

What's happening in the news this week?



Xinhua/Shutterstock

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

9th - 15th March 2026



**How might
robots change
our daily
lives?**



Let's look at this week's story

During China's Lunar New Year Gala, one of the world's most-watched TV shows, humanoid robots danced and performed kung-fu moves on stage. The robots could spin, jump, and move with music, showing how fast robotics technology is developing. Other Chinese-designed robots appeared at celebrations in New York, USA. The performances have sparked global conversations about how robots might be used in future entertainment and everyday life.



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 gala and the humanoid robots.

What is the Lunar New Year Gala?

The Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) Gala is a famous annual celebration in China where families watch music, comedy, dancing, and cultural performances together on TV. It is watched by hundreds of millions of people every year, making it one of the biggest TV events in the world.



Dancing Robots at the Lunar New Year Gala!

Left: Humanoid robots stage a performance as part of Lunar New Year celebrations in New York, USA.

Source: Xinhua/Shutterstock

How did the robots learn to perform?

These robots are powered by:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Sensors to help them balance
- Special programs that control movement
- Cameras and computers that help them “see” the stage

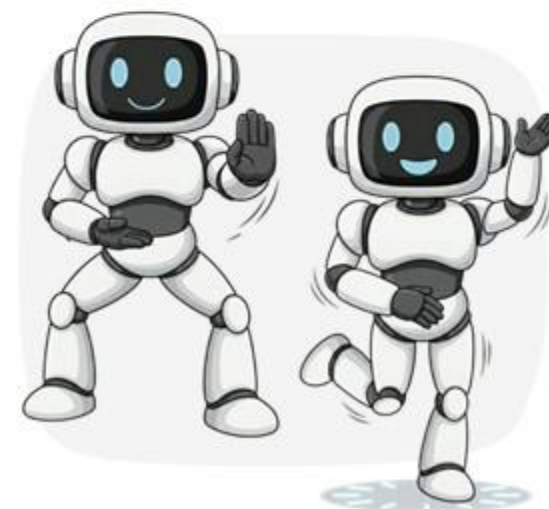
Scientists and engineers train robots carefully so they can move safely and accurately.

What could the robots in China do?

The humanoid robots:

- Danced in time to music
- Performed kung fu-style martial arts
- Kicked, spun and balanced
- Moved like real human performers

Some even did backflips and acrobatic movements during the show!



Do you think we will be seeing robots more and more in entertainment?



Look at the resource below, which shares information about robots and what they can do.

I can talk and give information.



Smart speakers



Agribots

I can help farmers by picking fruit.

A robot is a machine that can do a job by itself. This means it can finish a task without help from a person. It knows what to do because it is told by a computer program.

I can clean up dirt from the floor.



Robot vacuums

I can carry parcels for people.



Warehouse robots

I can help doctors in hospitals.



Medical robots

I can be a companion.



Robotic dogs

If you could have a robot, what would you want it to do? Why?



Look at the resource below, which shares information on some jobs robots are currently doing.

Robot vacuum cleaners

Robot vacuums move around a room on their own. They use sensors to avoid furniture and walls. If there is dust or crumbs on the floor, the robot vacuum can remove them without a person.



Surgical robots

In some hospitals, robots assist doctors during operations. They help make very small and precise movements.



Smart assistants

Smart assistants can answer questions, play music, set alarms, and control lights. They use voice recognition to understand what people are saying.



Self-driving cars

Some cars can drive themselves. They use cameras, sensors, and computers to detect roads, traffic lights, and other vehicles.

Drones

Drones are used to deliver packages. Others help emergency services search for people or check areas that may be dangerous. They can reach places quickly and safely.



Have you used any of these robots before?

Do you think robots should be able to do all jobs humans do?

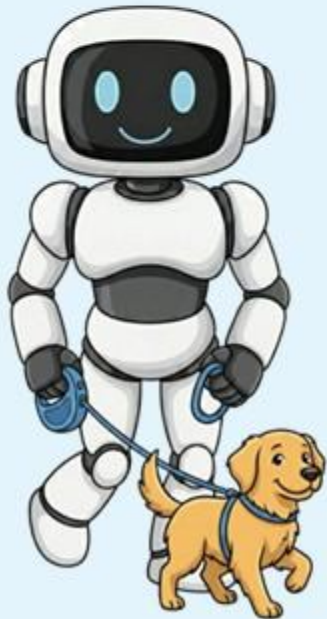


**How might
robots change
our daily
lives?**

Reflection



Just like past inventions changed how people lived, robots may shape the future in new and exciting ways. An important question is not just what robots can do, but how we choose to use them.



