

# What's happening in the news this week?



Aaron Chown/WPA Pool/Shutterstock

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

1st - 7th December 2025



**How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?**



## Let's look at this week's story

On Friday, the Princess of Wales will host her annual carol service, which will bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community. The event aims to show how love can link people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs, especially at times when the world can feel divided. It encourages everyone to think about the power of togetherness and the importance of supporting one another with compassion and joy.



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 the event.

## The Princess of Wales' Community Carol Concerts

### What are the concerts?

The Princess of Wales hosts a special carol concert each year, to bring people together through music, kindness, and community spirit.

The event is held at Westminster Abbey in London and is recorded for a TV broadcast, watched by millions!

### Why were they created?

Catherine, the Princess of Wales, started the concerts to celebrate people who make a positive difference in their communities.

Each year focuses on a different message, such as kindness, hope, togetherness, or supporting families and children.



**Pictured:** Westminster Abbey, where the concert is held, during the 2021 concert with singer, Leona Lewis.

**Source:** Yui Mok/Kensington Palace/WPA Pool/Shutterstock

### What happens at the concerts?

There are carols, readings, and special performances from well-known singers, choirs and children. Guests often include teachers, nurses, charity workers, families, and people who have helped others in inspiring ways.

### This year's theme celebrates the 'power of togetherness'.

The message that has been shared notes that, even when the world feels divided, love and community can reconnect us.

The event encourages people to support one another with:

Joy  
Compassion  
Presence

**Share your thoughts – do you believe it achieves its aim of bringing people together?**



Look at the resource below, which shows some places we might feel togetherness.

Where do you feel togetherness?  
Can togetherness look different depending on where you are?

### School

People can feel togetherness by learning, helping, and joining in with others.

### Family and Friends' Homes

Families and friends can feel togetherness when they enjoy time together and support each other.

### Community Spaces

People can feel togetherness when they join events, share traditions, and take part in local activities.



This might look like:

assemblies

following class rules

playtimes



This could be:

visiting each other

sharing meals

helping out



You might see:

local events

festivals or celebrations

community projects



Can you think of any more examples of togetherness in different places?



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of how homes and schools can be made welcoming to others.

### A New Neighbour

When a new family moved onto Maya's street, she and her parent **wrote a short welcome note and took it round**. They showed the family where the nearest park was and **invited them on a walk**.

The family said the warm welcome helped them feel **settled more quickly**.

*How can small actions help someone feel comfortable in a new place?*



### A Shared Home Space

Amira's family tries to make their home feel welcoming by **greeting others with a smile**. They take time to **listen to one another** and make sure **visitors are included in conversations** and feel comfortable. Amira says these small actions help their **home feel friendly, calm and easy to relax in**.

*How can our actions help people feel welcome at home?*



### First Day at School

On his first day, Leo didn't know anyone. **Two children noticed him standing on his own and asked if he wanted to join their game**. They showed him where things were kept in the classroom and **helped him understand the routine**. Leo said being included helped him feel a sense of belonging straight away.

*What difference can it make when we include others in what we are doing?*



**What values do we show when we welcome others?**

*Kindness, respect, friendship, empathy, patience, fairness, understanding, unity.*

**What other values can you think of?**

**What do you think makes a place feel most welcoming? How do you help make your home or classroom welcoming to others? Can you relate to any of these examples?**



**How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?**

# Reflection



Togetherness doesn't mean we all have to be the same. It means noticing others, caring, listening, and showing kindness. When we do that, we can create a sense of belonging, both for ourselves and for the people around us.



# Media Literacy

## Who is the intended audience?



**Explanation:** Let's think about how this story is being shared in the news, and consider who it is intended for.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

### Questions to Discuss

- Who do you think this news story is aimed at, and what clues help you decide?
- What features of the story (such as the images, tone, or wording) suggest who the audience might be?
- How might different groups of people respond to this story?
- Why might the media choose to highlight an event that brings people together?

### Reflection

Thinking about the intended audience helps us notice how a story is shaped and presented. It also helps us understand how different people might connect with the same message in different ways.

