



LETTERS

from



Picture News



March 2024 edition

Hello!

How are you? For many, Spring 2 is jam-packed (and slightly hectic!) despite being so short. In all the busyness, I hope you had a successful half term and are looking forward to some respite over the break. The days are getting longer and the skies are getting brighter – hang in there!

This newsletter reflects on the past half term at Picture News, celebrates our schools, dishes our top tips for navigating sensitive news with children, and looks ahead to next term with some exciting webinars lined up.

Happy reading!

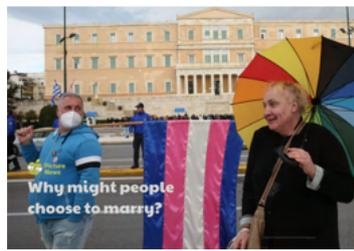
Pack Spotlight



Why might people choose to marry?

Special Pack

The Special Pack released in February covered the news of Greece's decision to legalise same-sex marriage. This development prompted discussion of reasons why some people wish to marry, and exploration of how marriage has changed over time.



How can you make your voice heard?

26th February 2024

News of farmers' protests across Europe in response to EU rules was the subject of this pack. This inspired questions of how we can make our voices heard and ways to raise awareness for causes we care about.



How do you think World Book Day should be celebrated?

4th March 2024

The annual World Book Day celebration was this week's focus, as we explored the 2024 theme to encourage choice and fun for reading. Thoughts of World Book Day led to conversations about the day's purpose, and the different ways we may choose to celebrate it.



What's the best way to handle disappointment?

18th March 2024

This pack explored the viral 'Willy's Chocolate Experience' in Glasgow, which saw attendees frustrated by the event's reality as a sparsely decorated warehouse. We asked children about their experiences of visiting attractions, and how they manage and overcome disappointment.



Remember, you and your class can share your views on each news story using our [discussion board](#), and see what others think!

HQ Happenings

ERA 2024

We're finalists for FIVE Education Resources Awards!

Thank you for your continued support. We are so grateful to create resources for you and your pupils!



Our team has grown

This half term we've welcomed Chloe to the Picture News team!

Following a successful teaching career, Chloe is now an Education Consultant and creates Picture News resources for KS1.



An interview with Jo, the farmer!

To celebrate our pack, 'How can you make your voice heard?', Hannah's Year 4 class were the lucky winners of an exclusive interview with Jo! When she's not writing Picture News resources, Jo is a sheep farmer. She spoke to Year 4 all about farmer life and where some of our food comes from.



Live Assembly

Katie and Jo hosted our second-ever Live Assembly, which covered the big question, 'What's the best way to handle disappointment?'

Schools shared their perspectives on building resilience and overcoming disappointments with children across the country!

Teacher Tips

Discussing sensitive news with children

Although we may wish otherwise, the news can be unsettling. Here are 3 tips for dealing with sensitive or overwhelming news with children and young people.

1

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 often 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.



3

Give your time

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

To help them deal with the story, you could take time out to explore it together.

2

Ask what they already know about the story

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

Depending on the child's age or developmental stage, you may evaluate how much information you want to share with them.



School Spotlight

This half term, Lady Margaret Primary School have launched their very own podcast, inspired by Picture News packs!

The 'Let's Talk' podcast explores Picture News Pioneers' thoughts on the news stories covered by Picture News.

Here is Lady Margaret Primary School's impressive Picture News display – well done!



@LMPS_School.



Stars of Picture News

Recently, we asked our schools if they would like to become Stars of Picture News, and feature on our social media and upcoming new website.



Thank you for the amazing content you have shared with us so far. It's fantastic to see how the resources are making a difference to your school communities!

Your school can become Stars of Picture News, too. Email help@picture-news.co.uk with a short video sharing how you use Picture News.

What we're talking about...

This half term, I've been busy creating blogs to help you as an educator. Here are some particular favourites from the last few weeks!

Covering the 9 Protected Characteristics in School

Protected Characteristics arose as part of the Equality Act 2010. This followed campaigning from groups and individuals to promote and protect human rights.

[Read more](#)

Using the News for PSHE Education

Including exploration of current affairs in your PSHE sessions comes with an array of benefits, as you expose children to the world around them, whilst developing those all-important personal skills needed to navigate adult life!

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Training

Our webinars next term include an exciting series of guest speakers! See below for links to join in.

Using Current Affairs to Inspire Young Minds for ECTs with Special Guest Andrew Taylor – Mr T's ECT Support

15th April 2024, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

[Register here](#)

Join Katie and special guest ECT expert, Mr T, as we explore practical, fun, and easy-to-implement ways that ECTs can embed current affairs in the classroom.

How Current Affairs Can Inspire a School's Culture with Special Guest Dr Vic Carr

25th April 2024, 1:30pm – 2:30pm

[Register here](#)

With Dr Vic Carr, we'll explore how current affairs can support and enhance school culture, to inspire pupils, staff, and wider school communities.

Picture News Pupil-led Worship Training

29th April 2024, 11:00am – 11:45am

[Register here](#)

This 45-minute session for pupils will cover how to plan and structure Picture News pupil-led worship sessions in school.

Picture News Pupil-led Assemblies Training

29th April 2024, 1:30pm – 2:15pm

[Register here](#)

This 45-minute session for pupils will cover how to plan and structure Picture News pupil-led assemblies or class sessions.

Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools with Special Guest Kerry Barkworth

21st May 2024, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

[Register here](#)

With Kerry Barkworth, we'll discuss empathy, stress in young people, language around mental health and suicide, self-care for young people and teachers, and how you can use Picture News to support mental health and wellbeing.

Goodbye!

That's all from me for now, thank you for reading this March edition of *Letters from Picture News*.

I hope you have a restful break, ready to do it all again in Summer 1!

Feel free to get in touch with any thoughts or suggestions for the newsletter – I'm keen to make it as useful as I can for you!

Take care.

Katie N, Editor



katie.n@picture-news.co.uk