



LETTERS

from



Picture
News



February 2024 edition

Hello!

Thank you for joining me in this newest edition of *Letters from Picture News*. This half term has flown by, hasn't it? I hope it has been a success for you.

In this newsletter, you'll be reminded of some of the amazing news stories Picture News has covered over the last few weeks. You'll also find some display inspiration from schools using Picture News, and be kept in the loop with events, training and happenings at HQ!

Enjoy!

Katie N

Pack Spotlight

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

Are emojis an important part of communication?

8th January 2024

This first pack of 2024 explored Teddy Cottle's petition for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he thinks it misrepresents glasses-wearers. This story led to wider thoughts of how we use emojis to communicate and express ourselves.



Is an e-reader better than a book?

15th January 2024

This pack detailed a recent study from the University of Valencia, which found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading. This news inspired children to debate how they felt about print books versus e-readers, and reflect on the value books bring to our lives.



Is fashion important?

29th January 2024

News of BBC's new programme, *Style It Out*, was the subject of this pack. The contest show requires budding designers to only use second-hand materials, which led us to explore sustainable clothing and the impact fast fashion is having on our environment.



What makes someone inspirational?

5th February 2024

This pack covered the news of Spain's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome, Mar Galcerán. Talk of Mar's election led us to explore the power of pursuing interests despite facing obstacles, and prompted discussions about what traits make someone inspirational.

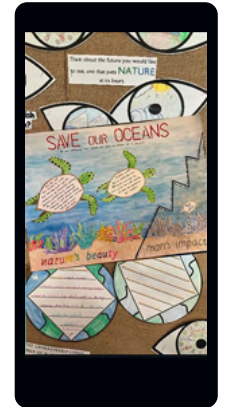
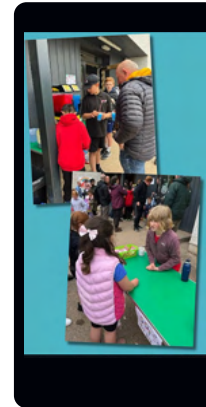


Incredible Impact Awards

The end of 2023 saw the completion of the Picture News Impact Awards! We had so many fantastic entries, and were in awe of the difference schools are making to their community and the wider world.

You can watch **Jo's video** on our X (Twitter) page, where she shares some Gold award entries. Feel free to share this video with your pupils, which will hopefully inspire them to act!

We'll be kickstarting the Impact Awards for 2024 later this year, so stay tuned to learn how to apply!



HQ Happenings

It's certainly been a busy few weeks here at Picture News HQ. Let's recap...



EY Speaking and Listening Webinar

Over 900 teachers registered to join our Early Years Consultant, Lisa, who offered valuable advice for Early Years Practitioners and teaching staff.

The webinar helped educators deal with current issues and challenges when developing children's speaking and listening skills.



Using Picture News to Support Children's Mental Health & Wellbeing Webinar

Our Education Consultant, Jo, explored how Picture News can support children's mental health and wellbeing with teachers, TAs and leaders. It was a fascinating session, filled with useful information from WHO, teaching anecdotes, and tips for exploring emotions and self-understanding with children, plus suggestions for how Picture News packs can help you do this.

Pupil-led Picture News Training for Children

We were so pleased to bring back Picture News training for children this February! Over two sessions, we showed children how to plan, present and lead Picture News sessions in school.

We hope your Picture News Monitors enjoy leading their sessions! Remember to tag us in your social posts about Picture News.



If you have any suggestions for the type of support you would like to see from Picture News, send them to help@picture-news.co.uk

School Spotlight

Picture News packs are great for making news-themed displays in school. Different stories every week mean you can keep your displays fresh and interchangeable.

Here are some fantastic examples of how some schools use their Picture News resources to create displays.

Thank you to the schools who share their displays and resource work with us!



What we're talking about...

Keep an eye on the Picture News blog page for regular content about education, teaching the news, and more! You can find a couple of our newest posts below.

Do children care about the news?

It's easy to think that current affairs are something for 'grownups': complex, confusing, or even scary.

While it may be initially assumed by some that current affairs have no place in school, all too often we see the importance of appropriately discussing news events with children.

[Read more](#)



How to make the most out of your assembly

If you're looking for ways to invigorate your school assemblies, or perhaps try something new, this blog is for you.

Our Education Consultants have shared their 5 top tips for making assemblies engaging, informative and fun, to get children interested and inspired!

[Read more](#)



Upcoming next half term

It's been a jam-packed start to the year, but there's more to come!

British Values Overview for Pupils in KS2 Webinar

5th March 2024,
11:00am – 11:45am

Join us as a class or group for this interactive session. We will look at each of the Fundamental British Values, learning what they are and how they are reflected in the world.

Suitable for: Children aged 7-11 (and their teachers too!)

[Register Here](#)



Protected Characteristics Overview for Pupils in KS2 Webinar

5th March 2024,
1:15pm – 2:00pm

With special guest, Olly from Pop'n'Ollie! This will be an interactive session that explores the 9 protected characteristics: what they are and where we can identify them in the world around us.

Suitable for: Children aged 7-11 (and their teachers too!)

[Register Here](#)



Live assembly

14th March 2024,
9:30am – 10:00am

Join Jo and Katie as a class or whole school for our free live assembly, all about the week's current Picture News pack!

Live assemblies are the latest addition to Picture News, and we plan on hosting one every half term, so we'd love to see you there!

They are a great opportunity to connect with other schools, and hear a variety of thoughts and ideas whilst exploring a news story together.

Suitable for children aged 4-11 and their teachers.

[Register Here](#)



Event Updates

Follow our social media pages to hear about upcoming events and training (plus some extra teaching tips and behind the scenes at HQ!)



Goodbye!

Thank you for joining me in this February edition of *Letters from Picture News*. As always, feel free to get in touch with any suggestions for the newsletter.

This half term also marks the first edition of *Picture News for Parents*. You can share the separate document with parents and carers, to keep them updated with all things Picture News and the role our resources play in school!

See you next time!

Katie N, Editor

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