

What's happening in the news this week?

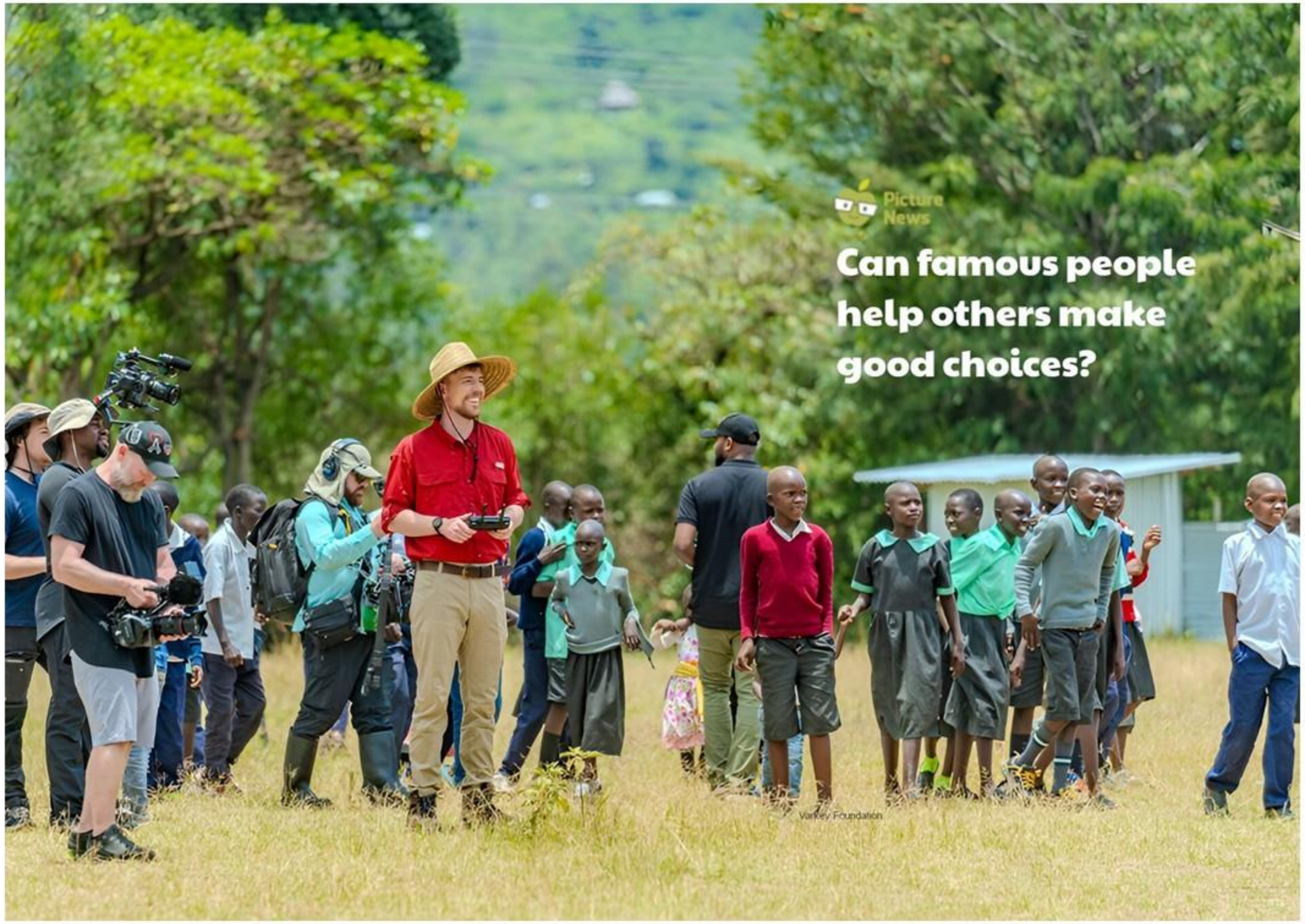


Let's have a look at this week's poster!

12th - 18th January 2026



Can famous people help others make good choices?



VarKey Foundation



Let's look at this week's story

Famous online creators have come together at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai to talk about how their influence affects people around the world. Influencers at the event use their fame to share kindness, as part of the '1 Billion Acts of Kindness' campaign. One of the most well-known creators, MrBeast, has encouraged millions of people to take part, using his videos and social media to inspire positive actions.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information below all about MrBeast and the summit. Do you think the event is important?

Who is MrBeast?

