

What's happening in the news this week?



Sanchit Khanna/Hindustan Times/Shutterstock

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

29th June - 5th July 2026



**How much should the
weather influence our
decisions?**





Let's look at this week's story

Scientists are monitoring a climate trend called El Niño, which begins in the Pacific Ocean and can affect weather in different parts of the world. It can bring heavy rain and flooding to some countries, while others may experience very hot, dry weather. Experts are helping communities understand what might happen in their area so they can be ready, if needed.



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 found below, all about El Niño and the changes it can cause to weather in different countries.

What is El Niño?

El Niño is a natural climate trend that happens in the Pacific Ocean. It occurs when the surface waters in parts of the ocean become warmer than usual.

Although it starts thousands of miles away, El Niño can affect weather events in many different countries around the world.

What happens during El Niño?

El Niño can change weather patterns in different ways. It might cause:

- Heavy rain and flooding in some places
- Hotter, drier weather in others
- Challenges for farmers growing crops
- An increased risk of heatwaves and wildfires
- Changes to ocean habitats and the animals that live there

How do scientists know?

El Niño scientists use:



Satellites



Ocean buoys



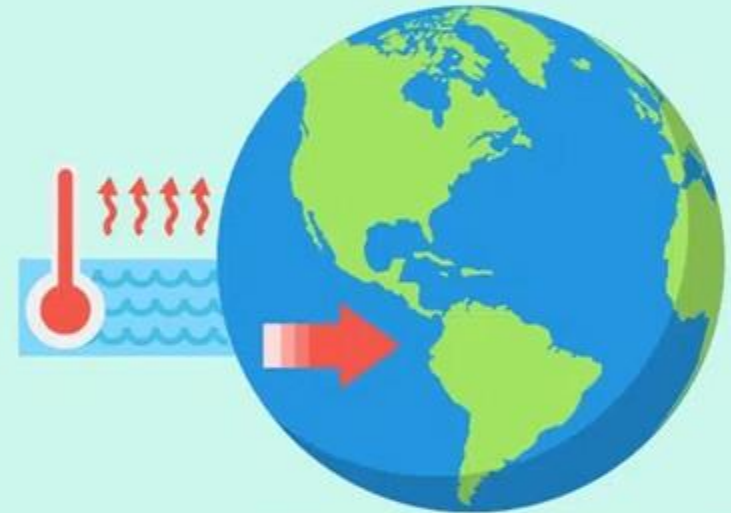
Weather stations



Computer models

This equipment helps scientists to monitor oceans, temperatures, rainfall, and predict how weather patterns may change.

El Niño



Warmer than average surface water temperatures in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, towards North & South America

Pictured: Effects of El Niño.
Source: Blue Planet Aquarium.

Should people change their plans or actions because of the weather?



Look at the resource below, which shows some different types of weather.



Hot and sunny



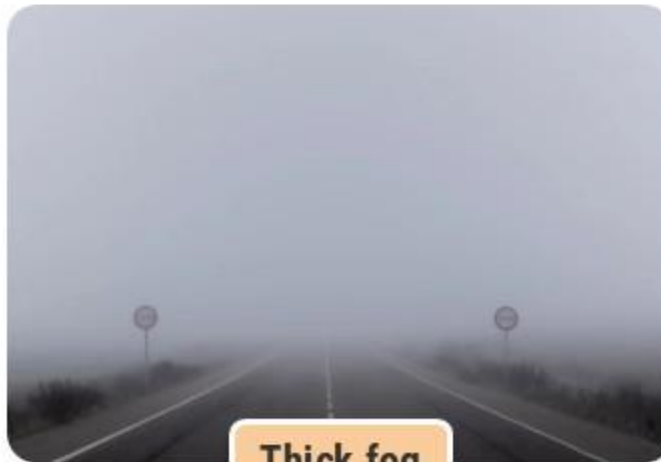
Strong winds



Very cold weather



Heavy rain



Thick fog



Thunder and lightning

What type of weather can you see in each picture?
What would you do to prepare for each type of weather if it was forecast?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information on how weather forecasts are created.

Why is it useful to know what the weather might do next?

Step 1: Collect information

Scientists collect information from many places, including:

Weather stations

These measure things like temperature, rainfall, wind speed and air pressure.

Satellites

These look down at Earth from space and help scientists see clouds, storms and changing weather patterns.

Radar

Radar can help show where rain is falling and how it is moving.

Weather balloons

These carry instruments high into the sky to measure temperature, wind and moisture in the air.