Media Literacy

I can talk to others about different ideas.



Explanation: Let's explore how we can listen to the views of others and share our ideas in a respectful way.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- What is the difference between hearing someone and listening to them?
- Why is it important to listen to the ideas of others?
- Should we always share our own opinions and ideas? How?
- What are some benefits to sharing different ideas?

Reflection

We should listen to the views of others and be thoughtful when we share our ideas so that everyone feels respected.

Activity

It is good to share your opinions and thoughts on news stories, but respect is key to a good conversation.

In pairs, think of some sentence starters to help:

- Build on another person's idea
- Challenge a viewpoint
- Show a different perspective



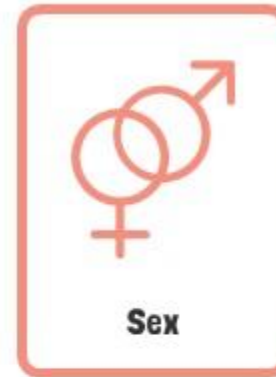
Individual Liberty

Designers used their freedom and individual liberty to create the robots. The invention mixes tradition with new technology, leading to conversations about how robots might help us in the future.

Protected Characteristics



Inventions can give people new ways to celebrate beliefs and traditions in the modern digital world. We should never be treated unfairly for having a religion or belief.





UN Rights of the Child



The robots show how new technology can create different ways for children to take part in cultural celebrations and activities. Adults should support children to participate in play, culture, and the arts.



Useful Vocabulary



Accurately

To do something in a way that is **correct, exact, and without mistakes.**

Scientists and engineers train robots carefully so they can move safely and **accurately.**

Cultural

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a group of people or **society.**

... where families watch music, comedy, dancing, and **cultural** performances together on TV.

Humanoid

Something that has shapes or characteristics which make it **look and move like a human being.**

Humanoid robots stage a performance as part of Lunar New Year celebrations in New York, USA.

Inventions

Brand-new ideas, machines or tools which have been created to solve a problem or make life easier.

Just like past **inventions** changed how people lived, robots may shape the future in new and exciting ways.

Kung-fu

A traditional Chinese martial art, which uses **focused movements, strength, and discipline to help people defend themselves and stay fit.**

... performed **kung-fu** moves on stage.

Robotics

A branch of science and engineering which involves **designing, building, and programming robots to perform tasks and follow instructions.**

... showing how fast **robotics** technology is developing.

Can you use them in your conversations this week?

Picture News



How might robots change our daily lives?

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- Look at this week's image. Make a prediction about the event it could be from and what might be happening. Explain that it shows humanoid robots during Chinese New Year celebrations in New York, USA.
- Watch this week's useful video showing the dance by advanced robots in China, which has made headlines worldwide. Share your thoughts, did you enjoy watching the robots?
- Read through the information found on the **assembly resource** all about the gala and the humanoid robots. Do you think we will be seeing robots more and more in entertainment?
- What about in other areas of our lives, when and where do you imagine we might see robots?
- Have you ever seen or used a robot? This could include things like smart speakers that you can talk to. Explain that not all robots are made to look and move like people.
- Can you come up with some jobs that you believe robots could do? Can you think of jobs that people do that are unlikely to be replaced by robots? Why?
- Do you think that robots will have a positive impact on our lives overall?

Reflection

Just like past inventions changed how people lived, robots may shape the future in new and exciting ways. An important question is not just what robots can do, but how we choose to use them.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is a robot?



- Can you spot anything at your school that is a robot or uses a robot? What do they do? How do they help you or someone at school?
- Imagine you have a robot in your classroom. What job would it do? Would it help the teacher, the children, or both? What would you name the robot?
- Why do people make robots? How can they help other people in daily life? Can you think of a job a robot could do that might be hard or dangerous for a person?
- Look at **resource 1**, which shows some information about robots. Which robot do you find the most interesting? Talk about how would you feel if a robot helped you with a task that you usually do by yourself.
- Robots need instructions from computers to know what they need to do. Can you think of a time when you had to follow instructions to complete a task? Talk about what the task was, and how the instructions helped you know what to do.
- Do you think robots would make fewer mistakes than people? What would happen if a robot did something wrong?
- If you could teach a robot one new skill, what would it be? How would you show it?

