



NEWSLETTER FOR SIDMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was great to welcome everyone back this week. We have now officially started the last half term of the year, doesn't the year fly by! We have lots of exciting things planned so please make sure you check the diary dates to see what is happening this half term.

As it is the start of a new half term we will have sent you a link to the year group newsletters which are all on our [website](#). Please take some time to read this newsletter as it informs you about the topics your child will be studying over the next half term. We would really encourage you to visit the curriculum section of our website as you will find lots of information about what the children are learning throughout the year.

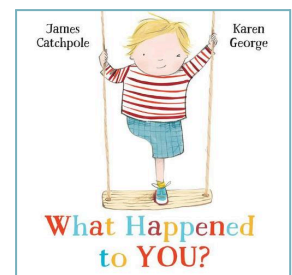
Over the last few weeks we have definitely noticed an improvement in the amount of children wearing school uniform, so we would like to say thank you for working with us on this and let's keep it up.



We are nearly at the end of PSHE curriculum for this year! The last domain is 'Jigsaw - Changing Me'. From F1 to Year 6 children will be learning about the 'Changing Me' domain. The content of 'Changing Me' is tailored to children's specific age and increases children's knowledge of 'Relationships and Sex Education'. Alongside, PSHE children will be exposed to this content from a scientific perspective during their Science lessons and are familiar with the correct vocabulary as part of their school life.

Alongside Jigsaw, we celebrate 'Key Awareness Days' and use stories to embed and provide discussion points for children linked to the theme. This promotes 'Protected Characteristics' and 'SMSC - Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural' development. The upcoming days are:

- National School Sport Week - 'empowering young minds through the joy of PE, play and Sport' Monday 17th -23rd June
- RSE Day- Theme 'Embracing Change' - Thursday 27th June



Picture News



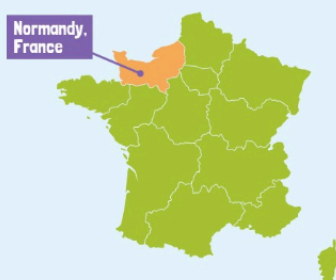
This Week's Story

6th June is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, the day in 1944 when Allied forces from thirteen different countries stormed five beaches in Normandy, France. This marked the beginning of the end of World War II. A World War II veteran, Henry Rice, who is 98 and from Surrey, has called for schools to teach children more about D-Day 1944. He believes that by learning about the history of it, they could urge politicians to avoid wars.

Reflection



Events like D-Day have shaped history. Learning from the past and remembering the sacrifices others have made is a powerful way to create a better future and recognise all that we have now.



Things to talk about at home...

- > Can you ask someone at home about their awareness of the World Wars? Do they have, or do they know anyone with, memories of the wars?
- > This week's poster image shows a tribute to all the soldiers, who lost their lives on D-Day in France. Do you know if there are any local events or tributes to D-Day being held in your local area?



Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Life is not the same for everyone. Learning about times in the past that others have experienced can help us develop empathy and respect.





Picture News For Parents



May 2024 edition

Hello!

Welcome to another edition of Picture News for Parents!

This newsletter offers tips for discussing the news with children, gives advice for the assessment and testing season, and recaps the positive impact exploring the news is having on our schools.

Let's get started!

Handy hints for discussing sensitive news with children



Our contact with the news is evolving alongside social media, AI and algorithms. What used to be something to opt-in to, current affairs is increasingly becoming unavoidable.

Children are not exempt from this shift. As parents and responsible adults, it's our job to ensure we equip children with the skills they need to deal with the news they encounter.

Here are 3 tips for discussing sensitive news with children at home.

Give your time

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

To help children deal with the story, you could spend time to explore the story together. Discussing topics in the morning can help, as this gives children plenty of time during the day to digest and talk about the story with you.



Ask what they already know about the story

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

Consider their age and developmental stage, and evaluate how much information you want to share with them depending on these factors. This will empower your discussions and help keep them age-appropriate.

You may wish to seek out alternative angles to a news story, or find ways to connect the story to the child's experiences, to help them understand what's happening.

