What's happening in the news this week?

Picture News



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

23rd - 29th November 2026


Picture News
Does a gift need to cost money?
John Lewis

Let's look at this week's story

Each year, the department store chain, John Lewis, produces a Christmas advert, usually released in November. This year's has been released and is called Gloria and Pickles. It follows a grandmother who wants to connect with her grandchildren and struggles to choose gifts for them. With the help of her childhood toy, she is reminded of what makes giving special.



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



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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

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



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ASSEMBLY RESOURCE

Read the information found below all about the John Lewis advert. In the end, do you think the children were happy with their grandma's gift? Why?

John Lewis Christmas Advert 2026

Gloria and Pickles

The story follows a grandma called Gloria and her companion and childhood gift, Pickles the dog. Gloria is worried about not finding the perfect gift for her two grandchildren.



1 Grandma Gloria shows the children her own childhood toy dog called Pickles. The children don't seem impressed.



2 Gloria can't think what gift to give to the children.



3 Pickles comes to life and takes Gloria to find a gift for the children.



4 Gloria can't wait to show the children her gift of a magical place for them all to enjoy!

Why do you think the children weren't impressed with the toy?

Would you have liked the fun room? What do you think made it special?

Images: John Lewis

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Resource one

Look at the resource below, which shows some gifts that don't need to cost money.

Think of someone you know. Which of these gifts might they enjoy?

A gift doesn't always have to come from a shop.
Explore these ideas for giving without buying anything new.

Something you make

You could make something you know they'll like, like a drawing, a craft or some biscuits!





Your time

Spend quality time with someone you love. You might read a story with them, or do something else together that you both enjoy.

Your help

Offer to help with something, like watering plants or feeding a pet.



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Resource two

Look at the resource below, which shares three other Christmas adverts from this year.

Find out about the Christmas adverts below. You could also watch them online.

Oxfam – The List

A boy called Neel writes a Christmas list. People in his neighbourhood help gather the gifts by sewing, mending and shopping second-hand. At first, viewers may think the presents are for him. On Christmas Day, he takes them to a mother and daughter who live next door.





Arsenal – 'Twas the Season

Actor and Arsenal supporter, Colin Firth, walks through north London, telling what sounds like a Christmas story. As players and supporters join him, we discover he is also describing the football club's successful season. People of different ages gather to celebrate, connecting the excitement of football with the joy of Christmas.

Tesco – The Wrong Address

A woman accidentally orders her Christmas food shopping to her old address, far from her current home.

A Tesco delivery driver offers to help. They discover they are old school friends, and the delivery mix-up becomes a journey during which they reconnect.



What messages might these adverts be trying to show?

What makes you think that?

Do you think they are successful?

Giving can involve skills as well as money.



Making an effort can bring people closer.

A gift can benefit someone beyond the person receiving it.



Sharing something we enjoy can help us feel part of a group.

Happy moments can feel special when we celebrate together.

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Picture News
Does a gift need to cost money?
John Lewis



Reflection

A gift doesn't have to cost money to show someone they matter to us. Our time and creativity can mean a lot to others.

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Media Literacy

Analyse

Evaluate

Research

Act

I know that stories try to make me think or feel something.



Explanation: Let's explore how and why media can influence how we feel.



Questions to Discuss

- Why do you think media is created to make people think or feel certain things?
- How can words, pictures and music influence the way we feel about a story?
- Is it important to think about how a story makes you feel? Why?

Activity

Watch this week's video of the John Lewis Christmas advert and think about the feelings it creates.

- Choose three words to describe how the advert makes you feel. You may wish to use the Picture News emotions grid to help you.
- Identify three moments, images or sounds that help create these feelings.
- Compare your choices with a partner. Did you choose similar or different emotions? Why do you think this was?

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British Values

I Really Do Matter!

Individual Liberty

Rule of Law

Democracy

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

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



The story highlights Individual Liberty, by showing that we can all choose our own ways to connect with others through giving.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance is highlighted, as the advert encourages us to understand others and recognise the different ways we can show we care.



