What's happening in the news this week?

Picture News

Alamy

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

19th - 25th October 2026

Picture News
Should age decide what we're allowed to do?
20
Alamy

Let's look at this week's story

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman grandmaster title in chess. She achieved this while playing for England at an international competition in Uzbekistan. Bodhana said she was happy with her achievement and wanted to keep making history.

Learn more about this week's story here.
Watch this week's useful video here.
This week's Virtual Picture News here.

© Picture News 2026

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
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested
absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

© Picture News 2026

This week's story looks at events related to ...

© Picture News 2026

ASSEMBLY RESOURCE

Read through the information all about Bodhana. What do you think her story can teach us about judging someone by their age?

Meet Bodhana Sivanandan!

Age: 11

Home:
Harrow, north-west London

Known for:
Making chess history while still at school!

When did Bodhana start playing chess?

When she was 5, Bodhana discovered a chessboard in a bag of toys and books during the coronavirus lockdown. At first, she wanted to play with the pieces as toys, then her dad suggested learning the game.

Pictured: Bodhana Sivanandan has been recognised by the Guinness World Records for her record-breaking achievement as the youngest chess player to achieve the woman grandmaster (WGM) title.

Source: PTI

What has Bodhana achieved?

Bodhana still attends school full-time alongside playing international chess! She says chess links to lots of her school subjects.

Bodhana has been in the news this week, as she has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman grandmaster title, a major international achievement in chess.

Bodhana wants to keep improving and making chess history.

© Picture News 2026

Resource one

Look at the resource below, which shares some information on different games.

During **Snakes and Ladders**, you roll a dice to move, climb ladders and slide down snakes.

Dice are rolled to buy properties and collect money in **Monopoly**.

To play **Hopscotch**, you throw a marker and hop through numbered squares.

Stuck in the Mud is a chasing game, where players work together to free others.

Have you played any of these games before?

What can these games teach us?

What other games do you know that can teach us something?

© Picture News 2026

Resource two

Look at the resource below, to find out more about some of the age limits we have.

TV programmes and films have age symbols (e.g., PG, 12, 15) to show which ages they are appropriate for.

Some food and drink products have age limits or recommendations, because of the ingredients they contain.

There are rules about the car seats children must use, depending on their age and size.

Some video games and apps have age ratings, such as PEGI ratings, to show which ones are suitable for different ages.

Which of these age limits or recommendations did you already know about?

Why might we need an age limit?

How do age limits keep us safe?

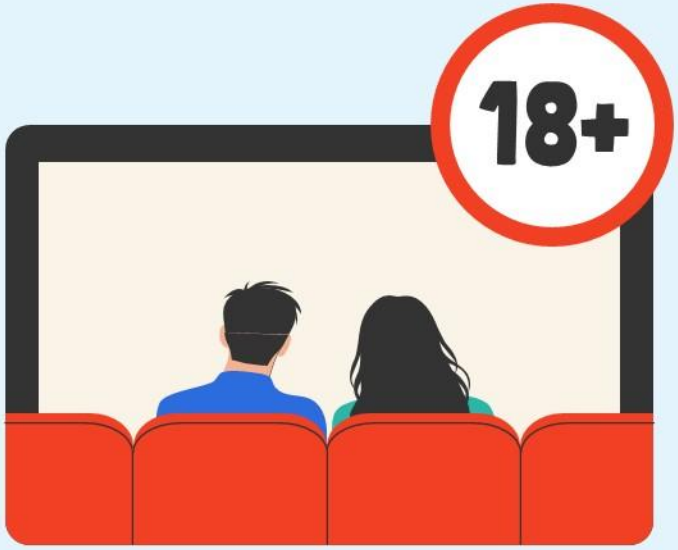
Children under 8 must be supervised by an adult when they are in a swimming pool.

© Picture News 2026

Picture News
Should age decide what we're allowed to do?
20
Alamy

Reflection

Before deciding what someone can do, take time to discover their skills and experience, whatever their age.



© Picture News 2026

Media Literacy

Analyse

Evaluate

Research

Act

I know that information can change over time.

Explanation: Let's think about how what we know can develop as new information becomes available.