### Activity

Design a simple invitation for the carol service.  
Think about who you want to include, and how your words and images can help everyone feel welcome and part of a community.



## **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**

The Princess of Wales' carol service brings people together to share kindness and joy. When we show care, we help create togetherness.

Respecting people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs helps our communities feel welcoming and connected.

# Protected Characteristics



The carol service celebrates how everyone can connect through kindness and community. Whoever we are, we should always feel welcome, valued, and never excluded because of any protected characteristic.

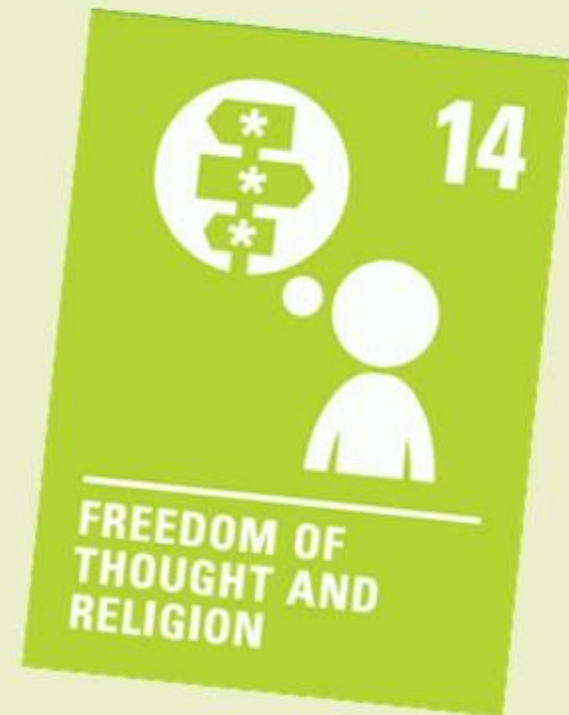




# UN Rights of the Child



As children grow and experience different celebrations and traditions, they begin to understand what feels meaningful to them. Adults should make sure children's beliefs and ways of expressing them are listened to and respected.



# Useful Vocabulary



## Annual

Something that happens once every year.

On Friday, the Princess of Wales will host her **annual** carol service, which will bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community.

## Compassion

To show care for others.

It encourages everyone to think about the power of togetherness and the importance of supporting one another with **compassion** and joy.

## Divided

When people or groups are not united, sometimes because they have different opinions, beliefs, or experiences.

The event aims to show how love can link people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs, especially at times when the world can feel **divided**.

## Link

To connect together.

The event aims to show how love can **link** people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs, especially at times when the world can feel divided.

## Presence

Being with someone and giving your attention.

The event encourages people to support one another with compassion, **presence**, joy.

## Togetherness

The feeling of being close to other people and connected as a group.

Each year focuses on a different message such as kindness, hope, **togetherness**...

**Can you use them in your conversations this week?**



## How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?

On Friday, the Princess of Wales will host her annual carol service, which will bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community. The event aims to show how love can link people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs, especially at times when the world can feel divided. It encourages everyone to think about the power of togetherness and the importance of supporting one another with compassion and joy.



- Look at this week's poster. Do you recognise anyone in it? It is the Royal Family. The image shows last year's Christmas carol concert, hosted by the Princess of Wales. She is hosting another concert on Friday. Talk about events happening in your school and local community during this time of year.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource all about the event. Share your thoughts on the service – do you believe it achieves its aim of bringing people together?
- Explain that togetherness is often described as the feeling of safety, trust, and being close to others. Discuss what togetherness means to you and the times when you feel it. How important is it to you?
- Sometimes, people may not feel a sense of belonging. Share how kindness can make a big difference to welcoming others.
- Talk about the events or celebrations you enjoy taking part in. Discuss the role of others in celebrations. Who are some of the people who help you feel like you belong? When are the times that you feel most connected to others?

### Reflection

Togetherness doesn't mean we all have to be the same. It means noticing others, caring, listening, and showing kindness. When we do that, we can create a sense of belonging, both for ourselves and for the people around us.



## KS1 focus

Where are some places we might feel togetherness?



