

Information for parents

What is Picture News?

We make weekly news resources to help schools teach current affairs.

Picture News goes beyond simply telling children what is happening in the world, to instead find opportunities for discovery, deeper thinking and reflection.

How do schools use Picture News?

Our schools use the resources for assemblies and classroom sessions.

Each weekly pack is based on a current news story, and uses a poster image and big question to spark children's thoughts and understanding.

We introduce children to the news story as they consider discussion questions and work through age-appropriate activities.

This lets children learn from the news, and empowers them as they encounter the lives and experiences of others across the globe.



A meaningful approach to exploring current affairs with children

Enhance global awareness

Covering a variety of news stories gives children broader knowledge of what's happening in the world. Children can discover their place in the world and relate to others.



Develop empathy

Hearing different experiences and responses encourages children to understand and empathise with the perspectives of others.



Build cultural capital

Encountering stories from across the world helps children explore different places, people, ways of life, cultures and situations beyond their own.



Practise citizenship

Children can become inspired, global citizens. They can establish new interests and passions, and learn that they can make a real difference.



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Learning from the news

From Webb telescope discoveries to Greta Thunberg's climate campaigns, Picture News uses real-life learning and covers topics including real people and scenarios to bring the world to the classroom.

When exploring the world around them, children learn more about themselves and others: what interests them, what they are passionate about, and what they want to change or act on.

Often, people in the news can be a source of inspiration. Children may learn about an issue through the news and decide to take action.

Whether it's organising a litter pick, or raising funds for a cause important to the school, finding out about what's happening in the world can encourage children to get involved and make a difference.



What if the news is negative?

Our schools often ask us how to handle sensitive news in school, especially if the story is close to home. Here are some points to consider.

Angle and approach

Seek out opportunities for reflection on morality, choices and citizenship.

We can discuss examples of humanity in the midst of a negative event unfolding, or alternative angles which focus on people making a difference.

Working collaboratively as a school community makes space for all voices to be heard as you navigate the news together.

Timing

Holding news discussions in the morning gives children time to encounter and digest the story, so that they can discuss further thoughts or responses throughout the day.



Recognising and understanding responses

News exploration lets children develop emotional literacy. Children can observe their own emotions, and practise articulating and understanding them as they consider the news event.

Children have the chance to talk about the news, ask questions, and share their concerns and interpretations in a safe space.



The weekly Take Home resource helps you continue news discussions at home!



If you have any questions or thoughts, please get in touch!

Find us on social media for regular updates about our news coverage and examples of work from schools.