

What's happening
in the news this week?



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

10th - 16th June 2024



Is voting the best way to change things?

Bari Pascal/ABACA/Shutterstock



Democracy

We can take part in a variety of democratic activities to practise our right to vote in a school and home context.

At age 18, we all have the right to vote and take part in making decisions that affect us and our country.



Let's look at this week's story

Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has announced that a UK general election is to take place on 4th July. He made the announcement in a press conference outside 10 Downing Street. Parliament was dissolved on Thursday 30th May, and the members of Parliament have returned to being members of the public. Many are campaigning to be re-elected. A general election is when people over 18 can vote for who they want to represent them in the UK parliament. It could mean a new government party and new leader for the UK this summer.



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 the information below, which explains the Prime Minister's recent announcement.

General election 2024 timeline

Thursday 23rd May

Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, announced a general election.

Thursday 4th July

The day when adults can go in person to vote.

Friday 5th July

The results should be announced.

Tuesday 9th July

Newly elected MPs (members of Parliament) will meet for the first time.

Wednesday 17th July

The State Opening of Parliament. A ceremony when the King announces what the government wants to do.

What are political leaders saying about the general election?

Over the next few weeks, I will fight for every vote. I will earn your trust and I will prove to you that only a Conservative government led by me...can restore pride and confidence in our country and with a clear plan and bold action, will deliver a secure future for you, your family and our United Kingdom.

The current prime minister and Conservative party leader, Rishi Sunak, talking about his campaign.

Politics has to be about service. Britain must be a country that respects your contribution. Everyone – not just those at the top – deserves the chance to get on. These are the ideas I'm fighting for.

The Labour party leader, Keir Starmer, speaking about his campaign, which may see him become the next prime minister.

Discuss what you think it means for the UK.



Look at the resource below, which explains how a general election works.

The UK is split into 650 constituencies (areas). The adults in each constituency can vote for a member of Parliament (MP), who will represent them at Westminster.



Polling stations are open from 7am until 10pm on election day.



Each voter receives a ballot paper. The voter must put a cross by the name of the MP candidate they wish to vote for.



The Houses of Parliament is where elected MPs gather to discuss issues that matter to their constituents. It's also known as Westminster.



The party with the majority of elected MPs wins the general election. The prime minister is generally the leader of this party. 10 Downing Street is the official residence of the prime minister.



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of democracy.

Democracy comes from a Greek word, *demos* (people) and *kratos* (power/rule). It means 'rule of the people'.

British Values Democracy



- I know I have a voice and my opinions will be heard
- I can listen carefully to others
- I know how to discuss an issue in a calm way and can show respect for others even if I disagree
- My vote matters



"I signed a petition to show my support for reducing university student tuition fees. Anyone can set up a petition to make changes. If it receives 100,000 signatures, a petition is almost always debated in parliament."



Jasmine

Juries are an example of democracy in action. The people are making decisions of great importance. They sit through the trial, assess the evidence and come to a verdict on the case, deciding whether someone is innocent or guilty.



"The grass was getting incredibly long on our local playing field, making it difficult to play sports. I contacted my parish council to explain the problem and ask if they could keep on top of the grass-cutting over the summer months. They agreed and it has been maintained since."



Aleksey

"We often have a vote in our family to choose things such as what film to watch, which park to play in, where to have a treat meal. The majority vote wins. Sometimes, it is hard when I don't get my choice but that is part of democracy!"



Henry

Can you think of any examples of democracy in school?



Is voting the best way to change things?

Bari Pascal/ABACA/Shutterstock

Reflection



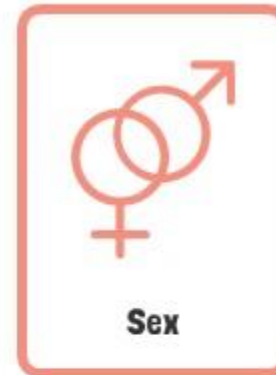
A general election is a chance for adults to vote for who they would like to run the country. It is an opportunity for democracy, leading to potential change in how a country is run.



Protected Characteristics



We have the right to our own political opinions and ideas, and these may be different from those of others. We must not be treated unfairly because of differing beliefs.





UN Rights of the Child



Governments must ensure that children know and can exercise their rights. Changing leadership does not impact the responsibility that governments have to respect and protect the rights of children.



Useful vocabulary



Campaign

To work in an active and organised way to achieve a goal, often a social or political one such as becoming an MP.

Many will then **campaign** to be re-elected.

Conservative

The current governing party. The Conservative party is one of the two main political parties in the UK, the other being Labour.

The current prime minister and **Conservative** party leader, Rishi Sunak, speaking about his campaign.

Dissolved

All seats within Parliament are vacated, making way for potential new members after the general election.

Parliament was **dissolved** on Thursday 30th May.

Member of Parliament (MP)

One person chosen to represent the interests of people from a certain location in the House of Commons.

Newly elected **MPs** (**members of Parliament**) will meet for the first time.

Party

An organisation of people who share the same ideas and beliefs about the way a country should be governed.

