

What's happening in the news this week?



META/CNET

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

12th - 18th October 2026



**Do we need AI
wherever we
go?**



Let's look at this week's story

Meta has created the Muse Charm, a small device that can fit in a pocket or hang from a keyring. The Charm uses Muse, Meta's artificial intelligence (AI), so people can talk to it, ask it questions, and show it what is happening around them. It is designed for adults over the age of 18, and Meta aims to have the new device ready to buy by December.



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 all about the new Meta AI device. Do you think this type of device will become popular? Share your thoughts.

The Muse Charm: An AI Device for Adults

What is it?

The Muse Charm is a small artificial intelligence device created by Meta. It can fit inside a pocket or attach to a keyring, but it is not a toy and is intended for adults.

What is it designed to do?

An adult user can:

- Speak to an AI assistant
- Ask questions
- Request help with plans and everyday tasks
- Show it what is happening nearby
- Use it without opening an app on a phone



Pictured: Meta founder, Mark Zuckerberg, at the announcement of the new Meta Muse Charm.

Source: Getty/Bloomberg

How does it work?

The device contains a screen, microphone, cameras, speaker and fingerprint sensor. The AI can respond using a digital character.

What are some of the different opinions about this new technology?

Some people believe an always-available AI assistant, like Muse, could make everyday tasks easier. Others are worried about privacy, incorrect information, and using it too much when you don't need to.



Look at the resource below, which shows some examples of how devices might use AI.

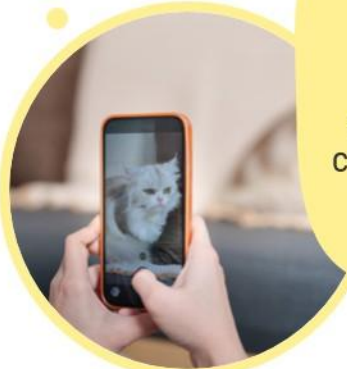
A smart speaker

Some smart speakers use AI to recognise spoken words and respond. Someone might ask a question or request a song.

What might you ask a smart speaker?



How else might someone use AI to help with taking photographs?



A smartphone

Some smartphones use AI to recognise things in photographs. This can help someone find pictures of their cat, for example, without looking through every photograph.

A tablet

Some tablets use AI to recognise words written on the screen with a digital pen. They can turn handwriting into typed words.



What might happen if the handwriting is difficult to read?



A smart doorbell

Some smart doorbells use AI to recognise a person, an animal or a parcel in the camera's picture. They can send a message to someone's phone to let them know who or what is outside.

Why might someone want to know that a parcel has arrived?



Look at the resource below, which shows how AI is changing what technology can do.

Helping us find out more

A camera can take a picture, but AI can help explain what it shows. Software like Google Lens can use your device's camera or photos to identify objects, translate text and find information in real time.



Helping machines sort recycling

Recycling centres need to sort different materials. The company AMP uses AI to spot materials such as plastic, paper and metal, as rubbish moves along a conveyor belt. Machines then separate items for recycling.



Helping scientists discover new materials

AI can help scientists find ideas for new materials. It can suggest which ones might work well, so scientists know which ones to test. In the future, these new materials could be used to make things, such as better batteries, solar panels and electronic devices.



For each example, think about:

What does AI add? | Why is the AI useful? | What might still need checking?



**Do we need AI
wherever we
go?**



Reflection



AI may make everyday life easier, but it is important to think carefully about when its help is useful and when we should rely on ourselves.



Media Literacy

I can tell the difference between fact and opinion.



Explanation: Let's think about how we can tell the difference between a fact and an opinion when we read the news.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- What is the difference between a fact and an opinion?
- What words or phrases might help us spot an opinion in a news story?
- How can we find out if something is a fact?

Activity

Read each statement about Meta's AI device. Work with a partner to decide whether each one is a fact or an opinion.

- Meta's new device is designed to fit in the palm of your hand.
- This is the coolest and most convenient AI gadget ever made.
- The device uses Meta's Muse AI to help users on the go.
- Nobody really needs a separate AI device when they already have a smartphone.