Questions to Discuss

- How can new information change what we know about someone's achievements?
- Can looking at information from the past help give us a clearer understanding of someone now? How?
- Why is it useful to know when information was written or shared?

Activity

In pairs, use a trusted news website to find out about Bodhana Sivanandan's achievements. Create a timeline, showing some of her achievements before becoming woman grandmaster.

You may wish to consider:

- What did Bodhana achieve?
- When did she achieve it?
- How have her achievements developed over time?

© Picture News 2026

British Values

I Really Do Matter!

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

Bodhana's story reminds us that people of all ages should have opportunities to share their ideas and achieve their goals, helping us understand the importance of Democracy.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance is highlighted, as Bodhana's success reminds us to appreciate people of all ages and value their different abilities and experiences.

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

© Picture News 2026

Protected Characteristics

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

Bodhana became the youngest female player to earn the woman grandmaster title, showing that people of any sex can succeed at the highest levels of chess.

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

© Picture News 2026

UN Rights of the Child

Every child has the right to be treated fairly and have the same rights, regardless of their sex, age or background. Bodhana's success reminds us that children should have the same opportunities to develop and use their abilities.

© Picture News 2026

Useful Vocabulary

Assumed

Something you believe is true, without having all the facts.

What might you have **assumed** about Bodhana's chess skills if you only knew her age?

Chess

A strategy game for two players, where each player moves pieces to try to trap the other player's king piece.

Making **chess** history while still at school!

Earn

To get something because of your work, effort or achievements.

Bodhana has been in the news this week, as she has become the youngest person ever to **earn** the woman grandmaster title.

Grandmaster

The highest official title a chess player can achieve, showing they have reached an exceptional level of skill.

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman **grandmaster** title in chess.

Major

Something very important or significant.

…a **major** international achievement in chess.

Restrictions

Rules or limits about what you can or cannot do.

What are some of the things we have age **restrictions** for?

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

© Picture News 2026

Picture News

Should age decide what we're allowed to do?

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman grandmaster title in chess. She achieved this while playing for England at an international competition in Uzbekistan. Bodhana said she was happy with her achievement and wanted to keep making history.

Listen Think Share

- Look at the poster. Does anyone know who it is? It is chess player Bodhana Sivanandan, who is 11 years old and from London. Why do you think she could be in the news?
- Read the information found on the **Assembly Resource**, all about Bodhana and her achievements in chess. What do you think her story can teach us about judging someone by their age?
- Watch this week's useful video, filmed when Bodhana was 9. What might you have assumed about Bodhana's chess skills if you only knew her age? How do you believe the other players might have felt about playing someone so young?
- Have you ever felt nervous about trying something because you were younger than others?
- What are some of things we have age restrictions for? Discuss some of the reasons why, e.g., safety, protecting health, or making sure you're ready to take on certain responsibilities. When, in your opinion, is age useful to know, and when is it not important?
- Do you feel there are times when someone's skills tell us more about them? Can you think of any other times where people might have proven others wrong because of their age?

Reflection

Before deciding what someone can do, take time to discover their skills and experience, whatever their age.

Picture News

KS1 focus

What are some games we play that can teach us different lessons?

Listen Think Share

- Games are activities we play for fun, often with rules to follow. What games do you enjoy playing? What makes them fun?
- Games can help us learn and practise different skills. Look at **Resource 1**, which shows some different games. Which games have you played or seen before? What do you remember about them?
- Think about each game. What skills could it help us practise? Think about teamwork, listening, taking turns, being patient or making choices.
- Sometimes, games can teach us things without us noticing. Can you think of a time when a game helped you learn something new? What did you learn?
- Do we only learn when we win a game? What could we learn when we lose, make a mistake or try again?
- Can we learn different things from the same game? How might playing with different people or in a different way change what we learn?
- Can the things we learn from games help us in other parts of our lives? How?
- Why is it important to follow the rules of a game? How might following rules help us to be fair, safe and kind to others?

Reflection

Playing games can be fun, while also helping us learn important lessons and develop new skills.

Picture News

KS2 focus

What are some things we have age limits for?