It could mean a new government **party** and new leader for the UK this summer.

Press conference

A meeting held by a famous or important person in which they make a public statement and/or take questions from reporters.

He made the announcement in a **press conference** outside 10 Downing Street.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Is voting the best way to change things?

Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has announced that a UK general election is to take place on 4th July. He made the announcement in a press conference outside 10 Downing Street. Parliament was dissolved on Thursday 30th May, and the members of Parliament have returned to being members of the public. Many are campaigning to be re-elected. A general election is when people over 18 can vote for who they want to represent them in the UK parliament. It could mean a new government party and new leader for the UK this summer.



- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you see. What do you think this week's story could be about?
- The Prime Minister has recently announced a general election. What do you know about general elections and their importance?
- Read the information found on the assembly resource and watch the useful video, both of which explore the Prime Minister's recent announcement. Talk about what you think it means for the UK.
- Share what you know about democracy and its importance in society.
- Voting is a popular tool for democracy. Can you think of times when you have voted – what was the outcome? Do you believe voting is always a fair way to reach a democratic decision?
- Aside from voting, can you think of any other ways that group or community decisions could be reached?

Reflection

A general election is a chance for adults to vote for who they would like to run the country. It is an opportunity for democracy, leading to potential change in how a country is run.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is a general election?



- Show this week's poster. Who is this? Why is he in the news now? Share what you already know.
- Look at the images on resource 1. Have you seen any of these images before? Do you know what they are? How are they linked to the general election?
- Read through the information, which explains the basic structure of a general election.
- Do you have any questions?
- Is there any vocabulary that you don't know? Make a list of new words and use a dictionary or the internet to find out their meaning. Add your glossary to a working wall that you can refer to.
- For a long time, women did not have the right to vote while men did. Did you know this? Do you think that's fair? Why?
- Today, all adults aged 18 and over are allowed to vote. Why do you think this is? Do you think this is fair?
- What opportunities do you have to vote at school or at home? E.g., school council, storytime, class rewards. Do you always get the result you want? How does it feel to not get your choice? What can you do about it?
- Does everyone get their own way in a general election? Do you think this is a fair way to choose a prime minister? Can you think of a different way?

Reflection

At 18, we will have the right to vote in a general election. Until then, we can take part in democratic activities to share our voices and make decisions together.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What are examples of democracy?



- What is democracy? Share thoughts. The UK is a democracy, which is a system of government. In a democracy, people elect the government and have a say in how the country is run.
- A general election happens in a democracy (see resource 1 for more information about a general election). However, we can see examples of democracy in many other parts of our lives too. Can you think of any other examples of democracy?
- Read through the information on resource 2. Can you think of any examples of democracy in school? Do you elect school council members? Is there an opportunity for you to ask questions or challenge things you believe should be changed? Do you listen to each other's views?
- Focus on the comment from Henry. He says not getting your own choice is part of democracy. How do you think this applies to the general election? How do you think people will feel if their choice of government is not in power? How do you react when your vote isn't the winner?
- Being part of a democracy is sharing your voice and listening to the voice of others. Do you believe online platforms and social media have made this easier to do? Can you think of any drawbacks of people sharing views and listening to others online?
- Think about your community and local area. Do you know who your local MP was? Do you know who is running to be your new local MP? What is the name of your local council? Do you have a town, parish or community council?

Reflection

We are part of a democracy, which means the people have the power and rule. We can share our voice and listen to the voice of others.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Read and research to find out more about the different parties that are standing in the general election. Use the following to help:

- Which party was in power?
- Can you name the leaders of each party?
- Which party do you predict will win the general election? Can you find any online polls predicting the outcome?
- Who do you want to win the general election?
- Can you name any other parties?
- What colours are associated with each party?
- What logo does each party use? How does this represent what they stand for?

Option 2

Voting maths! To win a vote, someone or something must receive the majority. Think about the following:

- How many people are in your class?
- Estimate what percentage of a class vote each person would have.
- Would it be possible for 50% of your class to vote for something? Explain your answer.
- The UK's last general election was in 2019. Around 67% of the population voted. What percentage of the population did not vote?
- Roughly how many people in your class is 67%?

Challenge – hold your own class vote. Once you have the data, analyse it!



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Your school council are like your MPs; they can represent your interests to school leaders. Write a letter to one of the council members to raise an issue. Think about:

- How will you start your letter?
- What would you like to ask them/what issue do you want to raise?
- What action would you like them to take?

Alternatively, would you like to become a school council member? If so, you could write to the council with your request. Think about:

- Why do you want to join the school council?
- Do you have any relevant experience? E.g., good listener, proactive, conflict resolver.
- What would make you a great member?

Option 2

Host your own mini election! You will need to form a political party so have a think about what you might want to offer your constituents, then join up with like-minded classmates. Write your manifesto – a list of your ideas and what you will do if you come into power – and plan your presentation. You might like to think of a party name!

Present your manifesto and then hold a vote to choose the winning party!



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62064552

This week's useful video

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announcing the general election
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdQ8R4ECxfM

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Set for a Soggy Summer?