Think about: Why is it important to know whether we are reading a fact or someone's opinion?



I Really Do Matter!



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



Individual Liberty is highlighted, as people can choose how they use technology and make responsible choices.

We can use technology to help us while showing **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**, by remembering that people have ideas and experiences to share.



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

Protected Characteristics



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



The protected characteristic of **age** is highlighted, because the device is designed for people aged 18 and over, showing that some technology has age limits to help keep people safe.

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



Children have the right to access information from different sources. As this device is designed for adults over the age of 18, it is important to think about how children can access information in ways that are safe and suitable for their age.



Useful Vocabulary



AI assistant

A computer program that uses artificial intelligence to answer questions and help people with tasks.

Some people believe an always-available **AI assistant**, like Muse, could make everyday tasks easier...

Charm

A small object worn on jewellery or attached to something, such as a keyring.

The Muse **Charm** is a small artificial intelligence device created by Meta.

Device

A piece of equipment made for a particular purpose, such as a phone or camera.

What do you think the main purpose of the **device** is?

Founder

The person who starts a company or organisation.

Watch the useful video where Meta **founder**, Mark Zuckerberg, introduces the new device.

Meta

The technology company behind Facebook and Instagram, which also makes devices such as the **Muse Charm**.

The Muse Charm is a small artificial intelligence device created by **Meta**.

Sensor

A part of a device that detects something, such as light, movement or touch.

The device contains a screen, microphone, cameras, speaker and fingerprint **sensor**.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



Do we need AI wherever we go?

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- Look at the poster – what do you think the object could be? Can you make a prediction about what it could be for? It's Meta's new Muse Charm, an AI tool designed for adults.
- Meta's Muse Charm lets people talk to its AI assistant, Muse, using a small device that can be carried on a keyring. Share your initial thoughts. What types of things do you think it could be used for?
- Do you use AI in your everyday life? At home, school or any other times?
- What is your opinion on AI? Do you believe it is always helpful? Can you make a list of when you think it is helpful, and when you think it's better to not use it, or to use something else?
- Watch the useful video where Meta founder, Mark Zuckerberg, introduces the new device. What do you think the main purpose of the device is?
- Read through the information on the **Assembly Resource** all about the new Meta AI device. Do you think this type of device will become popular? Share your thoughts.
- For new technology like the Muse Charm, do you feel there should be rules for how and when it can be used?
- Consider what it used to be like finding out information before AI or the internet. What might have been better or more difficult?

Reflection

AI may make everyday life easier, but it is important to think carefully about when its help is useful and when we should rely on ourselves.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is AI?



- Have you ever heard someone ask a phone or smart speaker a question? What did they ask? Did the device speak back? Share your experiences.
- Look at the pictures of the four devices on **Resource 1**. Which do you recognise? Have you seen anyone use them? What could they help people do?
- Some of the features on these devices may use artificial intelligence, or AI for short. Have you heard people talk about AI before? AI is computer technology that can help with tasks, such as recognising pictures, understanding spoken words and answering questions. AI is made by people.
- Look more closely at the examples on **Resource 1**. What does AI help each device to do? Which example do you think could be useful? Why?
- Does AI always get things right? Imagine asking a smart speaker for a song and hearing a different one, or a smart doorbell mistaking a toy cat for a real cat! What has gone wrong? What could a person do to check or help?
- Think about the Muse Charm from this week's news story. Why might someone want to carry it around with them? Do you think they would need its help all the time?

Reflection

AI helps some devices recognise words and pictures, making everyday tasks easier. It can make mistakes, so people still have an important role to play.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How is AI changing technology?



