



# Picture News For Parents



May 2024 edition

## Hello!

Welcome to another edition of Picture News for Parents!

This newsletter offers tips for discussing the news with children, gives advice for the assessment and testing season, and recaps the positive impact exploring the news is having on our schools.

Let's get started!

## Handy hints for discussing sensitive news with children



Our contact with the news is evolving alongside social media, AI and algorithms. What used to be something to opt-in to, current affairs is increasingly becoming unavoidable.

Children are not exempt from this shift. As parents and responsible adults, it's our job to ensure we equip children with the skills they need to deal with the news they encounter.

Here are 3 tips for discussing sensitive news with children at home.

### Give your time

Ensure you give your time and energy when navigating sensitive news stories with children. They may have questions and thoughts they want to discuss with you, potentially some time after your initial conversations.

To help children deal with the story, you could spend time to explore the story together. Discussing topics in the morning can help, as this gives children plenty of time during the day to digest and talk about the story with you.



### Regulate your responses

Current affairs can often prompt a variety of responses and emotions for adults as well as children, including fear, anger, and frustration.

Children can emulate the behaviour they see around them. When you're discussing a sensitive news topic, remain calm and rational to help children feel the same, and maintain a safe space.

### Ask what they already know about the story

Before telling children details about the news story, gauge how much they already know to avoid overwhelming them.

Consider their age and developmental stage, and evaluate how much information you want to share with them depending on these factors. This will empower your discussions and help keep them age-appropriate.

You may wish to seek out alternative angles to a news story, or find ways to connect the story to the child's experiences, to help them understand what's happening.



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# This term in school

Our schools have been busy exploring their weekly news packs. Here's some recent impressive news-based work!



St James' Church of England Primary School



World Beaters



Vicarage Park School



Holy Spirit Catholic Primary

## The power of the news!

Having an awareness of what's happening in the world can give children the chance to feel empowered.

This is something the children of Fourlanesend Community Primary School know well enough, after enlisting the help of Sir David Attenborough to successfully campaign for plastic-free Comic Relief Red Noses.

The children became the focus of a Picture News pack, which inspired our schools and reminded them that they can make a difference!

### Comic Relief ditches plastic noses for plant-based alternative after primary school campaign

Pupils at the school in Torpoint, south-east Cornwall, went straight to the top and enlisted the help of veteran environmental campaigner Sir David Attenborough



Learn more about the impact of news exploration

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## What's happening?



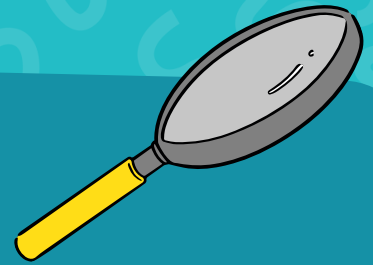
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May is SATs season for primary schools.

Whilst the summer testing may have come to an end and it's now time for weeks of play rehearsals and school trips, you can read our article about children's testing and exams.

There you'll find advice for reassuring children about assessments (useful for SATs week and beyond!) and different perspectives on the nature of testing children.

# Pack Spotlight



To inspire current affairs discussions you may have at home, here's a recap of some recent news stories we have explored.

What do people at home think to each big question? Can they explain their own opinion, and offer an opposing opinion too?

## Should everyone be allowed to lead a private life?

8th April 2024

This pack explored privacy in light of recent health news from the Royal Family, including King Charles III and Catherine, the Princess of Wales. This led to wider discussions of the Royal Family's roles and why we may want, or need, privacy.



## What does art mean to you?

15th April 2024

Banksy's latest artwork was the pack's focus. This inspired exploration of Banksy's previous artwork that he has shared with the public, alongside discussion of different types of art and how it can have different meanings to us all.



## How can shops make sure everyone feels represented?

29th April 2024

Paralympian, Stef Reid MBE, has been in the news after asking Nike to sell individual running shoes for single-leg amputees like her. This pack explored Stef Reid's request, other companies that have made inclusive changes, and how we can be the same as and different from each other.



## Can the past help us learn about modern life?

6th May 2024

For this pack, we were looking back in time, following a recent study on Neanderthals that found they may have organised their living spaces in a similar way to us. This prompted deeper thoughts about how Neanderthals experienced the world, and how we can learn from the past.



## Picture News Take Home



**In the news this week**

**Things to talk about at home...**

- Can you explain the difference between a single-leg amputee and a double-leg amputee?
- How do you think the world would be different if all of the different buildings you found in the city were the same?
- Can you think of a time when you found something hard to do? How did you feel about it? How did you overcome the challenge or what could you learn from the experience and what are the benefits of the experience?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

You can keep up-to-date with the topics we cover in the 'Take Home' resource included in every Picture News pack!



## Get in touch!

If you would like further advice or information about Picture News, or exploring the news with children, feel free to drop me an email and I'll be happy to help!

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