



LETTERS

from  **Picture News**



February 2026

Hello!

Welcome to Spring 1's edition of Letters from Picture News. This newsletter looks back on a half term full of thought-provoking news stories and a big live assembly, and offers support for teaching media literacy in school.

World Pangolin Day Competition!

- ✓ Create an informative poster to raise awareness about **pangolins**, with a chance to win a Peter Bear teddy!
- ✓ An engaging classroom or at-home activity.
- ✓ Send your entries to help@picture-news.co.uk by **Friday 27th February**.



News Recap

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



What role will reading play in our future?

5th January 2026



To start the year, this resource focused on 2026 being the Year of Reading. This led to discussions around the purpose of the campaign, reading for pleasure, and the benefits of reading in all its forms.

Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?

19th January 2026



News of the Jane Goodall Earth Medal was the focus for this resource. Children thought about people who work hard to help the wider world, why we receive awards, and reflected on the reasons for helping others.

Does how we behave matter as much as how well we play?

26th January 2026



The FA published a review on behaviour at football matches and practice in England. This news inspired conversations about how our actions affect others, participating in competitive activities, and reflecting on behaviour rules in sports.

Should children have social media?

9th February 2026



This resource explored discussions in the UK about the use of social media among under 16s. The story coincided with Children's Mental Health Week, leading to conversations around how important it is to look after our mental health both online and offline.

Share your pupil-led news assemblies!

We love that our schools are empowering their pupils to lead their very own news assemblies! It's a great way to boost children's engagement with what's happening in the world around them, and build their self-esteem and presenting skills.

Be sure to tag us in your social posts showcasing your Picture News sessions!



Discussion Board

Did you know that your pupils can add their thoughts on the big question and news story to the Picture News Discussion Board?

Why not make adding comments to the Discussion Board part of your classroom Picture News session, or as an at-home activity!

VISIT THE DISCUSSION BOARD 



Children's Mental Health Week - LIVE ASSEMBLY!



This February, we welcomed schools all around the country for the Children's Mental Health Week Live Assembly, with special guest Katie Hopper!

Based on this year's theme, This Is My Place, children joined us online to explore why feeling included matters, and consider how our actions can help others feel welcomed and included.

Special guest Katie is a mental health advocate and children's author, and we were all lucky enough to hear her read one of her stories live!



WATCH THE ASSEMBLY HERE ▶

Media Literacy Support



With the National Curriculum change pending, we're continuing to work hard to support our schools with media literacy, oracy and real-world citizenship.

Look out for more useful resources from us coming soon, but in the meantime, why not check out:

Media Literacy Support For Teachers – new Facebook group!

Access advice and share ideas with other educators about teaching media literacy. A good group to be part of ahead of the curriculum change!

VISIT THE GROUP ▶



Join in the discussion:



More child-friendly news stories and discussion prompts

Over on our Picture News Facebook and Instagram, we share daily news, support for sensitive topics and discussion prompts! Some teachers find it useful to save the posts for future reference!

Media Literacy Support in the Classroom

This blog explores how children's media exposure has changed over time, and what media literacy teaching can look like in action in the classroom, with more tips and support.

READ THE BLOG



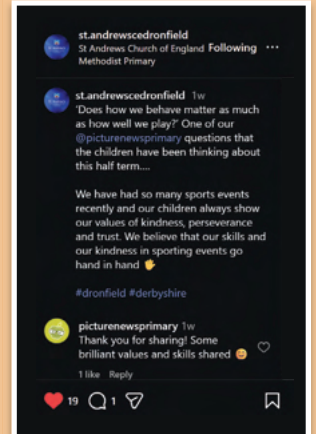
Celebrating Picture News Digital Ambassadors!



The new year saw the launch of our brand-new Picture News Digital Ambassadors programme!

As Digital Ambassadors, teachers are using their social media platforms to help share the importance of media literacy, oracy and citizenship for children, and showcasing their fantastic Picture News work!

A big thank you to our new Digital Ambassadors! We are so excited to see your posts.



If you're interested in becoming a Digital Ambassador too, complete an application [here](#).



Upcoming next half term...

Lunar New Year Live Assembly



It's almost Lunar New Year, which means it's nearly time for our big live assembly!

We'll be discussing how Lunar New Year is celebrated around the world, with some very special guests joining live to share their experiences!

Be sure to join us to celebrate the new year, help build cultural capital, and learn more about the traditions, stories and symbols of the festivity.

**Wednesday 25th February
9:15am – 9:45am**

Register here ▶



Live on Zoom!

Goodbye!

That's all for now, thanks for reading the latest newsletter from Picture News.

I hope you found our Media Literacy support section useful, and are looking forward to Spring 2!

If you have any ideas or questions about future resources or helpful content from Picture News, just let me know.

The next newsletter, out at the end of Spring 2, will also be sent to you with our Picture News for Parents newsletter – great to send home to your school families! 😊

Take care!
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