Real name:

Jimmy Donaldson

Known as:

MrBeast

Job:

YouTuber, content creator and philanthropist

Country:

United States



MrBeast is one of the most famous YouTubers in the world. Millions of people watch his videos, where he often takes on big challenges, gives away prizes, and raises money to help others.

Why might MrBeast want to make videos like these?

What is the 1 Billion Follower Summit?

The summit is the world's largest event for content creators, creating a place for meeting other creators, learning, and sharing content and new ideas.

What is the '1 Billion Acts' Campaign?

Before the event, MrBeast encouraged famous influencers to use their platforms for positive action. Together, they launched a campaign aiming to inspire one billion acts of kindness, showing how small actions by lots of people can make a big difference.

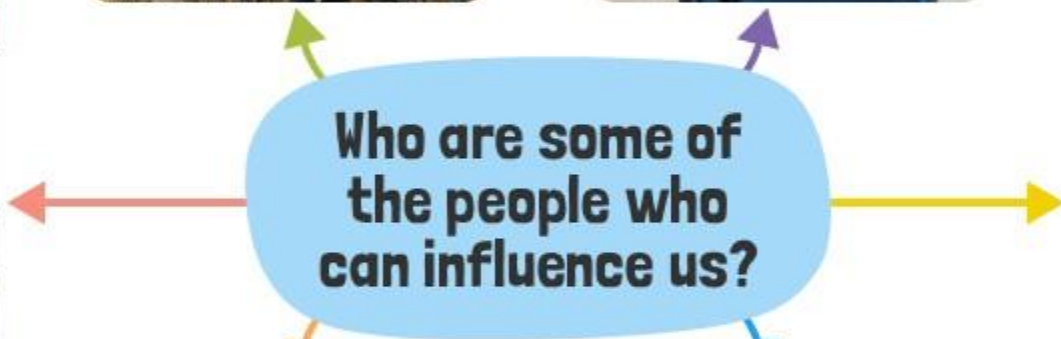


Pictured: MrBeast's 1 Billion Acts Campaign.

Source: 1billionsummit.com



Look at the resource below, which show different types of people who can influence us.



Who influences you? How? What can we learn from others?



Look at the resource below, to explore different reasons why people become famous.



Inventors and Scientists

New ideas, discoveries or inventions can lead to widespread recognition when they change understanding or improve how people live.



Actors and Performers

Films, television, theatre and music can bring attention to individuals through public performances and entertainment.

Writers and Creators

Books, art and online content may reach large audiences when many people choose to read, watch or follow creative work.



Athletes and Sports Stars

Sporting success often brings recognition through competitions, records and public events.

World Leaders and Public Figures

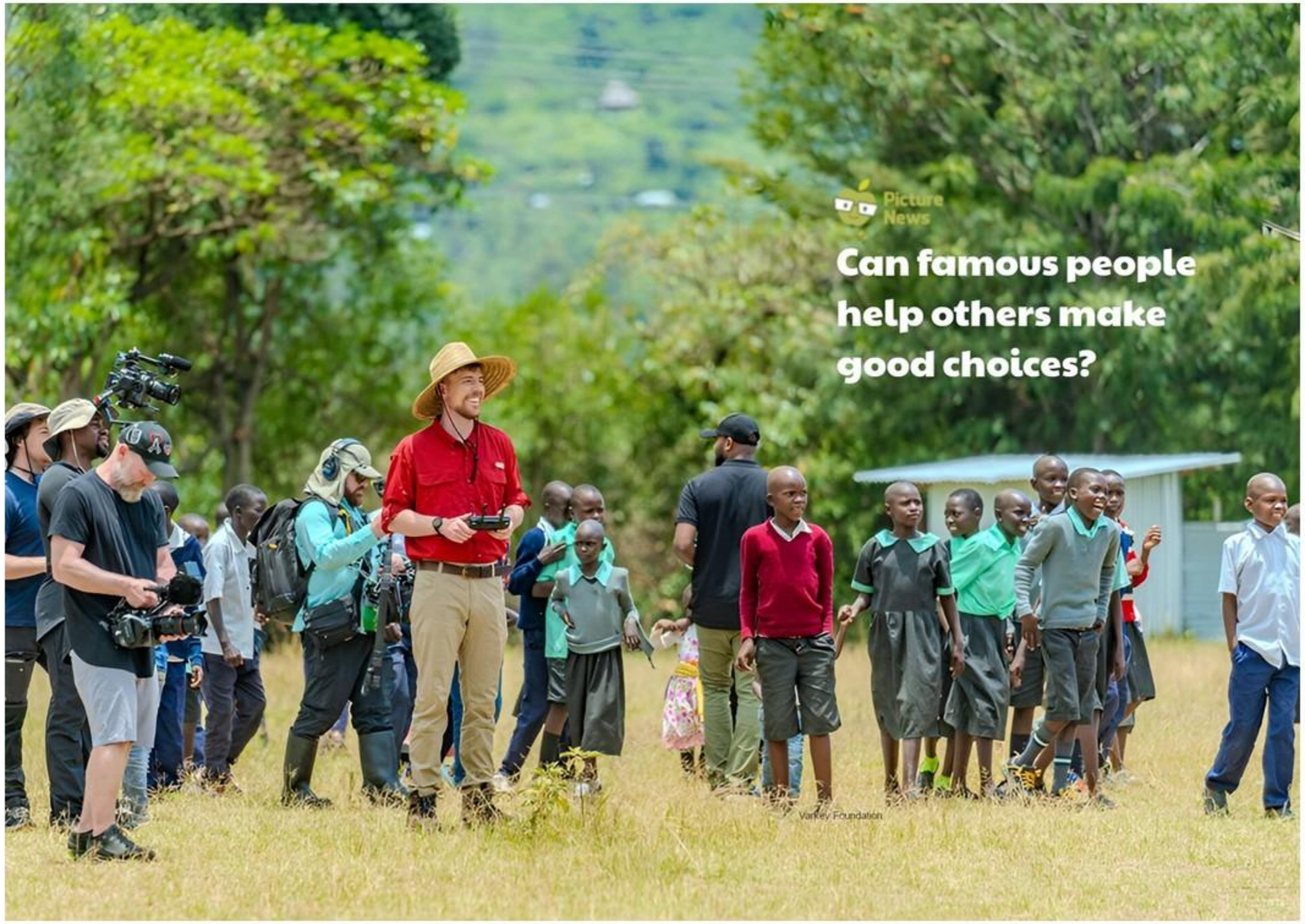
Public roles, leadership positions or representation of important causes can make individuals widely known.