- Start by thinking about the word 'togetherness'. What does it mean to you?
- Think about a time when you felt part of something. Where were you? Who were you with? What helped you feel joy/happiness?
- People can create togetherness by being kind, welcoming, or patient. Share which you think makes the biggest difference.
- Look at **resource 1**, which shares some examples of places where people might feel togetherness.
- Can you relate to any of the examples of togetherness shown on **resource 1**? Share your experiences with a partner.
- Can you think of any places that are not shown on **resource 1** where people can feel togetherness? What happens in the places you have thought of? Share why people can feel connected there.
- When people share spaces, such as a classroom or park, everyone has a part to play. What responsibilities help keep togetherness strong?
- Consider whether togetherness can happen in everyday moments or only in special ones. Think about small daily routines where people work or live alongside each other.

### Reflection

People can feel togetherness in lots of places, from busy classrooms to quiet family moments. Wherever we are, we can help it grow by being thoughtful, welcoming, and ready to work with others.



## KS2 focus

How can we ensure places like our homes and school feel welcome to others?



- Share examples of times when you have felt welcomed. Focus on what others did that helped you feel included.
- Think about the different places people spend time in, such as school, clubs, or home. Consider what makes these spaces feel welcoming and how people's actions or attitudes can change the atmosphere. What kinds of things – big or small – can help someone feel comfortable or at ease when they first arrive?
- Look at **resource 2**, which shares three scenarios about helping others feel welcome at home or school.
- What similarities can you spot between the scenarios? What small actions or choices helped each person feel included or comfortable?
- Reflect on the values explored on **resource 2**, such as kindness, friendship, or unity. Talk together about how these values help create welcoming places. Can you think of any more values?
- Think about what might make a place feel unwelcoming, and explore simple changes that could remove those barriers for others.
- Share how you could help someone feel welcome this week, either at home or at school. What is one small action you could take?

### Reflection

Welcoming places grow from the way we treat one another and care for the spaces we share. Small actions, thoughtful choices, and positive values can help everyone feel comfortable, included, and valued.



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Work in small groups to create short role-play scenes that show ways to help someone feel welcome in a shared space. Your scene might include greeting someone new, offering help, or inviting someone to join an activity.

Perform your scenes for the class or record them to watch back.

- What welcoming actions were shown in different scenes?
- How did those actions change how the characters felt?
- Which ideas could we use in real life to help others feel included?

### Option 2

Choose one of the scenarios from resource 2. Imagine you are one of the people in the examples – either the person being welcomed or the person doing the welcoming. Write three short quotes to show how they felt before the welcoming moment, during it, and afterwards.

#### Afterwards, think about:

- How did the welcoming actions change the feelings or atmosphere in the scenario?
- What does this show about the impact kindness and inclusion can have?



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Work together as a class to make a 'togetherness web'. Sit in a circle with a long ball of wool or string. Take turns to pass the wool/string to someone else while saying something kind, such as 'thank you for helping me', or 'I like working with you' to make a web. Remember to keep hold of the string once it is passed to you, so the web can grow!

Afterwards, talk about how the web showed your class being connected, and how sharing kind words can help people feel a sense of togetherness.

### Option 2

Work in small groups to create a 'togetherness circle'. Each group starts with a paper circle. Fold it and cut it into equal pieces so that each person has one part.

Take your piece and decorate it in your own way using colours, patterns or words that show something about you.

When everyone has finished, bring the pieces back together to make a circle again.

Look at your circle and notice how all the pieces join to make one artwork – just like togetherness brings people together.



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

[www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy1lg9kgnko](http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy1lg9kgnko)

### This week's useful video

Last year's concert

<https://youtu.be/j433xFX3wI4?si=qMMMZb1pgFm2Kn7G>

### This week's Virtual Picture News

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

## This week's vocabulary

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# TAKEHOME

1st - 7th  
December



## How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?



## In the news this week

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### Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home – are they interested in this concert? Do you or they believe it will achieve its aim in bringing people together?
- Are there any services, concerts, or events that you will be attending during the festive period?
- Talk about what 'togetherness' means to you and your people at home.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



## Bear-y Happy Homes!

Did you know that around 8 million soft toys are thrown away in the UK every year? Thanks to a scheme called Loved Before, some of those toys can get a *bear-y* happy second chance!

