



LETTERS

from



Picture
News



October 2026

Hello!

Welcome to the first edition of Letters from Picture News for this academic year! Let's reflect on our recent news discussions and live assembly learning, and look ahead to some exciting opportunities in Autumn 2...

A quick note:

We've had feedback from some schools that they're keeping these newsletters as an extended record of their Picture News learning each half term, including attending live assemblies! Just an idea, in case that would be useful for you too. 😊

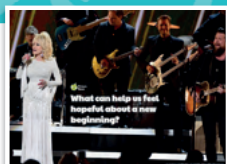
News Recap

Lots of news to learn from as usual!
Let's look back at some of the discussions...

Find out what children had to say
about this half term's stories here.

September 2026

Learning from Dolly: What can help us feel hopeful about a new beginning?



Dolly Parton re-recorded a song to raise money for charity, showing how revisiting something from the past can have a fresh impact. Coinciding with the new school year, children considered how they can build on their earlier experiences, take on new challenges, and make a positive difference.

14th September 2026

Homelessness: Do we all have a part to play in helping those in need?



Prime Minister Andy Burnham pledged to offer everyone sleeping rough in England a safe place to stay by Christmas. Children thought about times when people need the help of others, what that help might look like, and why asking for help and telling a safe adult when we are worried about someone can matter.

5th October 2026

School Lunches: Who should decide what we have for school lunch?



News of healthier changes to school dinner rules was the focus of this resource. Children thought about how decisions are made, discussing personal choice and shared responsibility, and the factors schools consider when providing meals.

12th October 2026

AI: Do we need AI wherever we go?



The announcement of the new Meta Muse Charm led to thought-provoking conversations in schools about whether AI is useful and when might we be better off without it. Children discussed AI's potential and limits, and how much technology should play a part in our lives.

Picture News Pioneers!

Earlier this term, Picture News founder Katie Harrison led an online session teaching children about how they can become Picture News Pioneers, and lead their own assemblies and discussions in school!



And the children were definitely listening...

We've been inundated with lovely letters from children, explaining why they'd be good Picture News leaders.

If these letters are anything to go by, we're in safe hands with the next generation of leaders!

Read some of the letters and learn more about
introducing Picture News Pioneers here



Talking about AI with children

With news of the first-ever teacher of AI in Scotland, and questions of how we can use AI responsibly amid new product launches like the Meta Muse Charm, AI has been an ongoing topic of conversation recently.

With 56% of children aged 8-17 using AI, we've been investigating how AI is impacting children and teachers. You'll find some stats and facts on our recent social post [here](#).

Our recent Picture News pack explored the new Meta Muse Charm; we asked children "Do we need AI wherever we go?"



What did your
pupils think?

Let us know via the
Discussion Board here.



Allergy Awareness Support

In September, we asked what topics you'd like us to cover next. So many of you responded with allergies, so we got to work...

With Benedict's Law bringing changes to allergy safety rules in schools, we put together a series of live assemblies to help you raise awareness of allergies and keeping safe with children.



Allergies Live Assembly with the Sadie Bristow Foundation

Clare Bristow and 14-year-old Reuben joined around 1 million children to explore what allergies are, what it's like to experience them, and how we can help keep each other safe.

[REWATCH THE SESSION HERE](#)

Being Allergy Allies! Primary Live Assembly

We explored more about allergies, with interactive quizzes and discussions. We heard from Lucy, who told us what it's like to live with coeliac disease, and shared how her friends and teachers helped to keep her safe.

[REWATCH THE SESSION HERE](#)

Allergy safety learning is ongoing, so we'll be hosting another live allergy safety session next half term:

Allergy Awareness for Primary Pupils with AllergyWise

Thurs 19th Nov | 2:15 - 2:45

The session will include simple preparation activities, practical actions for schools and a live question-and-answer session!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Two LIVE Assemblies in one week!



We kicked October off with a jam-packed week of live assemblies, both with a very important message of inclusion...

First up was Breaking Barriers: Celebrating Disability Sport with Paralympian Stef Reid!

Stef shared her story with children, from loving sport as a child, to losing her foot in an accident, learning to run with a blade and becoming a world champion.

Sharing the challenges and triumphs along the way, Stef gave us all so much to think about: how we respond to difference, how we adapt activities, and how we make sure everyone has a chance to take part!



[REWATCH HERE](#)



Then, it was time for Black History Month Live with Swarzy Macaly!

Bringing all the up-beat energy, Swarzy talked us through this year's theme, Honouring Our Communities, and helped us celebrate the local heroes around us.

Swarzy told us about the special people in her life who help her feel like she belongs, from her colleagues at BBC Radio 1Xtra, to her family, church, and the wonderful Auntie Phyllis!

[REWATCH HERE](#)

It got children thinking about the power of welcoming others and championing the people around us, at any point in the year – not just October!

Let's look to next half term!

There are a bunch of exciting, topical live assemblies and teacher training events coming up! We'd love to see you there...

Primary School Inter Faith Week 2026:

Tues 10th Nov | 9:15 - 9:45

Learn more and register [here](#)



Anti-Bullying Week with the Anti-Bullying Alliance!

Tues 17th Nov | 9:15 - 9:45

Learn more and register [here](#)



Practical Ideas for Using Symbols in the Primary Classroom: With Widgit!

Wed 18th Nov | 4:00 - 4:30

Learn more and register [here](#)



(And because it'll be here before we know it...)

Festive Fun!

Fri 11th Dec | 1:30 - 2:30

Learn more and register [here](#)



Bye for now

Phew, what a half term that was! Time for a rest before Autumn 2 arrives. I hope you found this summary useful, and as always any feedback is welcome.

From this year, we'll also be releasing **Picture News for Parents** every half term too, so look out for that in your email inbox, ready to send to your community. 😊



Katie N
Editor

katie.n@picture-news.co.uk