How do these examples show that fame can come from many different areas of life?
How might different types of fame inspire people in various ways?



Can famous people help others make good choices?



VarKey Foundation

Reflection



Being well-known can give people a louder voice, but we all have the ability to think carefully, make our own choices, and influence others in small but meaningful ways.



Media Literacy

Can you plan, create, and distribute your own media responsibly?



Explanation: Let's explore how people share messages online and think about what it means to create and use media responsibly.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- What makes a message/campaign online responsible and respectful?
- How might famous creators influence the choices people make?
- What should be thought about before sharing something online?
- How can we make sure our own media encourages positive actions?

Reflection

When we think about what makes a message responsible and respectful, we begin to understand the impact media can have on others. Thinking carefully about our words helps us communicate responsibly and respectfully with others.

Activity

Create a simple idea for a positive online message or campaign.

Decide:

- What you want to say
 - Who it is for
 - How to share it responsibly
- Share your idea with a partner and explain how your message could encourage kindness or good choices.



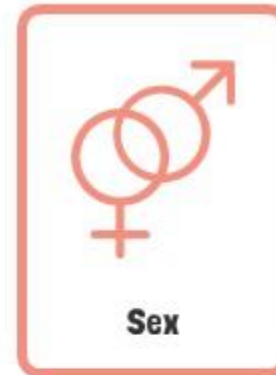
Individual Liberty

The 1 Billion Acts of Kindness campaign shows how some individuals choose to use their influence to spread positive messages. People are free to express themselves, while also considering others when sharing their views.

Protected Characteristics



People of all ages may be influenced by messages in different ways. Adults can support children to understand the messages they see and hear. No one should be treated unfairly because of their age.





UN Rights of the Child



Children have the right to share ideas and express themselves in different ways. This includes learning how messages can influence others and why it is important to communicate responsibly. Adults have a role in supporting children as they learn to express themselves.



Useful Vocabulary



Creator

A person who makes and shares content online, such as videos, posts or ideas.

One of the most well-known **creators**, MrBeast, has encouraged millions of people to take part, using his videos and social media to inspire positive actions.

Fame

Being known by many people, often because of something you have done or shared.

Influencers at the event use their **fame** to share kindness, as part of the '1 Billion Acts of Kindness' campaign.

Influence

To affect how someone thinks or behaves, or to inspire them to make certain choices.

Famous online creators will come together at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai to talk about how their **influence** affects people around the world.

Launched

When something is started or introduced for the first time.

Together, they **launched** a campaign aiming to inspire one billion acts of kindness.

Summit

A meeting or event where people come together to share ideas.

The **summit** is the world's largest event for content creators. Creating a place for meeting other creators, learning, and sharing content and new ideas.

