

What's happening in the news this week?



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

13th - 19th January 2025



Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



Maureen McLeary/Shutterstock



Let's look at this week's story

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has stated that building new homes is a 'top priority.' The government has announced changes to planning rules, aiming to make it easier to build homes in the countryside. Local areas have been set targets to deliver a total of 370,000 new homes each year in England.



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 the information found below about the targets for new homes and where they will be built. Considering the information, do you think the targets are a good idea overall or not? Explain your response.

How many new homes are going to be built?

Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, is making lots of changes to planning rules, aiming to make it easier to build new homes in places that you couldn't before. Many local areas now have the target to collectively build 370,000 homes every year in England. This is part of the government's 'plan for change', which aims to build 1.5 million homes over five years. The reason for these changes and targets is to tackle housing shortages and help grow the economy.

What is green and grey belt land?

Green belt land is land protected around towns and cities to ensure people have access to nature, such as parks and woodland.

Grey belt land is land that was previously developed, for example, a car park or industrial area, no longer in use.



Pictured above: England's green belt as of 31st March 2023.



It is important to remember that most of the green belt is high value countryside, including ancient woodlands, nature reserves and productive farmland, which play a significant role in producing food and allowing people to access our countryside. Once they're gone, they're gone.

Campaign to Protect Rural England, part of the countryside charity.

Of course we want to get the balance right with nature and the environment, but if it comes to a human being wanting to have a house for them and their family, that has to be the top priority.

Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, speaking recently about the targets for building new homes.



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of places that you might find in your local area.



restaurants



cafes



supermarket



school



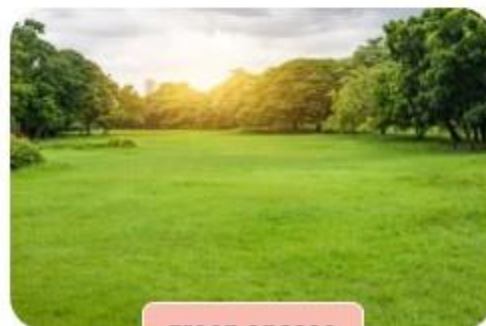
shops



hospital



park



green spaces

Why might these places be useful or important?
What do they offer people living in that local area?
Does everyone agree that these places make
a local area better to live in?

**Do you have any of these places
in your local area?**
**Do you have any other places that
are important to you?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about building rules and regulations in the UK.

Each local council has a local planning authority (LPA). People wanting to build something new, make major changes to their building (such as an extension), or change the use of a building must contact their LPA to apply for planning permission.

An LPA decides whether to grant planning permission. They consider:

- the number, size, layout, siting and external appearance of buildings
- the infrastructure available, such as roads and water supply
- any landscaping needs
- what you want to use the development for
- how your development would affect the surrounding area - for example, if it would create lots more traffic

The government has safety and energy efficiency standards that must be met for all building projects.

Building regulations are designed to make sure that all new buildings meet health, safety, welfare, convenience and sustainability standards.

EXIT



Source: www.gov.uk

Homes in conservation areas may have special controls that restrict the work people can carry out without planning permission. The LPA must be contacted about building alterations, such as replacing a door or window or changing guttering.



If someone does not comply with building rules and regulations, the work is not legal. They could be prosecuted and face fines.



Are you aware of any of these rules and regulations? Have you ever had any building work carried out on your home? Have you seen any building work in your local area?



Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



Maureen McLeary/Shutterstock

Reflection



The area and home you live in are part of your quality of life and happiness. When new homes are being built, things like the location and existing wildlife should be considered to ensure the best places are chosen.



Media Literacy

Can the article be trusted?



Explanation: Let's think about whether this story is trustworthy and relevant to us.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- Where did the information come from? Is it a reliable source?
- How relevant is this story to us?
- Are there any facts or evidence to back up the points in the story? Look for numbers, dates, or expert opinions.

Reflection

Why is it important to know whether a news story is balanced and trustworthy before making decisions or forming opinions?

Activity

Rate the story on a scale of 1–5 for how balanced and trustworthy it is:

1 = not very trustworthy

5 = very trustworthy

Write or share one reason for your score.



Democracy

Decisions about building homes can affect everyone. We can make these decisions together by learning about others' opinions and ideas through surveys, meetings, or votes.

Protected Characteristics



People of different ages have unique needs in a local area. Local areas should include something for everyone, regardless of their age, to make it a welcoming and fair place to live.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



We all have the right to a safe place to live to help us grow and thrive. The government should help families and children who might be struggling to access housing.



Useful Vocabulary



Developed

Land that has already been built on or used for buildings.

Grey belt land is land that was previously **developed**...

Green belt

An area of land with grass, trees, or plants where people can play, relax, and enjoy nature.

Green belt land is land protected around towns and cities to ensure people have access to nature...

Planning

Making decisions about where things like houses, roads, or buildings should be built.

Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, is making lots of changes to **planning** rules.

Priority

Something that is very important and needs to be done first.

Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has stated that building new homes for people is a 'top **priority**'.

Significant

Something that is very important or has a big effect.

It is important to remember that most of the green belt is high value countryside... which play[s] a **significant** role in producing food.

Targets

Goals or numbers that people try to reach or achieve.

Many local areas now each have **targets** to build 370,000 homes....

