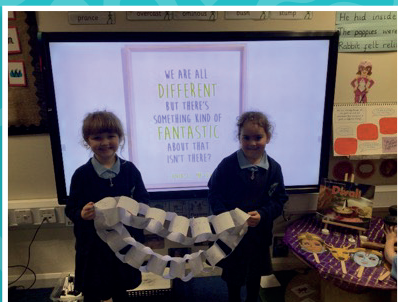


Christmas Campaign

We hope you and your pupils enjoyed this year's campaign – Let's Spread Peace.

Let's make it our 2024 goal to act on these peace ideas!

Here are some fabulous examples sent from schools...



What we've been talking about recently

This term I've written some more blogs all about teaching the news, and topical issues affecting children. Here are my particular favourites!

01

Teaching children about reliable news sources

The issue of fake news is a recent investigation from the BBC revealed AI-generated videos containing false scientific information and conspiracy theories, posted to YouTube channels, are being recommended in children's...

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

14

Talking to Children About Bullying

It's Anti-Bullying Week (13th-17th November 2023), so we wanted to mark it with some proactive advice for dealing with bullying at home or in school. We include a bonus...

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

01

Building children's communication skills... using the news!

Developing children's communication, discussion, and debating skills is important as they progress through school. Teaching the news and implementing real-life learning can help children grapple with their surroundings, different...

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

Upcoming next half term

Picture News will start 2024 as we mean to go on, with plenty of webinars and events! See you there...



Speaking & Listening in EY webinar

15th January 2024, 4:00pm – 4:30pm

[Learn more](#)



Using Picture News to Support your Pupils' Mental Health and Wellbeing

23rd January 2024, 4:00pm – 4:45pm

[Learn more](#)



Live Assembly Term 2

14th March 2024, 9:30am – 10:00am

[Learn more](#)

Goodbye

Thank you for joining me for December's issue of Letters from Picture News.

We're currently in the process of adding Picture News for Parents to the newsletter – an excerpt you can send to parents, to catch up on what Picture News is and how it works. Feel free to email me with ideas for this, or any suggestions for the newsletter in general!

I hope you are looking forward to a well-earned break over the festive period. Best of luck for the new term when January arrives, and here's to a happy and healthy 2024.

Thank you for your continued support.

Katie N, Editor
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