

# LETTERS

from



Picture  
News



December 2025

## Hello!

Welcome to Autumn 2's Letters from Picture News. As we round off 2025, this newsletter reflects on a once-in-a-lifetime live assembly from Antarctica, a national campaign, media literacy in the curriculum, and shares details of a new school award. We'll also look ahead to 2026 event opportunities!

## News Recap

The resources have recently focused on...

**Should fireworks be changed so we protect animals and people at the same time?**



**3rd November 2025**

Redwings Horse Sanctuary asked the government to make fireworks quieter to help protect animals and people. This inspired conversations about how we can consider the impact of our actions on others, the many ways we can make celebrations special, and the alternatives to fireworks we might see.

**What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?**



**10th November 2025**

This resource was all about the 2025 COP30 meeting in Brazil. This led to conversations in schools about the purpose of the meetings, what climate change is, and positive climate actions people can take.

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



**1st December 2025**

The Princess of Wales' annual carol service, which aims to bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community, was this week's focus. The resource asked questions about what and who makes children feel they belong, and how we can welcome others.

## Lighting up the world...

Schools all around the UK have completed the year with the Picture News campaign activity – The Christmas Star Map!

The campaign encouraged children to light up the world, by sharing a star containing a wish or act of kindness they think can make the world a better place.

Did you get involved? It's not too late to send us your stars!



## Symbol-Friendly Organisation

Picture News has been recognised by Widgit as a Symbol-Friendly Organisation!

**This means we'll:**

- Continue to create weekly Picture News Symbols resources, sharing what's happening in the world using accessible symbols.
- Produce additional SEND resources (including Widgit Symbols) to enhance Picture News learning.
- Provide training for SEND teaching staff, SLT, and anyone wanting to learn more about Picture News Symbols.



## Developing Media Literacy with Picture News

This half term saw the announcement of the Department for Education's curriculum changes planned for 2028, including compulsory media literacy learning alongside oracy and citizenship changes.

As a Picture News school, you may already be developing key media literacy skills using your weekly resources. Our recent blog highlights some of the changes, and shares how the resources can help you adapt!



**USING  
PICTURE  
NEWS FOR  
MEDIA  
LITERACY**

# Looking ahead to 2026!

## The Big Question Award

ACCESS FURTHER DETAILS >

Our brand-new award, designed to get your pupils thinking deeply about how asking questions can change the world...

Enter one of the award categories, and tell us all about your big question!

Entries close

Monday 30th March 2026.



Good luck!

AWARD CRITERIA >



## Spring 1 2026 – Training & Events

### Welcome to Picture News Primary



Monday 5th January,  
1:30pm – 2:00pm

[Register here](#)

Kick off the new term with some Picture News training support. Includes an overview of the resources, with examples for how to use them and time for a Q&A!

### Welcome to Picture News in the Early Years



Wednesday 21st January,  
4:00pm – 4:30pm

[Register here](#)

If you're looking to find out more about Picture News Early Years resources, this one's for you! We'll share an overview with practical examples to use the resources in your EY setting.

### Media Literacy & AI Training for KS2



Thursday 22nd January,  
9:30am – 10:15am

[Register here](#)

A brand-new session for KS2 pupils to learn about Media Literacy and AI, sharing the skills we need to safely explore media. We'll provide tips for how to tell if content online includes misinformation or AI imagery.

## Live Assembly from ANTARCTICA!



This month we hosted the world's first-ever live assembly broadcast from Antarctica, to over 4000 schools!

In collaboration with 2041 Schools, the fantastic Robert Swan OBE joined live – 600 miles away from the South Pole.

He shared his stories from the ice, discussed the importance of protecting the frozen continent, and inspired children everywhere to be 'Champions of Antarctica'!



If you joined,  
thank you for  
making history!



## Goodbye

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

We have also produced our termly newsletter for parents/carers – great to send home! It includes support for handling difficult news, an update on Media Literacy curriculum changes, and recaps on coverage from Picture News to continue news learning at home.



Any suggestions for what you'd like to see featured in the next newsletter are welcome!

Take care 😊

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