Loved Before helps cuddly toys find a new home. People can donate teddies they no longer need, and each one is washed, brushed, and made ready for a brand-new adventure. Every toy comes with a little story card, so you can learn about the life it had before! You can spot these pre-loved teddies in some UK shops, such as Selfridges and Fenwick, and also in Bloomingdale's in the United States. There are more stores



**Pictured:** The Loved Before teddies in Selfridges, London.  
**Source:** hart\_at\_home on Instagram.

across the UK too – the full list is on their website.

When someone adopts a teddy, money is given to a charity chosen by Loved Before. This year they are supporting Make-A-Wish UK, which brings joy to children who are unwell. 'What a brilliant way to help the planet, help others and give a soft toy the chance to be cuddled all over again!' said one person, commenting on Loved Before's social media.

**Would you donate your old soft toys?**

## Sabrina in Wonderland

Sabrina Carpenter might soon be joining the Mad Hatter for tea! The singer is helping to plan a brand-new musical film, based on the story of Alice in Wonderland.

Before her musical career, Sabrina was in many TV shows and starred in her first role aged 11. We don't yet know which character she will play, but many people think it could be something magical. The story of Alice in Wonderland was written by Lewis Carroll in 1865. It's all about a girl who falls down a rabbit hole, and



**Pictured:** Playing cards a plenty at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party!  
**Source:** Canva.

finds a world full of talking animals, curious creatures, and very unusual tea parties! The new film is being worked on by Universal Pictures, but filming has not started yet. 'I would love to see Sabrina play Alice!' said one excited fan.

**Have you read the story of Alice in Wonderland?**

### Can technology ever help us too much?



I think technology continues to help us to make the most out of what we have, and that is a great thing! **Grace**

## South West Wildcats

A new report, by The South West Wildcat Project, has found the region and connecting habitat contains sufficient woodland to support a population of wildcats. It was also discovered that the reintroduction of the critically endangered species to the south west of England (after more than a 100-year absence) would be supported by 70-80% of local people. Cath Jeffs, from The South West Wildcat Project said, 'It's exciting that this report suggests



**Pictured:** A European wildcat.  
**Source:** Canva.

wildcats could be part of the region's nature once again. The return of this critically endangered species would be another step in the restoration of our native wildlife and will help re-balance local ecosystems. Wildcats were once a widespread part of our countryside and today they remain an important part of woodlands throughout continental Europe, including Germany, France, Spain and Italy.'

**Do you know any interesting facts about European Wildcats?**

**Do you think we should try to help all critically endangered animals?**



**Pictured:** A European wildcat.  
**Source:** Canva.

## Beautiful Baker

The winner of The Great British Bake Off has been discussing how alopecia has changed her perception of beauty. Jasmine Mitchell, from Edinburgh, who took the top prize in this year's Channel 4 baking competition with her delicious baked creations, has been talking about embracing life without a wig! The star baker has shared her feelings about losing her hair at the age of 12, after being diagnosed with alopecia. Alopecia is the term used to describe hair loss. There are many different types of the condition and various medical reasons for hair loss. Jasmine, who is studying to be a medical doctor, has openly shared her journey living with alopecia. For years she chose to wear a wig, but is now embracing being herself,



**Pictured:** Jasmine and the Bake Off judges and presenters. **Source:** The Great British Bake Off on Facebook.

appearing on the popular TV show without a wig. 'Life with alopecia has definitely been challenging at times. I am still very much in the process of learning to love it. I am getting to the point where more days than not I am actually really enjoying looking a bit different,' said Jasmine. 'Having alopecia has, and is, changing my perception of what beauty is. Being authentically yourself, the way you were made to be, is so much more beautiful than trying to look like everyone else around you.'

**What do you think is beautiful about being authentically yourself?**

### Can technology ever help us too much?



Maybe, but if it helps people move better and makes hard tasks easier for them, then I think it's a good thing!

**Matteusz**

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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