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

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Protected Characteristics

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



The story highlights age, by showing that people of different ages may have different interests and experiences, but can still find ways to connect and understand each other.

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

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UN Rights of the Child



The advert reminds us that giving isn't just about presents, but also about supporting and helping others when they need it. Adults should make sure that children feel supported at all times.



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Useful Vocabulary



Companion

Someone who spends time with you and keeps you company.

The story follows a grandma called Gloria and her **companion** and childhood gift, Pickles the dog.

Consider

To think carefully about something.

Consider things like your time or creating something.

Creativity

Using your imagination to make something or think of new ideas.

Our time and **creativity** can mean a lot to others.

Department store chain

A group of shops with the same name, each selling different kinds of goods, such as clothes, toys and furniture.

Each year, the **department store chain**, John Lewis, produces a Christmas advert, usually released in November.

Impressed

Thinking something is very good or special.

The children didn't seem **impressed** with the dog.

Perfect

Exactly right, with nothing needing to change.

Gloria is worried about not finding the **perfect** gift for her two grandchildren.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

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Picture News

Does a gift need to cost money?

Each year, the department store chain, John Lewis, produces a Christmas advert, usually released in November. This year's has been released and is called Gloria and Pickles. It follows a grandmother who wants to connect with her grandchildren and struggles to choose gifts for them. With the help of her childhood toy, she is reminded of what makes giving special.

Listen Think Share

- Look at the poster and describe what you can see. This week's story is all about the 2026 John Lewis Christmas advert. Has anyone seen it? Have you seen any other Christmas adverts? If so, what is your opinion of them?
- Watch this week's useful video, showing the advert. What do you think are the key messages?
- Read the information found on the **Assembly Resource** all about the advert. In the end, do you think the children were happy with their grandma's gift? Why?
- Do you ever find it hard to choose gifts for others? Why do you believe the grandma in the advert found it hard to choose something for her grandchildren?
- The message at the end says, 'Don't give up on giving'. What do you think this means?
- Have you ever given a gift you were really proud of? What was it? Was it bought from a shop or did you make it?
- Can you think of some of the best gifts you have received; what was it that was special about them? In your view, do the best gifts always cost the most? Why?
- Can you make a list of gifts that we can give to others that don't cost money? Consider things like your time or creating something.

Reflection

A gift doesn't have to cost money to show someone they matter to us. Our time and creativity can mean a lot to others.

Picture News

KS1 focus

What are examples of gifts for others that don't cost money?

Listen Think Share

- Think and talk about gifts you have given or received. What makes a good gift, do you think?
- Imagine you are drawing a picture for someone special. How would you decide what to draw? What could you include? What might you draw for someone who loves trains or sea animals?
- Look at **Resource 1**, which shares some gift ideas that don't cost money. What are the people doing in each photograph?
- Which gift could someone keep? Which would give them something to do together? Can a gift be something you cannot wrap? How?
- Look at the picture of people sharing a book. What else could you spend time doing with someone without buying anything? Think about games, songs or things you could teach them.
- Imagine someone offers to water your plants. Would you think of their help as a gift? Why? Could helping someone be both an everyday action and a gift?
- Choose someone you know. Which idea from **Resource 1** might they enjoy? What questions could you ask them to help you choose?
- Imagine someone who loves dogs receives a toy dog bought from a shop and a picture of their dog drawn by a friend. What might they like about each gift? Might they enjoy them for different reasons?
- If one gift costs more money than another, does that tell us which one someone will enjoy most?

Reflection

Gifts can cost money or be free. What makes a gift special can be different for each person receiving it.

Picture News

KS2 focus

What are some other messages in this year's Christmas adverts?