- Think about the technology you use at home or at school. What does it help you do? Can you think of something that would take longer or be more difficult without it? Share your experiences.
- What do you already know about AI? People can use AI to help develop new inventions or improve existing technology.
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shows examples of how AI can change what technology can already do. What problem is each example helping to solve? Who could benefit? Consider how they could help people access information, sort materials or investigate new ideas.
- Compare a camera that takes a photograph with an app that describes the photograph aloud. What extra ability does AI provide? How could this change the way someone uses a phone?
- Look more closely at the example about new materials. AI can suggest possibilities for scientists to investigate. Why might this be helpful when there are many possibilities to explore? Does a suggestion from AI mean something will definitely work?
- Choose one example. What might happen if the AI made a mistake? What would you want its designers to check before people used it?
- Is making a device do more always an improvement? Think about whether it solves a problem, works reliably and is useful to the people using it.

Reflection

AI is changing what technology can do, but people must decide how to use it and check that it works.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Invent your own AI gadget!

What would make your everyday life a little easier? Finding lost things? Remembering what to pack? Think of a problem and invent an AI gadget to help!

Draw your gadget and give it a name. Add labels to show:

- What it does and who it helps.
- What it looks like and how you use it.
- What its AI needs to recognise or respond to.
- Any parts it needs, such as a camera, microphone or speaker.

Show your invention to a partner. Can they spot something that might go wrong or suggest a useful change? Make an improvement before presenting your finished idea.

Option 2

Should AI always give us the answer?

Divide into two groups: one arguing for and one against. Work together to prepare your arguments and think of examples to support your views.

You might want to think about:

- Could AI save us time or help when we are stuck?
- Could getting an answer straight away stop us learning something?
- What if the answer is wrong?

Hold your debate. Take turns sharing your arguments and responding to the other group's ideas. Finish with a class vote.

Did anything you heard change your mind?

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Some AI tools recognise objects by finding patterns, such as shapes and colours, in pictures. Have a go at using picture clues yourself! Choose an everyday object and keep it secret. Draw it using a painting program or mini whiteboard, adding one part at a time. Pause after each addition. Can your partner guess what it is?

Did their guess change as you added more? A circle might be a ball, a wheel or part of a face. What extra detail made your object easier to recognise?

Swap roles and try again. Discuss how an AI tool might also mistake one object for another if the picture is unclear or an important part is hidden.

Option 2

Who could help?

Place two signs in your classroom: 'a person' and 'an AI tool with an adult.'

Listen to these situations:

- You want to find out the name of a flower.
- You would like to hear your favourite song.
- You feel upset and want someone to comfort you.
- You want ideas for a game to play.

Choose a sign to stand next to and explain your choice. Did everyone choose the same?

Listen to someone else's reasoning – you can change your mind!

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://analyticsindiamag.com/ai-news/meta-unveils-new-palm-sized-ai-device-with-muse-agent>

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYe9xKlpEPA

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

12th - 18th
October



Do we need AI wherever we go?



META/CNET

META/C

In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you use any AI at home or school at the moment?
- When do you think technology can be helpful in our everyday lives?
- What rules might help people use an AI companion safely?
- Talk to someone older at home about what it was like to find information out before the internet, AI and other similar technologies.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Art in the Sand!

Gert-Jan Van Der Kooij has travelled from the Netherlands to Walton-on-the-Naze, UK, to take part in the Walton Arts Festival. He used a rake to create pictures of famous people, including Dolly Parton, Ozzy Osbourne and David Hockney. Gert-Jan uses computer software to plan his artwork. He also wears virtual-reality goggles that show him where to draw the picture in the sand. It takes him about 10



Pictured: Gert-Jan van der Kooij artworks.
Source: Carl Surry on Facebook.



Pictured: Gert-Jan van der Kooij working on the beach. **Source:** Carl Surry on Facebook.

minutes to create a portrait! Gert-Jan first started making his beach art with his hands. Then his wife bought him a rake, which helped him create bigger and more detailed pictures. He is known as 'The Beach Raker' in the Netherlands. The artist said that he enjoys working at Walton-on-the-Naze because people can watch him create his artwork from the promenade.
Would you try sand art?

