



Picture News For Parents



December 2024

Hello!

Welcome to Picture News for Parents! Receiving this newsletter means your child's school uses Picture News weekly resources, to help young people explore and learn from the world around them. This newsletter reflects on the autumn term for Picture News schools, and shares some handy prompts for productive news-based conversations at home.

Recent News Focuses

Continuing conversations at home...

Picture News schools have explored a variety of news stories this term. Here's a summary of just some of them, along with prompts to continue discussions at home.



How can communities help each other in times of difficulty?

2nd September 2024

Following unrest in parts of the UK over the summer, this pack explored clean-up efforts in Middlesbrough, after the town was affected by damage from protests that turned violent. Children discussed the significance of their communities and considered how they can support others.



Conversation starter:

Who belongs to our community?
How can we support members of our community?

How important are human interactions?

7th October 2024

With this pack, children discussed e-commerce company Amazon's decision to end remote working for its employees. This news inspired conversations about flexible working, and the impact that spending time with other people can have on us.



Conversation starter:

Do you agree with remote working?
Would working remotely interest you in the future?

How can our hopes and dreams help us to succeed?

4th November 2024

This resource highlighted the successes of 23-year-old climber, Adriana Brownlee, who has become the youngest woman to summit the world's fourteen highest mountains. Adriana's achievements led to wider discussions about goal setting and resilience.



Conversation starter:

What's your dream?
What steps can you take to achieve your goal?

Should everyone have the opportunity to be a star?

9th December 2024

Following the popularity of the newly-released Wicked, this pack focused on 10-year-old Karis Musongole from Manchester, who featured in the film as a younger Elphaba. Children thought about how we are all stars in different ways, and the skills we can learn from performances.



Conversation starter:

What makes you a star?
How can everyone be stars in different ways?

What have Picture News schools done this term?

Big assemblies!

This term we've welcomed hundreds of thousands of children online for live assemblies, including:



September's **Welcome Back Assembly** to celebrate our differences and overcome adversity following unrest over the summer. Over 500,000 children joined in to share the importance of their communities, and it even caught the attention of BBC News!

October's **Black History Month Assembly** with BBC Radio 1 presenter Swarzy Macaly, to celebrate Black history. Swarzy shared a positive reminder that we can all claim our own stories and lift each other up.



There will be more big assemblies to come in 2025, to continue inspiring children with current affairs!

Take Home

Within each Picture News pack sent to schools is the 'Take Home' resource, which encourages you to continue conversations about the news story and big question at home.

This is a great chance to stay up-to-date with the topics we cover, and think about the issues and events impacting our world.



Exploring the News



It's so inspiring to see schools bringing Picture News resources to life. Here are some examples from this term! Keep reading for three reasons why children should explore the news...

1 Develop empathy and understanding for others' experiences

The news sheds light on experiences and perspectives, helping children to discover, relate to, and empathise with other people's stories.



St Paul's Catholic Primary School

2 They can build awareness for what's happening now – and get involved!

Children can make an impact, whether it's writing letters, starting petitions, or having meaningful conversations, to act on current issues and events.



Holy Spirit Catholic Primary

3 Grow communication skills to discuss thoughts and responses to news events

Conversations inspired by the news can support children to develop their communication skills, by sharing their own responses and listening to (and respecting) others' views on a topic.



Allington Primary School

Stay in touch!

I hope this newsletter has been useful! Any feedback or ideas for future editions are welcome.

Be sure to follow us on social media to see regular updates on our news coverage and the fabulous work our schools share!

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year – take care!

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