While the UK is no stranger to wet weather, some forecasters are predicting a seriously soggy summer which could see fifty days of rain. That is ten more days of rain than the country had last summer. In order for a day to be classed as 'rainy,' there must be a minimum of 2.5mm of rainfall within 24



Pictured: Walking in the rain. Source: Canva.

hours. So far, the wettest UK summer on record was in 1912, over 110 years ago. That year saw fifty-five days of rain during the three-month summer period. The beginning of this year has indeed seen widespread rainfall in the UK, and it is thought that climate change may be behind this. As the climate warms, the atmosphere is able to hold more moisture, which can lead to higher levels of rainfall. However, in recent days, the Met Office have dismissed the precipitous predictions saying, 'It's not possible to forecast a specific number of days of rain in the UK for a whole season.' So, it looks like we might just need to wait and see – and keep our fingers crossed!

Bubbl-icious

Have you ever tried bubble tea? Even if the answer is no, you have almost certainly heard of it, as the cutesy drink has gained much popularity over recent years. Also known as pearl milk tea or boba, the drink originates from Taiwan. The typically cold drink is traditionally made using black tea, milk, sugar, ice and the famous bubbles, which are called tapioca pearls. The pearls are soft and chewy and are made by mixing a starchy substance, called tapioca, with water and brown sugar. The drink's popularity has gone from strength to strength thanks to users sharing their love for bubble tea on social

media. As the super-cool beverage has travelled around the world, different variations of the drink have evolved, including the use of syrups, jellies and new flavours, such as matcha, jasmine, mango, passionfruit and so many more! The drink even has its own emoji! 🧋



Pictured: Pearl milk tea. Source: Canva.

Can the voices of the young be as powerful as those of adults?



I believe that we all need to make our opinions heard. If we feel strongly about something, we must let other people know. Anita

Chasing Cheese

The world-famous Cooper's Hill Cheese Chase was back this year! The annual cheese-rolling event is held at the near-vertical Cooper's Hill, in Gloucester, England, and involves competitors chasing after a wheel of Double Gloucester cheese. The cheese is rolled down a steep embankment, and the winner is the first person down the hill! Very few of the entrants remain on their feet, with most falling and tumbling down the 180-metre hill. The much-anticipated Spring Bank Holiday event includes men's and women's downhill races, as well as adult's and children's uphill races. Only 25 people are allowed to enter each downhill race, and they do so at their own risk as many people sustain injuries whilst competing! The winner of each race receives an 8lb (3.6kg) Double Gloucester cheese wheel, the honour of being called a Cheese Champ, and the admiration of the thousands of spectators, who watch the event live or stream it! Although cheese rolling has been around for much longer, the first



Pictured: Abby Lampe, women's race winner.
Source: Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll Facebook page.
races at Cooper's Hill are thought to have been held in 1826! Abby Lampe, from North Carolina in the USA, is the 2024 women's champion and also won the race in 2022. Abby gave the advice of, 'Be the cheese! You just have to roll. There's a little bit of pain, but it's just going to be temporary.' Other English extreme traditional races include the Tetbury Woolsack Races, where racers carry a heavy woolsack, weighing up to 27kg, around a course.
Do you think that it is good to keep these old, quirky traditions going?

Flamingo Lays First Egg Aged 70

A 70-year-old flamingo has surprised many by laying an egg for the first time ever this spring! Gertrude lives at Pensthorpe Nature Reserve in Norfolk, UK, part of a flock of around sixty flamingos. Although her egg is not fertile or viable so it will not hatch, staff say that it is a great indication of how happy and healthy Gertrude is. Ben Marshall, from Pensthorpe Nature Reserve, said, 'This has still been a fantastic experience for Gertrude to display her maternal instincts, partner up, and sit on a nest along with the rest of the flock. Whilst Gertrude won't have an egg to hatch this year, lots of our other flamingos are due to hatch their flaminglets in a few weeks. We know that Gertrude is very protective of the young in the flock and will make a great



Pictured: Gertrude and her egg.
Source: Pensthorpe Nature Reserve X page.

aunt and babysitter of the impending young.'

Did you know that baby flamingos are called flaminglets? They also learn to swim very early – not long after they have learned to walk! Do you know any more flamingo facts?

Can the voices of the young be as powerful as those of adults?



I think it is more difficult for children to make their voices heard. Adults can use social media!

Tomas

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



picture-news.co.uk/discuss



help@picture-news.co.uk



[@HelpPicture](https://twitter.com/HelpPicture)

TAKEHOME

10th - 16th
June



Is voting the best way to change things?

In the news this week

Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has announced that a UK general election is to take place on 4th July. He made the announcement in a press conference outside 10 Downing Street. Parliament was dissolved on Thursday 30th May, and the members of Parliament have returned to being members of the public. Many are campaigning to be re-elected. A general election is when people over 18 can vote for who they want to represent them in the UK parliament. It could mean a new government party and new leader for the UK this summer.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you know about general elections? Ask someone older at home to recall previous elections.
- > Many people have come forward to say they'd like to see changes with how the country is run. Can you think of a positive change the government could make?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