Listen Think Share

- Think about the John Lewis advert. Which moment do you remember most clearly? What made it stand out?
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shares three other Christmas adverts from this year.
- In Tesco's advert, a delivery problem reunites two friends. How would the story change if the shopping had arrived at the correct address?
- Neel's gifts are actually for his neighbours. How does this twist change what you think about his Christmas list? Why might the advert's makers save this information until the end?
- Arsenal connects Christmas with football. What might people enjoy about both? Do you think you need to be a football fan to enjoy the advert?
- Explore the possible messages and questions on **Resource 2**, sharing and comparing your ideas.
- The adverts come from a supermarket, a charity and a football club. Why might each choose to tell a story, rather than simply ask people to buy something or give support? What might they hope viewers will do afterwards?
- If you were making a Christmas advert, what message would you want it to share? Why? Describe one thing that could happen in your advert to help viewers understand your message.

Reflection

Christmas adverts can mean different things to different viewers. We can consider how their stories connect with our own experiences.

Picture News

KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Create a storyboard or write a short story for a Christmas advert. Choose a message you want to share, this might be friendship, generosity, belonging or something else. Why is this message important?

Decide who your characters are, what happens and how the story ends. Show your message through what the characters do, rather than stating it directly.

Swap stories with a partner. What message do they notice? Ask them to point to a detail that helped them understand it.

Does their interpretation match what you intended? Use their feedback to improve one part of your story.

Option 2

In a small group, create a short soundtrack for an imaginary Christmas advert with three moments:

- Someone is waiting for their friends.
- Their friends begin to arrive.
- Everyone celebrates together.

Use humming, clapping, tapping or classroom instruments. Choose a simple sound or rhythm for the beginning. Decide how it will change as people arrive. Will it become faster, louder, or have more sounds joining in?

Practise your three-part soundtrack, then perform it to another group without explaining your choices. Ask what they imagined and which sounds suggested people coming together. Use their feedback to improve one section.

Picture News

KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Make a puzzle for a partner!
Find out what your partner enjoys. Draw and colour a picture especially for them, it could be an animal, vehicle or a nice pattern!

Cut your picture into 4-8 large pieces. Ask an adult if you need help.

Mix up the pieces and give your puzzle to your partner to solve!

Was it easy, tricky or just right? Talk together about what you could change to make it more fun for them.

Option 2

Think of something you could share or teach, such as a clapping game, a funny story or a simple dance.

With a partner, take turns giving and receiving your gifts. Give each other time to join in or have a go!

Talk together: Did you enjoy your gift? Why? Who else might enjoy this gift? What makes you think so?

Picture News

This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/media-centre/latest-news/2026/23969

This week's useful video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbdvIoLx_BQ

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

23rd – 29th November



In the news this week

Each year, the department store chain, John Lewis, produces a Christmas advert, usually released in November. This year's has been released and is called Gloria and Pickles. It follows a grandmother who wants to connect with her grandchildren and struggles to choose gifts for them. With the help of her childhood toy, she is reminded of what makes giving special.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Can you remember a gift you have received that was really thoughtful? What was it and who was it from?
- Do you prefer giving someone a gift or receiving one? Why?
- What are some examples of things you could give to someone that don't cost money?
- Can you think of a time when you found it hard to choose a gift for someone?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 1 NEWSPAPER 23rd–29th November

Tree-mendous Arrival!

Every Christmastime, a famous tree lights up New York City in the USA. The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree attracts crowds who come to enjoy its sparkling decorations. The tradition began in 1931, when building workers put up a tree with handmade decorations. Today, the display is much bigger! This year's tree arrived on 7th November. It travelled nearly 200 miles from a garden in West Edmeston on a huge lorry, before a crane lifted it into place. Crowds gathered to watch. The Norway spruce is about 75 years old and around 23 metres tall! Gardener, Erik Pauzé, helps choose the tree.



Pictured: The famous tree at Rockefeller Centre, NYC. **Source:** Canva.

He said, 'It needs to make people smile the second they see it.' Next, workers add more than 50,000 colourful lights and a sparkling star.

