



# Picture News

*Advanced*

*30<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

What's going on this week?



Many countries across the world have been asked or have chosen to remain at home during the COVID-19 outbreak. Thousands of Italians, in several cities, clapped from their windows and balconies as healthcare workers went to work, raising spirits with a flashmob, during the lockdown period (where most people remain at home). Families and neighbours also sang and crashed pots and pans together for the performers in cities across the country, organised through messaging service, WhatsApp. Rejoicing spectators exclaimed patriotic and uplifting phrases including 'Viva l'Italia' (Long live Italy) and 'Vinceremo' (We will win). The few cars that were on the street joined the chorus by blaring their horns. Many also waved banners decorated with rainbows and the phrase 'Andra tutto benne' (Everything will go well).

This week's news story: <http://bit.ly/2QoOTSm>

This week's useful video: [www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51904789](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51904789)



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## Main question:

Can you think of ways to remain positive during difficult times?

Listen, think, share

- Read through this week's story and discuss why we think people chose to take part in the 'flash mob' and similar group activities via their balconies around Italy. Do you think that having fun together is important during challenging times? Do you think it makes difficult times easier?
- Discuss the term 'community'. What is the community around you like? How are people supporting each other given the current situation?
- Do you think the prevalence of technology is a burden or a blessing during the outbreak of COVID-19? Discuss your reasoning.
- How important do you think it is for us to support each other? Do you think that if everyone is going through a challenging time together, it is easier or harder to offer our support to others?
- Can you think of any times where your friends/family have all come together to cheer you up? Have you ever helped cheer up others? What actions/words do you think are helpful for people who are finding things hard?
- In Italy, a local artist has launched a community livestream on social media called 'Ognuno a Casa Sua' -meaning 'everyone at home'- for isolated citizens. Italians in isolation can take part in group activities, such as yoga from inside quarantine, maintaining a sense of community. "Quarantine has never been so fun!" reads the group description. "We leave room for everyone to join in with live streaming, cooking courses, makeup courses, yoga, meditation, language lessons, workshops, gossip, DJ sets, art, news, and so much more!" Do initiatives like this appeal to you?
- In the media, there have been lots of pictures and videos online of people running around supermarkets trying to get as much as possible. Some of the major supermarkets have realised that this panic-buying behaviour stops more vulnerable and elderly people from getting what they need. So, they've reserved special slots in their opening times specifically for more vulnerable customers to get their shopping done. Do you think this is a good idea?
- In the battle against global warming, scientists say that the number of people staying in their homes has caused levels of air pollutants and warming gases to fall. In fact, it's down almost 50% on this point in time last year. What do you think about this?
- Read the text about dealing with COVID-19 written by author Suzanne Falter. Do you think it's good advice? What other advice have you heard during this time? Has it helped you?  
*"By now, one thing is clear to me. We are either our greatest allies or our own worst enemies at such times. How we react makes all the difference. One friend brought home a three-inch tome all about pandemics, determined to read her way through it. Another began advising everyone on how to correctly make homemade hand sanitiser. Still another insisted that by ignoring the entire thing, she was serving herself best. "There's too much hype," she declared. "I refuse to buy my way through this." And you know, she had a point. As did everyone else."*

## Further questions for discussion

- Do you think it's important to always remain positive? Why?
- Discuss the phrase 'Keep Calm and Carry On'. Do you think it applies in all situations?