



LETTERS

from  Picture News



April 2025

Hello!

Welcome to Spring 2's edition of Letters from Picture News. I hope you've enjoyed this term's resources! This newsletter shares some exciting updates from Picture News HQ, our top tips for developing media literacy skills, and looks ahead to future training opportunities.

Pack Recap

Let's reflect on some of this half term's news focuses...



Do world leaders have a duty to help other countries?

24th March 2025



Following news of European leaders forming a coalition to support Ukraine, this resource explored world leaders' duty to help other countries. This led to broader discussions about community, and what it means to be there for others.

Is it important to have a morning routine?

17th March 2025



The UK government announced that from April, 750 schools in England will trial free breakfast clubs. This news led to conversations about morning routines and the importance of breakfast. Pupils thought about how they can best start their day.

Is it important to feel proud of where you come from?

3rd March 2025



The Times newspaper conducted a survey with Gen Z, including questions about feeling proud about living in the UK. Children discussed their opinions on where they live, and what their home and surroundings means to them.

Why do we judge people based on their appearance?

24th February 2025



This resource focused on a girls' football team in York, who kickstarted a campaign, 'Girls can have short hair. Get Over It!'. This was a springboard for broader discussions about judging others based on appearances, and how together we can foster inclusivity.

ERA – finalists!

Exciting news... Picture News has been shortlisted for TWO awards in this year's Education Resources Awards!

Supplier of the Year Award

Collaboration Between School and Supplier Award with the fabulous St Nicholas CE Primary Academy!

The Picture News team will be heading to the awards ceremony soon, so watch this space!

Thank you for your continued support for all things Picture News.

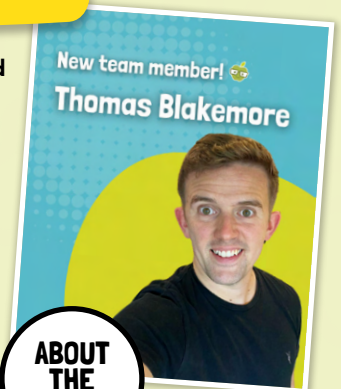


Welcome Thomas

This half term, we've welcomed Thomas Blakemore to the Picture News team!

You may have seen Thomas' own content online, all about teaching abroad. Now with Picture News, he creates video content about learning from current affairs! Have you spotted his videos yet?

Learn more about Thomas and the rest of our team!



ABOUT THE TEAM >

Media Literacy

This half term, Jo hosted a brand-new webinar, *Developing Media Literacy Skills in the Primary Classroom!* She explored critical thinking, the importance of media literacy in today's world, and strategies to support meaningful discussions and critical media engagement.

We've developed a handy acronym, 'REAL', to represent key media literacy skills!



Research



Evaluate



Analyse



Link

Research find the information elsewhere, use technology to safely find out more.

Evaluate determine if the information is balanced, share opinions and weigh up emotional responses.

Analyse identify the information shared, the intended audience, and any assumptions made.

Link think about what can be learned from others, different perspectives and actions.

Read our media literacy blog to learn more!

BLOG >

Upcoming Events & Training

We have a bunch of exciting opportunities for teachers and pupils lined up after the school holidays! Open to all – you'll find the links to sign up below.

How news can inspire self-initiated play and introduce and embed vocabulary in the Early Years



Tuesday 6th May 2025, 4:00pm – 4:45pm

[Register here](#)

Suitable for early years practitioners, we'll explore how the news can inspire self-initiated play whilst building vocabulary. We'll cover the role of the adult to model newly introduced vocabulary, and question and challenge thinking.

British Values overview for pupils in KS2



Thursday 8th May 2025, 9:30am – 10:15am

[Register here](#)

Join as a class or key stage for this interactive session, to explore each British Value and how we can find examples of them in action by exploring current affairs.

Understanding media literacy and critical thinking skills for KS2



Tuesday 20th May 2025, 9:30am – 10:00am

[Register here](#)

A brand-new session for children, we'll delve into critical thinking and media literacy, and the skills we need to navigate the world on and off-line.

School Spotlight



As always, we love learning how schools bring the Picture News resources to life, with eye-catching displays, insightful discussions and follow-up activities!

Here are some of our favourite examples from schools this half term.

Year 6 pupils at **St Benet's Ouston** had a productive discussion about helping other countries. We love the school's display!



Year 3 at **Roby Park** had a thought-provoking class discussion all about making connections with others, after the Princess of Wales shared portraits drawn by herself and her children.

Year 5 at **Holy Spirit Catholic Primary** reflected on the big question, 'Why do we judge people based on their appearances?'. Some very insightful ideas shared!



Remember to share your Picture News work with us on social media.

Goodbye!

Thanks for reading – I hope you've found this edition helpful. Perhaps you'll share the REAL acronym in school!



The end of Spring term sees the release of the next Picture News for Parents – a newsletter to send to parents and carers. This engages your wider school community in Picture News topics, and shares advice for families to support media literacy at home.

Look out for another newsletter at the end of Summer 1. Until then, follow us on social media for more updates and information. Why not tag us in your posts about your Picture News work in school?

Take care!

Katie N, Editor

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