Listen Think Share

- What is the difference between a recommendation and a rule? Discuss how a recommendation gives us advice to help us make a good choice, while a rule tells us what we must or must not do. Can you think of a rule or recommendation you know? How are they helpful?
- Some rules set age limits, while recommendations can suggest what is suitable for different ages. Look at **Resource 2**, which shows some examples. Which ones have you seen or heard of before?
- Look at the different examples. Why do you think they have different age limits or recommendations? Think about what might be safe or suitable for people of different ages.
- Why might what is safe or suitable change as we grow?
- Which examples on **Resource 2** show rules that must be followed, and which are recommendations offering advice? Why do you think it is important to understand the difference?
- What could you do if you were not sure about an age limit or recommendation? Who could you ask for help? Why is it important to check rather than guess?
- How would you explain why we have age limits and recommendations to someone else?

Reflection

Age limits and recommendations can help to keep us safe and make sure things are suitable for our age.

Picture News

KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Imagine you are writing questions for a short interview with Bodhana. Write your questions, thinking about her achievement, how she became interested in chess, and what helped her develop her skills.

Choose your favourite question, and write a sentence explaining why you would like to know the answer.

Think about: What skills do you think she might have developed through playing chess? What challenges might be have faced because of her age? Does her story change your view of what people can achieve? Why?

Option 2

Research a person who achieved something at a young age. Find out what they achieved, how old they were, what inspired them, how they developed their skills, and whether they faced any challenges or barriers because of their age.

Create a short profile to share what you have discovered.

Think about: What skills and qualities helped them achieve their goal? Did they have to overcome any challenges? How might their age have affected people's expectations of them? What can we learn from their story?

Picture News

KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Create a timeline, showing how your skills have changed as you have grown. Add something you could do when you were younger, something you can do now, and something you would like to learn in the future.

Think about: What is something you can do now that you could not do when you were younger? What helped you learn this skill? Do you think there is a right age to learn something new? Why? How might your timeline continue to change as you get older?

Option 2

Choose a simple movement, such as balancing, hopping, throwing, catching or skipping.

Have a go, practise it a few times, then try again.

Think about: What helped you improve? How did you feel when you noticed you were improving? What might happen if you keep practising?

Discuss how practising, making mistakes and trying again can help us improve our skills over time.

Picture News

This week's useful websites

This week's news story
www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqwyzrg7xm2zo

This week's useful video
https://abcnews.com/video/109937077/

This week's Virtual Picture News
www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Assumed
Something you believe is true, without having all the facts.
What might you have **assumed** about Bodhana's chess skills if you only knew her age?

Chess
A strategy game for two players, where each player moves pieces to try to trap the other player's king piece.
Making **chess** history while still at school!

Earn
To get something because of your work, effort or achievements.
Bodhana has been in the news this week, as she has become the youngest person ever to **earn** the woman grandmaster title.

Grandmaster
The highest official title a chess player can achieve, showing they have reached an exceptional level of skill.
Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman **grandmaster** title in chess.

Major
Something very important or significant.
...a **major** international achievement in chess.

Restrictions
Rules or limits about what you can or cannot do.
What are some of the things we have age **restrictions** for?

TAKEHOME

19th - 25th October

In the news this week

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman grandmaster title in chess. She achieved this while playing for England at an international competition in Uzbekistan. Bodhana said she was happy with her achievement and wanted to keep making history.

Things to talk about at home ...

- How do you think adults might feel competing against someone much younger than them?
- What could you teach someone older than you?
- Should age decide what we're allowed to do?
- When might an age limit be fair?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

© Picture News 2026

IN THE SPOTLIGHT 1 NEWSPAPER 19th–25th October

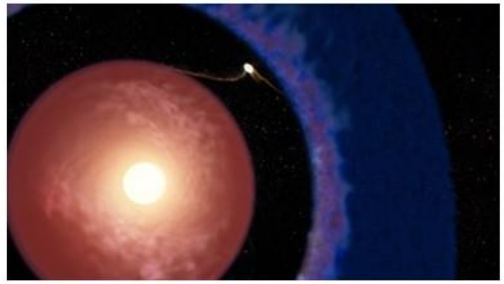
Meet the Fat Bear Winner!