Reflection

Robots help people in many ways, from everyday chores to important jobs. They make tasks easier, safer or faster, and can inspire us to imagine new ways machines could help us in the future.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What are some jobs robots are currently doing?



- Robots are used for many different things in today's world. Do you know what we use robots for? Make a list of the different things that robots can do.
- How do you think people's lives would change if the types of robot you've thought of didn't exist? Could a human do the same job as quickly or safely as the robot? Why do you think that?
- Look at **resource 2**, which shows some jobs robots are currently doing. In your opinion, which one is the most/least useful? Discuss what people would do instead if the robot wasn't used.
- Some robots work alongside humans, while others work on their own. Can you think of a situation where a robot working alone would be better?
- Read this quote by Rodney Brooks, a robotics expert: *"I see robotic technology getting rid of the dangerous, the dirty, and the just plain boring jobs."* Do you agree or disagree with Rodney Brooks? Why?
- Can you think of a job that a robot can't do? Why do you think that job needs a human? What is it about the job that a human can do but a robot cannot?
- Thinking about your typical week, is there anything that a robot could do to make your life easier or save you time? Share your ideas.
- What sorts of robot might exist in the future?

Reflection

Robots are becoming part of our daily lives in lots of ways. Some help people stay safe, others save time or make difficult jobs easier. Even though robots can do many tasks, humans are still important for creativity, decision-making, and care.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Discuss some of the differences between robots and human beings.

Explain that humans have brains that allow them to think and feel for themselves, whereas robots tend to follow a specific set of rules, called a code, that has been written and inputted by humans.

In pairs, write down 5-8 specific instructions (code) to get a robot to go to a specific place in the classroom, e.g., turn 90 degrees to the right, walk forward 5 steps, raise arm, lower arm etc.

Try out your code with one person as the robot and the other person as the programmer.

Think about:

Was your code successful? How? If the code didn't work, whose fault was it - the robot or the programmer? Why? Can you write a code for a robot to feel sad or happy? Is there a limit to what a robot can do?

Option 2

Using a computer, research the following robots, to find out when they were invented, who invented them, and what they were designed to do.

- The Steam Pigeon
- Leonardo's Knight
- Unimate
- Sojourner on Mars
- Spot the Robot Dog
- Ameca

Think about: There are over 2,000 years between the invention of the Steam Pigeon and Ameca. What are the similarities and differences between the two robots?

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KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Identify an everyday chore you would like help with e.g., tidying up toys, washing up, brushing your teeth etc.

Explain that, when making new inventions, designers will start with a prototype, which is a practice version of an invention that helps see if the invention works.

Design and make a prototype of your robot to help you with an everyday chore. Use junk modelling materials, such as cereal boxes, yoghurt pots, cardboard rolls etc.

Think about:

Which part of the robot is the most important for doing the chore? What is one thing you really like about your design? If you were going to build an improved version, what would you change or redesign?

Option 2

Discuss that lots of children's books have been written about robots. As a class, visit the school library and see if you can find some stories about robots.

Think about: Have you ever read a story about robots? What happened? Are there any common themes in stories about robots? Do you like reading stories about robots? Why?

Discuss and write down on the board some descriptive adjectives to help describe a robot's appearance, size, age, and personality.

Write a short story about a robot using descriptive adjectives to help bring your story to life!

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://edition.cnn.com/2026/02/18/china/china-humanoid-robots-new-year-gala-intl-hnk>

This week's useful video

Dancing humanoid robots
www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6T-Ea5CfRE

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

9th - 15th
March



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In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you ever seen a robot before? Where was it?
- > Do you think robots should be used for entertainment, work, or both?
- > What are some of the things that people can do that robots can't?
- > If you could design a robot, what would it do and why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



The Rocket Returns!

