



# LETTERS

from



Picture  
News



October 2024 edition

## Hello!

I hope the first half term of the school year was a positive one for you and your pupils.

This newsletter recaps on a busy few weeks for all-things Picture News, including big assemblies, children's Discussion Board contributions, and a new team member at our HQ! I'll also look ahead to next half term with some upcoming training opportunities for you.

P.S.

Keep reading  
for Autumnal  
Challenges  
to share with  
your pupils!



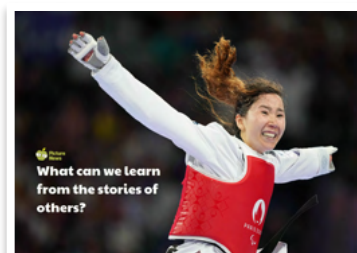
## Pack Spotlight

### How can communities help each other in times of difficulty?



Following unrest in parts of the UK over the summer, this pack explored clean-up efforts in Middlesbrough, after the town was affected by damage from protests that turned violent. Children explored the significance of their communities and considered how they can support others.

### What can we learn from the stories of others?



This Special Pack reflected on the achievements of Refugee Paralympic Team member, Zakia Khudadadi, who won a bronze medal for Para taekwondo. This news encouraged children to think about the inspiration the Games can provide, and to learn more about Zakia's background.

### How important is it to know about the author behind the book?



Coinciding with the start of Black History Month, this pack explored the 2024 theme, 'Reclaiming Narratives', and news of Penguin's book vending machine at a school in Scotland. We explored the Lit in Colour reading lists, which prompted discussions about the power of learning about authors and sharing stories.

### Why do people give gifts?



Gifts were the topic of conversation for this pack, following criticism of Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer for accepting free gifts, including tickets for Arsenal football matches and a Taylor Swift concert. This news led to wider discussion about gratitude and the purpose of gift-giving, along with the rules government ministers must follow when accepting gifts.

# Assembly News

## The Big Welcome Back Assembly!

Over half a million children joined together at the start of the school year for the Welcome Back Assembly, to celebrate communities and our differences, following social unrest during the summer.

It was amazing to hear children's ideas for how we can support our communities and overcome adversity.

The assembly even featured on **BBC News** and **Newsround**, too!



## The Black History Month Assembly with Swarzy Macaly!

On 15th October, over 384,000 children joined us online for the Black History Month Assembly with very special guest, BBC Radio 1 Xtra presenter, Swarzy Macaly!

Together we explored the 2024 theme, 'Reclaiming Narratives', and discussed the power of shared stories and experiences.

Thank you to everyone who joined in. We hope the session inspired you with ideas for how you can embed the impact of Black History Month in school during October and beyond!

Follow us on social media for news about future big live assemblies!



## Discussion Stars

Children have shared so many insightful ideas and opinions on current affairs this half term!

Remember your pupils can let us know their response to each big question using the **Discussion Board** – we love to read them.

**DISCUSS**



### How can photos shape the world?

Photos can show us the inner beauty of the world that the human eye alone may never see.

**Chloe S, aged 10**

### How can we respond to unexpected events?

Trying to be calm and adapt to the situation would be the best thing to do.

**Mikhail M, aged 10**

### How important is it to know about the author behind the book?

It is important to know the author behind the book because they might relate it to their culture or even what has happened in their life or where they are from, their happiness and their struggles.

**Ibrahim, aged 11**



## Welcome (back) Nur

Following a successful summer internship, Nur joined us as an Education Consultant in September!

She has settled in so well and creates weekly EAL resources for Picture News Talk. You might have also spotted her on our social media and Virtual Picture News!



THE  
TEAM >

## Upcoming Events and Training

### Picture News Training

Thursday 7th November 2024,  
4:00pm – 4:30pm



[Register here](#)

Learn how your Picture News resources support UN Rights of the Child, British values, personal development, cultural capital and wellbeing. We'll also share practical ideas for effectively embedding the resources in your setting!

### Welcome to Picture News Symbols

Monday 18th November 2024,  
4:00pm – 4:30pm



[Register here](#)

Join Lisa to learn about Picture News Symbols – a resource using Widgit symbols, for learners with Special Educational Needs to share their ideas about what's happening in the world.

## Half Term Take Home

### Autumn Challenges

The following page contains autumnal challenge ideas to share with your pupils ahead of the half term break, to help them learn from the world around them. Your pupils may wish to complete the activities at home, or perhaps complete some together as a class!



### Festive Fun



Friday 6th December 2024,  
1:30pm – 2:30pm

[Register here](#)

It'll be here before we know it! Take part in a light-hearted session as a class, in groups or individually, for quizzes, games and current affairs challenges.



## Bye for now!

Thank you for reading the first edition of Letters from Picture News for 2024 – 2025. As always, any feedback or ideas for future newsletters are welcome.

Have a great October half term, see you next time!

Katie N,  
Editor

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# Autumn Challenges!

Some fun seasonal activity ideas, to explore the world around you during the school holidays...

**.TRICK.  
OR.  
.TREAT.**

## Spook-tastic Decorations

Create some Halloween-inspired decorations! What materials will you use? What about cardboard, newspaper, pipe cleaners and natural materials? How will you make them look spooky?

## Warming Drinks

The weather is getting chillier now. Make a hot drink to stay cosy! Can you write the recipe for your drink? Remember to ask for a grownup's help!

## Autumnal Art

Collect natural materials to create an autumn collage. Try using leaves, conkers, sticks or anything else you can find, then stick them to some paper or card!

## Tree Watch

Keep a record of the trees you've seen and what they look like during this time of year. You might like to draw them or take photos. What different colour leaves are there? How many evergreen and deciduous trees can you spot?

## Conker Count

Use a tally chart to record the number of conkers you can find. Have you seen conkers on the ground? What trees do conkers come from? Compare your findings when you return to school!

## Perfect Pumpkins

Design a spooky pumpkin! Can you bring your design to life and carve a pumpkin? Remember to ask a grownup for help!