A brown bear, called 89 Backpack, has been crowned the winner of Fat Bear Week in Alaska, USA! Fat Bear Week is an annual competition, run by Katmai National Park. People vote for the bear they think has done the best job of gaining weight before winter. Backpack's name comes from when he was a cub and he would climb onto his mother, Holly's, back while she walked through the Brooks River, which was filled with salmon. Holly was also a Fat Bear Week winner in 2019! During the warmer months, bears eat lots of food, including salmon, to build up fat before hibernation. They can catch fish using their paws or jaws. Backpack will soon spend the winter in a den, where he will sleep for up to six months without eating or drinking. The competition has been running for 11 years and gives people around the world a chance to learn about and choose their favourite bear. ***How would you normally prepare for winter?***

Pictured: The new Fat Bear Champ, Backpack! **Source:** Katmai National Park & Preserve on Facebook.

A New Baby Planet!

Astronomers have discovered the youngest exoplanet ever confirmed. It is called Elias 2-24b and is less than one million years old! An exoplanet is a planet that travels around a star outside our Solar System. Elias 2-24b is about 450 light-years from Earth, and travels around its star from a very long way away. The planet was found hidden among a large cloud of gas and dust around its young star. Scientists had spotted a bright dot in the cloud before, but they did not know if it was a planet. They studied pictures taken several years apart, and found that the object was moving around the star. Even though it's young, Elias 2-24b is thought to be a giant planet, possibly up to four times the mass of Jupiter. Scientists hope that new space telescopes, including NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, will help them find more young planets. ***What would you name a new planet?***



Pictured: Artist's concept of Elias 2-24b. **Source:** W. M. Keck Observatory/Adam Makarenko/NASA.

Who should decide what we have for school lunch?

I would like them to remove fish fingers, because I don't like fish. I really hope they put healthy food on the menu. **Reigan**

© Picture News 2026

IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2 NEWSPAPER 19th–25th October

Birthday Message Across the World

The world's two oldest living men have celebrated their birthdays by sending special messages to each other. João Marinho Neto, from Brazil, turned 114, while Ken Weeks, from Australia, celebrated his 113th birthday. The two men were born exactly one year apart and share the same birthday, despite living around 14,000 kilometres away from each other. João is officially the world's oldest living man. He was born in Brazil in 1912 and was confirmed as the oldest man in the world in 2024. He is now one of only nine men known to have reached the age of 114. Ken was born in Grafton, New South Wales, Australia, in 1913. He has lived in the town for more than 100 years and has had a busy working life. Ken sent João a video message wishing him a happy birthday, while João sent a special birthday message to Ken. The two men are believed to be the first pair of the world's oldest living men to exchange birthday messages in this way. ***What would you ask someone who is 114 years old?***

Pictured: Ken wishing João a happy birthday! **Source:** Guinness World Records.

Pictured: João wishing Ken a happy birthday! **Source:** Guinness World Records.

Underwater Umbrellas

Scientists have found a way to help protect some coral from damage caused by very high sea temperatures: underwater shades that look like umbrellas! When the sea gets too warm, corals can become bleached and lose their colour. If this lasts too long, they can become unhealthy and die. In 2024, research scientist Dr Karen Neely and her team tested the shades in the Florida Keys. They placed them over 10 colonies of brain coral, while another 20 corals were left uncovered. The shades reduced the amount of light reaching the corals by 60%.The shaded corals lost less colour than expected and even recovered some of their colour. The shades do not cool the water, but they protect corals from strong light that can make heat damage worse. The researchers say the shades could provide temporary protection during future heatwaves. ***What would you invent to help coral reefs?***

Pictured: A shaded coral. **Source:** Karen Neely.

Pictured: Karen Neely (left) and her team working on a shading structure for the corals. **Source:** Karen Neely.

Who should decide what we have for school lunch?

I would like them to use better and healthier ingredients and a variety of cooking styles.
Zian

Let us know what you think about this week's news picture-news.co.uk/discuss help@picture-news.co.uk /picturenewsprimary/

© Picture News 2026