Ocean buoys and ships

These can help measure sea temperatures, waves and wind over the ocean.

Step 2: Look for patterns

Scientists compare new information with what they already know about how weather usually behaves.



Step 3: Use computer models

Powerful computers use the information collected to help predict what the weather might do next.



Step 4: Check and explain

Meteorologists study the predictions, use their expert knowledge and explain the forecast to others.



Step 5: Share the forecast

The forecast is shared through TV, radio, apps, websites and news reports, so people can plan and prepare.





**How much should the
weather influence our
decisions?**



Reflection



We cannot control the weather, but we can choose how we respond to it. By thinking carefully about the information we receive and considering how our choices affect ourselves and others, we can make thoughtful decisions when the future is uncertain.



Media Literacy

I know that media can affect other people in different ways.



Explanation: Let's think about how our own experiences can affect the way we feel about the news and discuss what we can do if a story makes us feel worried, anxious, or confused.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- How might this story make different people feel? Why?
- Why might people living in places affected by floods or droughts react differently to this news?
- What should we do if a news story makes us feel worried, anxious, or confused?

Activity

Read the El Niño news story.

In groups, consider how each person might feel about the news story:

- A child living in a country experiencing floods.
- A farmer worried about drought.
- A scientist studying the weather.

Think about: Why is it important to think about how other people might feel when we read or share news stories?



I Really Do Matter!



Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



The story highlights **Mutual Respect and Tolerance** because scientists are working together to help and protect different communities all around the world.

This story shows **Individual Liberty** because sharing weather information helps people to make their own decisions and prepare safely.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

Protected Characteristics



Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



This highlights **disability** because communities should work together to ensure everyone is safe and comfortable, especially during extreme weather.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?



Sex



Who People Love



Age



Disability



Being Yourself



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Scientists tracking El Niño can help communities prepare for extreme weather and keep children safe. Adults should make sure children are kept safe in all weathers.



Useful Vocabulary



Climate

The average pattern of weather in a specific place over a long period of time.

El Niño is a natural **climate** trend that happens in the Pacific Ocean.

Forecast

A prediction on what is likely to happen in the future.

How often do you look at the weather **forecast**?

Heatwaves

A long stretch of unusually hot weather that lasts for several days or weeks. It is much warmer than what's normal for that time of year and place.

An increased risk of **heatwaves** and wildfires.

Patterns

Something that repeats in a regular and predictable way.

This equipment helps scientists to ... predict how weather **patterns** may change.

Trend

The way in which something is changing or developing over time.

El Niño is a natural climate **trend** that happens in the Pacific Ocean.

Weather

What the air and sky are like outside, including things like sunshine, rain, wind, snow and temperature.

... El Niño can affect **weather** events in many different countries around the world.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



How much should the weather influence our decisions?

Scientists are monitoring a climate trend called El Niño, which begins in the Pacific Ocean and can affect weather in different parts of the world. It can bring heavy rain and flooding to some countries, while others may experience very hot, dry weather. Experts are helping communities understand what might happen in their area so they can be ready, if needed.



- Look at the poster image and describe what you can see. What do you think this week's story might be about?
- Read the information found on the **Assembly Resource**, all about El Niño and the changes it can cause to weather in different countries. Should people change their plans or actions because of the weather?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explains more about what El Niño means for the world's weather.
- Ask whether anyone has changed their plans because of the weather before. E.g., wet break inside when it rains or staying inside during a storm.
- What other types of weather affect what we do and how?
- Share what your favourite type of weather is and why.
- How often do you look at the weather forecast? In your experience, is it always correct? Do you think it's important to check weather forecasts? Can you think of a time when you changed your future actions because of a forecast?

Reflection

We cannot control the weather, but we can choose how we respond to it. By thinking carefully about the information we receive and considering how our choices affect ourselves and others, we can make thoughtful decisions when the future is uncertain.

Picture News



KS1 focus

How can we prepare for different types of weather?



- What is the weather like today? How did the weather affect what you chose to wear, brought to school or did this morning?
- Can the weather change your usual routine? E.g., how you get to school, what you do after school.
- Look at **Resource 1**, which shows different types of weather. Which weather have you experienced before? Can you think of any others?
- What might be fun about the different types of weather you can see?
- What might be difficult or unsafe about each type of weather?
- What might we need to do to prepare for a very hot or very cold day? What might help us stay safe and comfortable?
- What might we need to do to prepare for heavy rain or strong winds? How might our plans change if storms or thick fog are forecast?
- Why do you think it is helpful to know what the weather might be like before we go outside or travel somewhere?
- Some places in the world may have weather that is harder to prepare for, such as floods or very dry weather. What might people need if the weather becomes dangerous?
- How can people help each other when the weather makes things difficult?