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 can 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.



MORE ADVICE >



This term in school

Our schools have been busy exploring their weekly news packs. Here's some recent impressive news-based work!



St James' Church of England Primary School



World Beaters



Vicarage Park School



Holy Spirit Catholic Primary

The power of the news!

Having an awareness of what's happening in the world can give children the chance to feel empowered.

This is something the children of Fourlanesend Community Primary School know well enough, after enlisting the help of Sir David Attenborough to successfully campaign for plastic-free Comic Relief Red Noses.

The children became the focus of a Picture News pack, which inspired our schools and reminded them that they can make a difference!

Comic Relief ditches plastic noses for plant-based alternative after primary school campaign

People at the school for the plastic nose campaign have managed to get the big and collect the help of veteran environmental campaigner Sir David Attenborough.



Learn more about the impact of news exploration

LEARN MORE >

What's happening?



READ MORE >

May is SATs season for primary schools.

Whilst the summer testing may have come to an end and it's now time for weeks of play rehearsals and school trips, you can read our article about children's testing and exams.

There you'll find advice for reassuring children about assessments (useful for SATs week and beyond!) and different perspectives on the nature of testing children.

Pack Spotlight

To inspire current affairs discussions you may have at home, here's a recap of some recent news stories we have explored.

What do people at home think to each big question? Can they explain their own opinion, and offer an opposing opinion too?



Should everyone be allowed to lead a private life?

8th April 2024

This pack explored privacy in light of recent health news from the Royal Family, including King Charles III and Catherine, the Princess of Wales. This led to wider discussions of the Royal Family's roles and why we may want, or need, privacy.



What does art mean to you?

15th April 2024

Banksy's latest artwork was the pack's focus. This inspired exploration of Banksy's previous artwork that he has shared with the public, alongside discussion of different types of art and how it can have different meanings to us all.



How can shops make sure everyone feels represented?

29th April 2024

Paralympian, Stef Reid MBE, has been in the news after asking Nike to sell individual running shoes for single-leg amputees like her. This pack explored Stef Reid's request, other companies that have made inclusive changes, and how we can be the same as and different from each other.



Can the past help us learn about modern life?

6th May 2024

For this pack, we were looking back in time, following a recent study on Neanderthals that found they may have organised their living spaces in a similar way to us. This prompted deeper thoughts about how Neanderthals experienced the world, and how we can learn from the past.



Picture News Take Home



You can keep up-to-date with the topics we cover in the 'Take Home' resource included in every Picture News pack!



Get in touch!

If you would like further advice or information about Picture News, or exploring the news with children, feel free to drop me an email and I'll be happy to help!

Katie N, Editor
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See more Picture News stories from previous newsletters on our website!

Picture News

This Week's Story

Cambridge University has returned four spears to the descendants of an aboriginal community in Australia, who crafted them. The four aboriginal spears are made from the same wood as the spears that British explorer, James Cook, and his crew used in 1770. On their arrival in Australia, they became the first known Europeans to reach the country's east coast.

Reflection

Who you are today is a result of many things, including your family and friends, experiences, and things that matter to you. How do you think you will play a key role in your life?

Things to talk about at home...

Share your response with someone at home to the news that the spears are being returned after 250 years. Do you both feel the same?

What belongings are important to you? Do you have any items from grandparents or other relatives that have special value to you?

British Values

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Every family or community has its own history, which can help to shape each individual member. When we understand and embrace this, we can treat everyone with empathy and respect.

Picture News

This Week's Story

All-girls football team has won a league dominated by boys' teams, after going unbeaten for an entire season. The Queen's Park Ladies U12s finished top of their league with eighteen wins in the group of eleven boys' teams. They were the only girls' team in Bournemouth Youth Football League, playing in its third division for under-12s. The players, who train twice a week, have now proved themselves against the other teams.

Reflection

It can be easy to make assumptions or judge others based on our first impressions. It's important to remember that it takes time and effort to get to know and understand others and their circumstances.

Things to talk about at home...