Viral

Something that spreads very quickly online because many people share it.

Let's make kindness **viral**.

Can you use them in your conversations this week?

Picture News



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- Look at this week's poster image. Does anyone recognise anybody on it? It shows MrBeast, a famous online creator, in a rural community as part of his work with the Varkey Foundation.
- Read through the information found on the **assembly resource** all about MrBeast and the summit. Do you think the event is important?
- This week's useful video explains more about the '1 Billion Acts of Kindness' campaign. Do you think it's a good idea? Do you feel that influencers like MrBeast have a responsibility to set a good example to others?
- Do you enjoy watching or following any other creators online? How about offline? Share some of the people who we admire and listen to. Often, they are not famous, and actually people we know well.
- Can you think of a time when a famous person inspired people to do something positive? Can you also think of a time when influence didn't lead to a good choice? Famous people are still human, and they make mistakes like everyone else. Not everything shared online is helpful or true. Discuss how ultimately, we are responsible for our own choices.

Reflection

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Picture News



KS1 focus

Who are some of the people that influence us?



- Let's explore the word 'influence'. Have you heard it before? Think about people who help you make choices or try new things. Has anyone ever encouraged, helped or inspired you – someone you know well, or even someone famous?
- Talk with a partner about small ways people influence us every day, such as giving us ideas, helping us understand something, or showing us a new way to think.
- People who influence us are not always famous. Often, the people who help us grow or make good choices are the ones we see every day. What do the people in your life teach you?
- Look at **resource 1**, which shares some examples of people that can influence us.
- Talk about the different groups shown on **resource 1**. In what ways might these people guide, support, or encourage others?
- Reflect on being influenced by your friends or classmates. How might someone of a similar age influence you differently than an adult?
- Influence can happen without words. What might we learn from watching how someone treats others or handles a situation?
- Influence can play a part in the choices we make. Discuss how the people around us help us think about what is right, safe or sensible.

Reflection

People influence us in many different ways. By noticing how others support, guide or inspire us, we can understand the role influence plays in our everyday lives and the choices we make.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What are some reasons people are famous?



- Think about famous people you have heard of. Who comes to mind first, and why do you think they are well known?
- What does it mean to be famous? How might someone become known by many people? Would you like to become famous one day? Let's have a class vote on how many would or would not.
- Think about how fame works. Does becoming famous always happen because of something planned, or can it sometimes happen unexpectedly?
- Look at **resource 2**, which shows some different reasons why people become famous.
- Looking at the examples on **resource 2**, what do these different types of fame have in common, and how are they different? Can you think of some other reasons why people may become famous?
- Consider how the reason someone becomes famous might shape what they are able to share or do.
- When someone is famous or has a big platform, many people may hear their ideas. What responsibilities might come with having that kind of influence?
- Reflect on people who were famous in the past, before the internet and social media. Discuss how their achievements or ideas might have become well known.

Reflection

People who are well known can inspire others in many ways. Learning why people become famous helps us recognise that fame can come from many paths and for many different reasons.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

People often become well known because their work, achievements or ideas reach lots of people.

Use sport as an example to explore how numbers can be connected to being well known. You could look at trusted websites, such as sports organisations or children's news sites, to find simple figures.

Think about:

- *What numbers might be linked to fame in sport (e.g., medals won, matches played, goals scored or records broken)?*
- *How could you display your findings?*
- *What do the numbers help us understand about how widely someone is known?*
- *Are numbers the only way to understand fame, or are there other ways people become well known?*

Option 2

Create your own Famous Person Profile. This could be a scientist, author, sports star, performer, historical figure, or another person you know about. Draw a picture of them and complete a simple profile underneath.

You might like to include prompts such as:

- *Who they are and what they are known for.*
- *When and where they became well known.*
- *What they did that made people notice their work or achievements.*
- *An interesting fact about them.*

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Choose a person and create a picture showing how they might influence others in a positive way. E.g., a friend encouraging someone, a teacher helping someone learn, a sportsperson inspiring someone to try a new skill, or a community helper supporting others.

Can you annotate your picture with adjectives to describe this person and the way they influence others?

Think about:

- *How does this person influence or guide others?*
- *What actions or ideas might they share that make a difference?*
- *How does your picture show influence in a positive way?*

Option 2

Reflect on yourself as a positive influence. Think about times when your words or actions might influence others, such as a friend, a younger sibling, or someone in your family.

Discuss with a partner and share your ideas with the class.