Reflection

Different types of weather can be fun, but they can also bring challenges. When we think carefully, we can make choices that keep us safe and comfortable.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How do scientists predict the weather?



- What do you already know about weather forecasts? Where might you see or hear them?
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shows how weather forecasts are created. The first step is to collect information. Which of the tools or methods shown do you think sounds most useful? Why?
- Why do you think scientists collect weather information from lots of different places, such as the land, sea, sky and space?
- Why could spotting patterns help scientists predict what the weather might do in the future?
- Why might computers be useful when there is so much information to study?
- Weather forecasts are predictions, not promises. Why do you think the weather can sometimes be difficult to predict exactly? Is a forecast still helpful information, even if it is not always accurate? Why?
- Forecasts are shared through TV, radio, apps, websites and news reports. Who might need to know what the weather might do next? Why?
- How could a forecast help a farmer, a school, a family, a transport worker or a local leader make decisions?
- Do you think people should change their plans because of a weather forecast? When might it be important to listen carefully and prepare?

Reflection

Scientists use multiple methods and expert knowledge to help predict the weather. Forecasts can help people plan, prepare and make careful decisions.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Think about: What is the difference between the weather and the climate?

Divide the class into 'travel agencies'. Give each group a climate zone, e.g., tropical, dry, polar, temperate and continental. They should research their climate zone, choose a destination, and create a holiday brochure for this area.

Challenge the children to include information about the climate and advice on what items someone might need to pack to visit this destination.

Option 2

Think about: How do you know it is windy when you cannot see it?

Explain that because we cannot see the wind, people use a weather vane which spins to show which direction the wind is blowing. For hundreds of years, it has helped farmers, sailors, and meteorologists (weather scientists) predict changes in the weather!

Create a weather vane. You will need a cardboard circle (labelled north, east, south and west), modelling clay, two straws, wooden skewer, card (for the arrow tip, tail, and optional rooster cutout).

Draw a compass rose (N, S, E, W) on the cardboard circle. Place modelling clay in the centre, and push the first straw vertically into it.

Cut an arrowhead and tail from your card and attach them to the ends of the second straw. Push the wooden skewer horizontally through the exact centre of this straw.

Insert the bottom of the wooden skewer down into the vertical base straw. Make sure the arrow can spin freely.

Put your weather vane outside or in front of a fan. The arrow will spin and point directly into the direction the wind is blowing from.

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Take the class on a sensory walk around an outside space.

Think about: Is the sun shining today? Are there clouds in the sky? What do they look like today? How does the air feel on your skin? Is it cold or warm? What can you hear the weather doing?

Return to the classroom. Ask the children to prepare a weather report in pairs using their gathered sensory details.

Think about: Can you describe today's weather? What are some items of clothing people might need if they go outside today? Will they need to bring anything else to make sure they are prepared for the weather, e.g., sunscreen, an umbrella?

Then, take on the role of a television meteorologist, presenting today's forecast and give advice on what they might need if they go outside.

Option 2

Explain that scientists measure how much rain has fallen in a particular area.

Create a rain gauge. You will need an empty plastic bottle and a ruler.

Cut the top third off an empty plastic bottle. Invert it into the bottom half like a funnel. Tape a ruler to the side and place it outside.

Over the week, send a small group of children outside each day to measure the rainfall in centimetres. Then plot your findings on a chart.

Think about: Which day had the most amount of rain? Which day had the least? What was the total amount of rainfall over the week?

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c75ylx7g00xo>

This week's useful video

www.bbc.com/news/videos/c62179ylq9go

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

29th June
- 5th July



How much should the weather influence our decisions?



In the news this week

Scientists are monitoring a climate trend called El Niño, which begins in the Pacific Ocean and can affect weather in different parts of the world. It can bring heavy rain and flooding to some countries, while others may experience very hot, dry weather. Experts are helping communities understand what might happen in their area so they can be ready, if needed.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What is your favourite type of weather and why?
- > Have you or anyone at home ever had to change your plans because of the weather?
- > What would you pack if you didn't know whether it would be rainy or sunny?
- > Why might some people need to prepare more carefully for certain types of weather?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Nature Gets Top Marks!

