



# Picture News

*Advanced*

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

What's going on this week?



New figures revealed on the 7<sup>th</sup> April by the Department of Transport show that only a very small proportion of people in the UK are still travelling during the lockdown period that the government have imposed during the COVID-19 outbreak. They suggest that the government's lockdown measures are mostly being followed. Speaking at a virtual meeting of the Transport Select Committee, Rail Minister, Chris Heaton-Harris, said that rail journeys were down 95 per cent on the same day last year, whilst the number of bus passengers has fallen 88 per cent.

Visits to shops, museums and cafes in the UK have fallen by 85% since the coronavirus outbreak, according to data shared by Google. The government has supported Google in using data in this way. Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, said: "We're working closely with tech companies to find innovative ways to stop the spread of coronavirus, protect the NHS and save lives."

This week's news story: <https://bit.ly/2y1ckus>

This week's useful video: <https://bit.ly/3c2CCey>



# Picture News

*Advanced*

## Main question:

### Do we think people will travel less in the future?

#### Listen, think, share

- Read through this week's story and talk about how the amount we travel has changed over the past few weeks. What adjustments have we made? In a typical month, how much did we travel? Talk about the things we are missing out on and the changes we have had to make.
- Can you think of some of the things we are still able to do with adaptations, e.g. complete schoolwork at home, virtually 'meet' with friends?
- Do you think that you will continue to do some of these things in the adapted way once the lockdown period is lifted?
- Can you make a list of some of the reasons why we make journeys? E.g. to school, to the shops, on holiday, to visit family etc. Once we are able to travel freely, do you think you will make any changes to any of those journeys?
- Google have released new data about how the coronavirus pandemic has reduced the number of people walking in town and city centres, shops and parks in more than 130 countries. The "mobility reports" have been posted publicly online. They come in response to requests from public health officials who want more data on how people are moving around cities to better combat the spread of COVID-19. Each report shows how traffic to certain categories of places, such as parks and transportation hubs, has declined in the last month. The information won't show individual places or people. Do you think the use of data in this way will help the effort to combat the spread of COVID-19?
- Google has accurate and detailed data about people's location as more than a billion people worldwide use the company's Maps app to navigate places they live and travel to, giving Google real-time data about how people move around their environments. As COVID-19 is spreading rapidly, governments are looking for location information to help them try to limit the transmission of the disease and enforce lockdown. However not everyone is happy with our data being used in this way, some privacy advocates argue the crisis will give authorities complete access to personal information that could be used even after the current situation subsides. Google said the mobility reports don't invade our privacy because they only use data from people who have agreed to share their location with the company, and the information can't be tied to individual accounts. Do you think Google should have full, unlimited access to this data to use during this period? If so, do you think once this period is over, that they should be allowed to continue to use the data to monitor and publish our daily movements?

#### Further questions for discussion

- Do you think you are communicating more or less with others during this time? How has technology helped with this?
- Once the lockdown period has lifted, do you think people will travel more, less or the same as before?