Reflect on:

- *When have you helped, encouraged or supported someone else?*
- *How might your actions influence how others feel or behave?*
- *How does it feel to know that you can be a positive influence?*

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://globalteacherprize.org/news/community-news/2087/2087-1-Billion-Acts-of-Kindness>

This week's useful video

1 Billion Followers Event
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM1F-r6M7z8

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

12th - 18th
January



Can famous people help others make good choices?



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Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the summit and the campaign. Do you think lots of people will choose to take part? Why?
- Share who influences you. Talk about how some of the people we admire or look up to are well-known or famous, and others may be family or friends.
- Ask someone at home about who influenced them when they were younger. What impact did they have?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



The Netherlands Turns Down the Bang!

Do you remember the Picture News pack from November 2025 which asked whether fireworks should be banned to help people and animals? The Netherlands has now decided to change its fireworks rules. From New Year's Eve at the end of 2026, most fireworks will no longer be sold or used by people at home there. Instead, big fireworks will be set off by trained professionals only at organised displays. Small items, such as sparklers, may still be allowed.

The government made this decision after talking about it for many years. Fireworks can be very loud and bright, which can be upsetting for some



Pictured: A firework display.
Source: Canva.

people, pets and wildlife. They can also cause injuries if they are not used safely. Some towns and cities in the Netherlands already have fireworks rules, but this new law will cover the whole country. 'I am happy about this change; it will be so much better for my dog!', said one person on social media. Leaders hope the change will make celebrations calmer and safer for everyone.

What is your opinion? Should fireworks have sound?

Say It Another Way!

There are so many different days for celebrations or things to remember on certain dates. Looking at the Picture News Calendar, we *saw*, *noticed* and *spotted* that on 18th January, it is World Thesaurus Day! A thesaurus is a book or tool that helps us find different words that mean nearly the

same thing. Instead of saying big, we might say large, huge or enormous! A thesaurus can help make our speaking and writing more interesting. World Thesaurus Day is held on this date because it's the birthday of Peter Mark Roget, who created the first Roget's Thesaurus many years ago. He loved words and wanted to help people use them in new ways. We can all use a thesaurus at school or at home. It can help when writing stories, letters or even jokes! 'A thesaurus is like a toolbox for words', said one teacher.

What new words could you discover, find or learn using a thesaurus?



Pictured: A page in a thesaurus.
Source: Canva.

What does kindness look like?



Kindness can be in the small actions as well as the big ones!
Shannon

'Sensational' Surfboards

Plant-based 3D-printed Swell Cycle surfboards have been described as 'sensational' to ride. Surfers attended a special event to try out a new line of the bespoke, more environmentally-friendly surfboards, and they were very impressed with them! 'They're really



Pictured: Tyler James with Swell Cycle Surfboards. **Source:** Swell Cycle Surfboards on Facebook.



Pictured: Swell Cycle Surfboards on a beach. **Source:** Swell Cycle Surfboards on Facebook.

fast, they're really fun,' said surfer Keaton Mayo, 'They're not your traditional board. It was a blast.' The boards are made with almost no waste, compared with the regular surfboards that are cut out from blocks of petroleum-based foam, manufactured from fossil fuels. During production, 40% of the block's original weight ends up in landfill.

The demonstration and test day was held at a famous surf spot called Steamer Lane in Santa Cruz, California, USA. 'This is the future, I think, of surfing,' said big wave surfer and Swell Cycle ambassador, Tyler James. 'It's so important for surfers to understand that if we want to keep surfing, that we've got to care about our oceans, we've got to care about the process that's making our boards.' **Have you ever surfed? Would you like to?**

British Berries

The Summer Berry Company, in West Sussex, UK, is growing fresh British strawberries all year round. The company says that cutting-edge LED technology and climate-controlled glasshouses mean that people in the UK can enjoy strawberries without the carbon cost of flying them across the world. 'The LED lighting is the prime reason for successful growing,' said Bartosz Pinkosz, operations director of The Summer Berry. 'If it was not a sunny day, the LED lighting would create enough energy for leaves to absorb that energy, take it in and deliver the energy to the berries. We are able to have the right sweetness in the berries and the right shape, right size.' They expect to produce 1.5 million punnets of strawberries this



Pictured: Strawberries growing in The Summer Berry Company glasshouse. **Source:** The Summer Berry Company on Facebook.

winter! The glasshouses are partially powered by renewable energy, and bees are present as pollinators in the 36,000 square metres of the greenhouses at the Chichester site. Growing berries this way may massively reduce food miles, but experts warn that there can be an environmental impact of heating such a large area.

Do you enjoy eating strawberries? Do you know where your strawberries are grown?

What does kindness look like?



You can be kind by noticing when someone needs help and asking them what you can do.

Freddy