Nature is full of questions. Why do birds migrate? How do food chains work? What happens when habitats change? Older children in England could soon spend time exploring questions like these in a brand-new Natural History GCSE. The idea has been talked about for many years, and it is now being added to the list of GCSE options. GCSEs are subjects that lots of young people choose to study in Years 10 and 11. This one will focus on the natural world, including wildlife, habitats, climate change and conservation. Young people taking the subject will spend time learning both in and out of the classroom. They'll get to investigate nature in real places, such as parks, rivers and woodlands. Supporters hope

the subject will help young people notice, understand and care for the world around them. Naturalist and TV presenter, Steve Backshall, welcomed the idea. He said, 'That sense of discovery is something every young person deserves to feel.' It looks like nature could soon be top of the class! ***The Natural History GCSE is due to start in 2028. What year will you be in?***



Pictured: Young people studying in a forest.
Source: Canva.

Who Wrote That Song?

La la la... wait a minute! What if the new song you're singing along to wasn't written by a person at all? AI, which stands for artificial intelligence, can now be used to create music. Recently, AI-generated songs with a Northern Ireland theme were played on local radio stations and listened to hundreds of thousands of times online.



Pictured: A microphone in a radio station.
Source: Canva.

But the songs sparked lots of discussion. Some people think AI is an exciting new way to create music and bring ideas to life. Others think songs should be written and performed by people. Singer and songwriter, Paul Connolly, said he felt 'angry and deflated' about the growing use of AI in music. However, AI music creator, Oliver McCann, believes the technology can help people create and share new songs. The songs were later removed from radio playlists, but the discussion about AI and music continues. ***Who is your favourite singer?***

Is technology changing childhood?



I think new technology will always change childhoods - my dad had a different childhood than my grandad because he had more and new games to play. **Sofia**

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



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[/picturenewsprimary/](https://picturenewsprimary/)

Buddy Dogs Building Confidence

Erin has been talking about the charity, Guide Dogs UK, and how they have helped her in many ways. She praised Quince, her buddy dog of six years! Buddy dogs are dogs that have been given a career change because life as a guide dog wasn't quite right for them. The special canines are friendly, well-behaved dogs, who become new friends of children with sight loss, helping to grow their confidence! Erin's mum Sarah said, 'The difference



Pictured: Erin walking with a cane, her mum, and her buddy dog, Quince. **Source:** Guide Dogs UK on Facebook.

Quince made was instant. He loved Erin for who she is. He didn't see the nystagmus [an eyesight condition], or her glasses, or that she struggled with a step... The change he's made is so huge it's hard to put into words. He's helped her be more confident and independent, and she now talks positively about her vision impairment.' Erin says, 'Quince isn't just a buddy dog, he's my friend. He helps me feel safe and he's always by my side. Quince walks with me on the way to school. He's the only dog allowed in the playground and that makes me feel special and included. He makes me feel more comfortable and he always sticks with me.'

Do you know any facts about buddy dogs?



Pictured: A dog. **Source:** Guide Dogs UK on Facebook.

Classroom Comedy

Beano has announced the winners of its 8th annual Britain's funniest class and funniest teacher competition! Beano posted about the winners saying, 'Ready, set... LAUGH! It's Britain's Funniest Class of 2026! 🤪 After plenty of giggles, gags and pure classroom mayhem, one class has come out on top... Huge congrats to Boyce Class (Year 6) from Joy Lane Primary School, officially the funniest class in the UK! Also, a big cheer for their teacher, Miss Crowe, officially Britain's Funniest Teacher! 🤪 The winners will feature in a special edition of the famous comic, competing in a mischief-filled 'Silly Sports Day'. They will also receive bespoke 'Golden Gnasher' medals, Beano subscriptions for every pupil and their school library,



Pictured: Britain's Funniest Class of 2026 - Boyce Class (Year 6) from Joy Lane Primary School in Whitstable, Kent. **Source:** Beano on Facebook.

a day trip to a Gulliver's theme park, and The Beano Joke Book featuring all finalist jokes. See the winning joke and some of the other entries below;
'I didn't think food could make calls, but then: boom! Onion rings.' (Boyce Class, Joy Lane Primary School, Whitstable)
'What is a school uniform's favourite food? Tie food!' (Puffins, Harris Primary Academy, Beckenham)
'What do you call a bedtime cheese? Pyjama-san!' (St George's C of E Primary School, Bromley)
Do you have a favourite joke?

Is technology changing childhood?



As long as you still have lots of technology-free time as a child, then it doesn't matter how much new technology there is.

Taylor

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



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