Do you think it's pre-judged the girls U12s? Have you ever experienced a time when you had an assumption about someone that was wrong or unfair?

British Values

Democracy

We each have a voice that we can use to share our opinions and desires. It is important that we use our voice to stand up for the things we believe are important, as this can lead to meaningful change.

Picture News

This Week's Story

Some people might think it's difficult to be the first female to complete what is the toughest race. Jasmin is one of only twenty women to complete the Barkley Marathons in Tennessee, USA. It's a 100-mile race with less than 100 seconds to spare before the race is over. She wanted to inspire others and test the limits of her capabilities.

Reflection

Some things get difficult. The greatest challenge is to persevere. The greatest challenge is to persevere. The greatest challenge is to persevere.

Things to talk about at home...

When you found out you were the first female to complete the race, how did you feel? Were you surprised? What challenges did you face and what you learned from the experience?

British Values

Individual Liberty

We each have unique talents, interests and goals. We all have the right to choose the dreams we wish to pursue.

Picture News

This Week's Story

Who represented Canada at the Paralympics? The request comes after Nike announced it was planning to promote its products in a single shoe. Nike is not living up to its promise to provide individual shoes for amputees in Mike Reid's request. Reid said she had to buy a single shoe.

Reflection

From the past, we can learn from mistakes, the consequences of actions and how they impacted the world. We can be inspired by positive outcomes and help change the course of the future.

Things to talk about at home...

Share your response to the new research about Neanderthals' lives. Do you think they were more organised or tidy people than we are today? How do you think they organised their living spaces?

British Values

Individual Liberty

We have the freedom to make choices. We can pursue our interests and we can learn from others.

Picture News

This Week's Story

Many families travelled to Glasgow for an event that claimed to channel the magic of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. On its website, Willy's Chocolate Experience guaranteed chocolate fountains, performances by Ompa Loompas, and interactive experiences, with tickets priced at £35 per person. Visitors were greeted by rows of large empty tables and walls of black fabric separating different, almost empty, spaces. Upon facing crowds of disappointed ticketholders, organisers decided to cancel the two-day event after the first morning.

Reflection

There will be times when we are excited and looking forward to something, but it may not be quite what we wanted or hoped it would be. Learning how to deal with disappointment is important.

Things to talk about at home...

How do you think visitors to the experience might have felt when they realised the experience differed from what they expected? Can you think of a time when something didn't go well, even though you tried or thought it would? How did you deal with it?

British Values

Individual Liberty

There are times in our lives when we will feel disappointment. We can choose how we respond to it. It is important to remember we are responsible for our actions.

Picture News

This Week's Story

Some companies might want to ban the use of mobile phones in English schools for headteachers. The guidance is not statutory and is introducing the ban, keeping them in inaccessible places. The guidance is not statutory and is introducing the ban, keeping them in inaccessible places. The guidance is not statutory and is introducing the ban, keeping them in inaccessible places.

Reflection

Have you ever had a mobile phone in school? How do you think it would be if it was banned? How do you think it would be if it was banned? How do you think it would be if it was banned?

Things to talk about at home...

Do you think it's reasonable for schools to ban mobile phones? How do you think it would be if it was banned? How do you think it would be if it was banned? How do you think it would be if it was banned?

British Values

Rule of Law

Sometimes laws can be put in place, which means something is officially or legally prohibited (disallowed). Rules and laws are there to help protect us and keep us safe.