Seven-time snooker world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan, known as 'The Rocket', is trying something new! For the first time ever, he's set to play in the World Seniors Snooker Championship this May at the famous Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. The tournament is open to players aged 45 and over and brings experienced competitors back to the table. There are 22 balls in a game of snooker: 15 red ones, six coloured balls (including the black, worth the most points!) and one white cue ball. Players use a long wooden cue (about as tall as an adult) to strike the balls across a huge 12-foot table. The table isn't wood inside! It's made



Pictured: Snooker balls on the table at the start of a game. **Source:** Canva.

from stone called slate and covered in smooth green cloth called baize, so the balls glide quickly. The pockets are small, so every shot needs careful aim and steady hands! Other players, including Jimmy White and Reanne Evans, will also compete when the tournament begins on 6th May. They will need to remember not to pot the white ball!

Would you like to play snooker? Have you ever watched it?

Bronze for Bamburgh

A beach in Northumberland, England, has made waves across the globe! Bamburgh Beach has been named the third best 'One of a Kind' beach in the world by Tripadvisor, in its 2026 Travellers' Choice Awards. That means it ranked higher than famous beaches in places like Hawaii and Brazil! The new 'One of a Kind' category celebrates beaches that are truly special. Bamburgh was praised for its miles of soft sand, wide open space, and the dramatic view of Bamburgh Castle rising



Pictured: Bamburgh Beach at sunrise! **Source:** Canva.

above the shore. The awards are based on millions of reviews written by travellers between late 2024 and late 2025. One Tripadvisor spokesperson said, 'For many travellers, the beach is the main event.' Bamburgh also ranked in the top 20 beaches in Europe for 2026. From castle to coastline, Bamburgh has earned international recognition!

What makes a place special to you?

Why do people explore space?



I think curiosity makes humans want to explore deeper into space – I really want to know if there are aliens or other planets like ours!
George

Giraffe-initely Gorgeous

A newly-born giraffe has become famous for his unusual hairstyle! Eugene the reticulated giraffe calf, who lives at The Toledo Zoo with his parents, Lily and Rocket, has gone viral – partly because of his unique hairdo. Jennifer Brassil from the zoo in Ohio, USA, said, 'The public is just loving him!' Zoo staff announced that he weighed 130lbs when he was born in January, and that he



Pictured: Giraffe calf, Eugene, and his mother, Lily. **Source:** The Toledo Zoo on Facebook.

has been successfully introduced to the rest of the herd, which consists of half-brother Franklin, as well as other giraffes called Charlotte Michelle, Ellie, and Rae. Jennifer added, 'Since he was introduced to the rest of the giraffe herd, everybody has been getting along well, and they're really interested in him – and he's interested in them. He's growing into his own personality, too.' Visitors at the zoo can see Eugene, who is currently in the indoor area, until the weather improves when he will go outside. He will continue to star on the zoo's social media channels too! **Have you ever seen a giraffe? Do you know any facts about them?**



Pictured: Giraffe calf, Eugene. **Source:** The Toledo Zoo on Facebook.

Dino-mite Teacher Honoured

A new species of dinosaur has been named after a teacher from Wales. The animal is an ancient relative of the crocodile, thought to have lived over 215 million years ago. The new crocodylomorph has been identified from a fossil at the Natural History Museum in London. In a new paper, researchers describe the creature to have been small and fast, with long limbs. The dinosaur has been named *Galahadosuchus jonesi* – 'Galahad' after one of the King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table (who was known for his moral uprightness) because researchers have found the animal was upstanding. The second part of the name, 'jonesi', honours David Rhys Jones, a schoolteacher at Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi in Cardigan.



Pictured: Palaeontologist working on a dinosaur fossil. **Source:** Canva.

'We named it after my secondary school physics teacher,' says Ewan Bodenham, a PhD student and lead author of the paper. 'Mr Jones was just such a good teacher, not only in being able to explain things well, but you could tell that he was genuinely interested in the sciences. I think that really inspired me. He also didn't let me settle. He was very good at challenging people and helping students be the best they can be. Above all, he's a very funny, genuine, nice guy.' **Do you have a favourite teacher? Would you like to name something in their honour?**

Why do people explore space?



I'm not sure - I don't think I want to explore space because there is so much on this planet that I want to see! Also, I was very surprised by how much it costs!
Suffiah