The big switch-on takes place on 2nd December. ***Imagine how long decorating a tree that size must take!***

A Royal Tweet

A colourful kingfisher, drawn by Prince George, has landed in a magazine! The prince's artwork appears in a special edition of *Country Life*. His dad, Prince William, helped choose the stories and pictures for the 300 pages. George, who is now 13, drew the bird at home in the spring when he was 12. It sits on a branch, showing off its bright feathers and long, pointed beak. George isn't the only artist in his family! His grandfather, King Charles, enjoys painting and last year, George, Charlotte, Louis and their mum, Princess Catherine, shared pictures they drew of each other. Catherine also spoke to the magazine about the outdoors, saying, 'Nature also encourages curiosity, imagination and creativity.' From a stripy snail shell to a colourful bird, there is plenty outside to get our pencils moving.

What would you draw?



Pictured: Prince George's drawing of a kingfisher. **Source:** Joseph Kingu on Facebook.

Should traditions always stay the same?



Traditions can change over the years, but they can be the same (but they don't have to).

Jackson

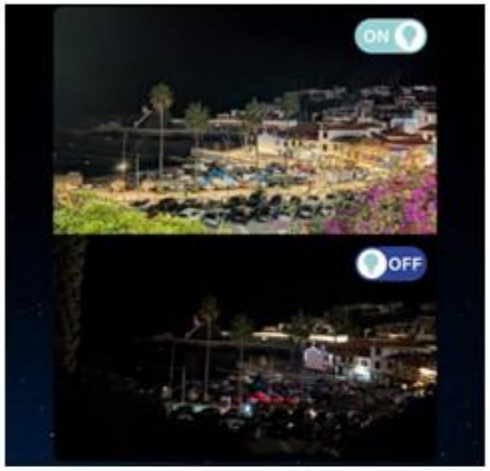
Let us know what you think about this week's news picture-news.co.uk/discuss help@picture-news.co.uk /picturenewsprimary/

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2 NEWSPAPER 23rd-29th November

Blackout for Birds

This autumn there was a blackout on Corvo island, near Portugal. The planned widespread light turn off was to protect seabird fledglings as they left their nests and headed out to sea! Young birds, like the rare Cory's Shearwater, make this journey at night to avoid predators, but unfortunately, lights from towns and cities can often blind them. This can cause the birds to become disoriented and end up grounded. Volunteers help the lost and fallen birds get back on track, using cardboard boxes to transport them to sea. Public lighting on Corvo was completely turned off from 9:00pm until 4:00am during the last 5 days in October. The community worked together to protect some of the world's most vulnerable birds, with over 400 residents also turning off all their lights. 'Locals and authorities have increasingly recognized the impact of light pollution on birds and the importance of an energy efficiency policy to protect these species,' said the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA).



Pictured: The light difference during the blackout at Centro de Camara de Lobos. **Source:** SPEA-BirdLife on Facebook.



Pictured: A bird being rescued to be safely released by volunteers. **Source:** SPEA-BirdLife on Facebook.

Would you do this if you lived here?
Do you think it is important to change our habits to help protect wildlife?

Cracking the Code

Scientists have cracked the code to a 400-year-old padlock! They used a CT scanner to open the lock that has remained a mystery since it was discovered under the sand on a beach near Port Talbot in southern Wales. Metal detectorist, Peter Hughes, uncovered the padlock along with treasure, including gold and silver coins. He tried to unlock it for over twenty years! He then passed the padlock and the treasure to the Amgueddfa Cymru, or the Museum of Wales, in 2017, where it became part of an exhibit called Tides of Treasure. The collection was later determined to be part of the cargo of the ship Ann Francis, which wrecked in a storm in December 1583, returning from Spain. 'There are four different rings, and because there are six different letters on each of the rings, there are 1,296 different combinations, and you have to make sure they're aligned with the loop at the top,' said Alastair Willis from the Swansea Waterfront Museum. 'Also, confusingly, there are other letters on the ends which don't move, which are unrelated, and it's like they were to mislead any potential burglar.' ***Have you ever seen any treasure? Do you enjoy solving puzzles?***



Pictured: The padlock and treasure at the National Museum Wales. **Source:** Amgueddfa Cymru on Facebook.

Should traditions always stay the same?



Traditions evolve with time, they can change but still hold the same meaning.

Tommy

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

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