Whole School Attendance to Date:
94.4%

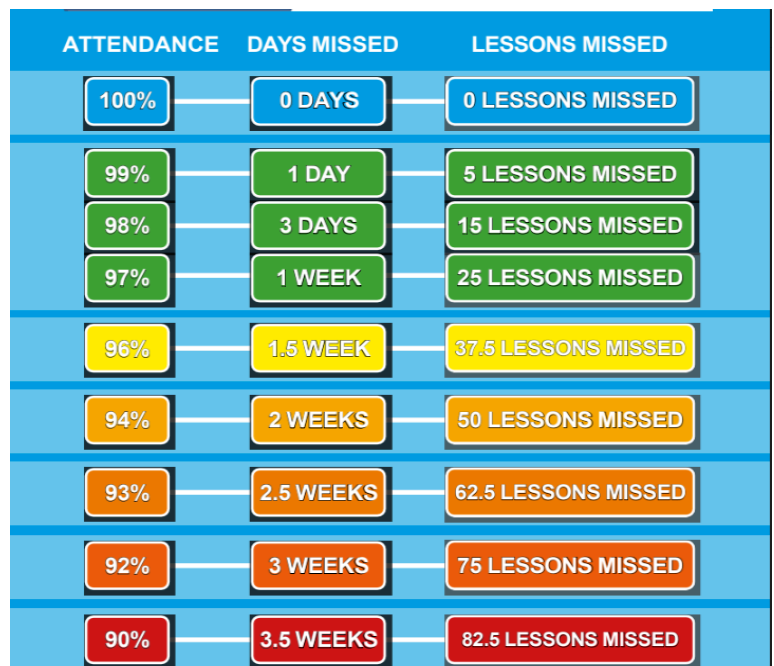
Attendance - Every Day Counts

	Class Name	Attendance Percentage
1	Donaldson	98.9.%
2	Child	98.5%
3	Dahl	97.9%
4	Carle	97.8%
5	Kerr	97.5%
6	Pullman	97.4%
6	Rosen	97.4%
7	Jeffers	96.3%
8	Rowling	96.0%
9	Potter	95.8%
10	Cowell	95.2%
11	Wilson	95.0%
12	Fine	94.8%
13	Blackman	92.1%
14	Browne	87.9%

The table opposite shows you the attendance for the week ending 7th June 2024.

We are aiming for all children to have 97% attendance. Well done to all classes that have achieved this.

Remember, to maximise your potential, you have to be here everyday,



Halal Foods in School

Each day we offer the children an option of a hot meal containing meat and a vegetarian equivalent. We also offer the choice of a jacket potato or a ham, cheese or tuna sandwich.

- Our chicken and mince meat products are suitable for a Halal diet.
- Our sausages, ham, bacon and non meat items are not Halal.



Moving forward, this information will be added to our school menu when it is next updated.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the school office.

Upcoming Diary Dates

Tue 11th June	Y3 Humber Country Park trip - letter attached
Mon 17th June	Y4-6 Sports Day - flyer attached
Tue 18th June	School Photo Day - individual and class
Wed 19th June	Y6 Blackman One Day Play trip - letter attached
Thu 20th June	Y6 Rowling One Day Play trip - letter attached
Fri 21st June	Y1-3 Sports Day - flyer attached
Fri 28th June	Y5 Sirius Academy North visit - more information to follow
Tue 2nd July	SEND Coffee Morning
Wed 3rd July	Y1 Albemarle Music trip - more information to follow
Mon 8th July	Starting School in September session - form attached
Tue 9th July	Starting School in September session - form attached
Wed 10th July	Y4 Connexin Live trip - more information to follow
Wed 10th July	McKee (am session) Bug Ball - letter attached
Mon 15th July	Sports Festival at NSG - more information to follow
Fri 19th July	Last Day of the Summer Term - school closes at 2pm
Mon 22nd Jul to Fri 30th Aug	Summer Holidays - school closed

2024-2025 Term Dates

Mon 2nd September	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Mon 28th Oct to Fri 1st Nov	Half term break - school closed
Fri 20th December	Last day of Autumn Term - school closes at 2pm
Mon 23rd Dec to Fri 3rd Jan	Christmas Holidays - school closed
Mon 6th January	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Mon 17th to Fri 21st February	Half term break - school closed
Staff Training Day - Monday	in March (TBC)
Fri 4th April	Last day of Spring Term - school closes at 2pm
Mon 7th to Fri 18th April	Easter Holidays - school closed
Mon 21st April	Bank Holiday - school closed
Tue 22nd April	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Mon 5th May	Bank Holiday - school closed
Mon 26th to Fri 30th May	Half term break - school closed
Fri 18th July	Last Day of the Summer Term - school closes at 2pm