Elephants Know Their Medicine

Scientists have discovered that African elephants may use plants as medicine when they are unwell. Researchers spoke to people who live and work near elephants in the Mount Elgon region of Kenya. They heard stories of elephants choosing certain plants when they seemed ill, and mothers giving plant parts to their calves. The researchers found that the elephants use 35 different types of plants. People in the area already know that 25 of these plants can be used as medicine. Scientists



Pictured: An elephant eating a leafy plant.
Source: Canva.

are now giving local wildlife experts cameras so they can record elephants using plants. They are also studying the plants to find out whether they could help create new medicines in the future.

What would you like to learn about elephants?

How can we share our stories?



I make up a song about what I am doing to make tasks more fun.

Freddie

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



picture-news.co.uk/discuss



help@picture-news.co.uk



[/picturenewsprimary/](https://www.instagram.com/picturenewsprimary/)

Picture News Pioneers

Following our Pupil Leadership Training assembly, we have been receiving lots of emails from teachers whose pupils are getting really involved! They are leading assemblies and discussions, creating displays, gathering views, and ensuring every voice is heard in school! We are really excited to share some of them with you. Mills and Molly in Year 5KR at Ipswich High School said, 'A huge thank you Picture News for an incredibly inspiring webinar on leadership! 💡 We took pages of notes and are feeling more motivated than ever. We can't wait to put these insights into action and empower the next generation of great leaders here at IHS 🚀.' The Pupil leadership team at Meadow View Academy told us, 'We believe to be a good leader we must be responsible, reliable, and always willing to help others. We must set a good example by following school rules, working hard, and treating everyone with kindness and



Pictured: Ibrahim, Sunnyside's Head Boy.
Source: Sunnyside Primary Academy on Facebook.

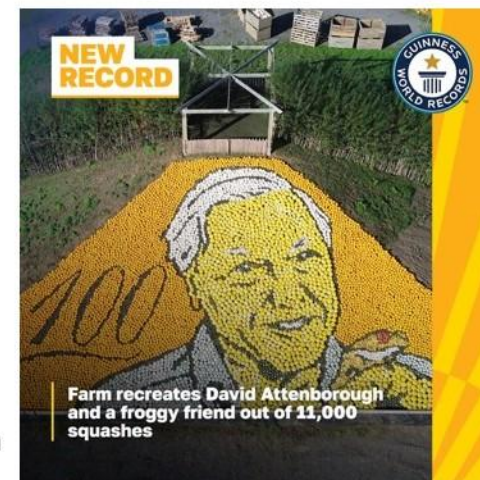
respect. As school leaders, we will listen to other pupils, support our teachers, and help create a positive and welcoming environment for everyone. We are confident, approachable, and committed to making our school the best it can be.' Ibrahim and the rest of the Pupil Leadership Team at Sunnyside Primary Academy posted on Facebook, to let us know that they have started to plan and lead their own Picture News assemblies!

Would you like to lead assemblies and be a Picture News Pioneer?

If you'd like to receive a Picture News Pioneer badge and lanyard, your teacher can send your letter or video explaining what makes a great school leader to us at help@picture-news.co.uk

Pumpkin Portrait

A giant mosaic of Sir David Attenborough has been created from thousands of squash and pumpkins! The Nelson family, of Sunnyside Farm in Hampshire, UK, has just claimed the record for the largest squash mosaic for the third time in four years! The farm unveils a new piece of art each year to mark the start of its Pumpkin Time event, which runs until 31st October. Earlier this year, the public were asked to vote on the subject of the mosaic. They decided to pay homage to broadcasting legend and conservationist David Attenborough, who turned 100 in May. The masterpiece recreates a photo of David with a cheeky frog! The portrait is made up of around 11,000 naturally coloured squashes and pumpkins, and measures 218.2 m². It took 18 people



Pictured: David Attenborough and Froggy friend squash mosaic. **Source:** Guinness World Records on Facebook.

around five hours to complete the display. Mr Nelson said, 'David means so much to so many families across the UK and the world... he has been part of our living rooms; him and the causes he has championed for his entire life.'

Would you like to design a piece of art involving pumpkins?

What subject do you think the farm should use next year?

How can we share our stories?



I like to draw pictures of what I have been doing in my journal.
Annie

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



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