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Collective Worship



Bible Link: Matthew 7:24-27

Christian Value: Wisdom

Theme: Strong foundations



Pupil talk

- Do you enjoy building and construction? What have you built?
- What are the homes like in your local area? Are there any new buildings? Which homes do you like the most/least?
- What do you think is important to consider when building new homes, e.g., materials used, design, layout, where it is built?

Think

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has stated that building new homes is a 'top priority.' The government has announced changes to planning rules, aiming to make it easier to build homes in the countryside. Local areas have been set targets to deliver a total of 370,000 new homes each year in England.

In the Bible, Jesus tells us a story about two men. They both built a house. The wise man built his on rock, whereas the foolish man built his on sand. When the storms came, the house built on sand collapsed but the house built on rock stood firm. Jesus teaches us to build our lives on strong foundations, just like we would a house. Building a foundation on our faith in God will keep us standing firm, even in times of difficulty.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Help us to make good choices,
Help us be strong, kind and loving,
Thank you for being part of the foundations that we build our lives upon,
Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Think about your home. Can you describe the building? What is it made from? Is it near other buildings? Are they the same or different?
- What do you like about your home? How does your home make you feel? Do you feel happy and safe? Can you relax?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Explain that a house's foundation isn't seen but it is very important. It supports the weight of the building and provides a flat and level space. Without it, the building may fall down. Have you ever fallen down? Were you able to get back up?
- Think about the firm foundations of your life. What or who supports you, helps you get back up if you fall and gives you strength? Family, friends, beliefs?

Worship song

The building song



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God

Picture News



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- Look at this week's poster and describe what you can see. It shows new houses being built in Slough, Berkshire. What do you think the story could be about?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows a news report covering the story. Then, read the information found on the assembly resource about the targets for new homes and where they will be built. Considering the information, do you think the targets are a good idea overall or not? Explain your response.
- Think about your own home. What is it like? Does anyone live in a home that has been built recently? What are some differences between older houses and newer ones?
- What is the area around your home like? In your opinion, what is the best thing about living there? Are there any things you would change or improve?
- What makes a place a home to you? Does everyone have the same response to this question?

Reflection

The area and home you live in are part of your quality of life and happiness. When new homes are being built, things like the location and existing wildlife should be considered to ensure the best places are chosen.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What are some things you need in your local area?



- What makes your local area special? Can you think of all the places near your home or school? What do you like to see or visit every day?
- Where do you go most often? What are some places you visit a lot, like shops, parks, or libraries? Which one is your favourite, and why?
- How could your local area be even better? Imagine you could change or add something to where you live. What would it be? A new playground? A fun shop? Something else?
- What do people in your local area need? Think about everyone who lives near you - what places, like schools or hospitals, do you think are really important for everyone to have?
- Look at resource 1, can you spot any places in the pictures that are also in your local area? Are there places in your area that aren't shown in the pictures?
- Why are these places important? What do they give to people who live nearby? Think about what happens there, like playing, learning, or shopping.
- Do you think everyone would like the same places in a local area? Why might people have different ideas about what's important?
- What helps people feel safe and happy? In your local area, what makes people feel comfortable and cheerful? Are there things like friendly neighbours, parks to play in, or places to rest?

Reflection

Everyone needs different things in their local area. Good places to live might include homes, parks, shops, and spaces to meet others.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What are some of the rules and regulations for building in the UK?



- Think about your home. Is it a flat, bungalow, house, caravan? Do you know when it was constructed? Do you know what it is made from? How does your home compare with others?
- Discuss some of the buildings in your local area. Do you know when they were built? What materials have been used? How are the structures similar/different? Does this depend on the building's use? Are there any new builds?
- There are many different rules and regulations for building in the UK. Look at resource 2 which shares some more information about them. Are you aware of any of these rules and regulations? Have you ever had any building work carried out on your home? Have you seen any building work in your local area?
- Why do you think the government has building rules and regulations? Do you think other governments across the world have them? How do you think they might compare with those in the UK?
- Some of the buildings in the UK are hundreds of years old. Are there any older buildings in your local area? Do you know anything about their history?
- Building rules and regulations have changed over time. The London Building Act of 1667 was introduced after the Great Fire of London. It required all houses to be built from brick or stone for fire safety. Do you think houses built today are safer than those built in the past?
- The UK is committed to reducing carbon emissions. What impact do think this has on building rules and regulations?

Reflection

Building rules and regulations have changed over time. Regulations today consider our safety and well-being and the environment.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Part of an architect's role is to plan and design buildings. Become an architect and design your dream home! You could include:

- An architectural sketch – a drawing of the building from the outside.
- A site plan – a view from above the building and the land it will sit on. You may include your garden or an outdoor pool!
- A floor plan – this shows the building's footprint from above. It includes the different rooms and is drawn to scale.



Option 2

Make a list of materials used to make buildings, e.g., brick, stone, glass, wood. For each, discuss their properties. Consider:

- Is it absorbent (soaks up moisture)?
- How dense (solid) is the material?
- Is it hard or soft?
- Is it transparent or opaque?
- Is it a conductor or insulator?

Think about your own home and the materials that have been used in its construction. Discuss why these materials were chosen.

Challenge – do you think building materials will change in the future? How and why?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Design and carry out a survey to find out what others think of your local area. Work together to create a simple survey with questions, such as:

- What is your favourite place in our local area?
- What new thing would you add to make our local area better?
- What makes you feel happy or safe in our local area?

Ask classmates, teachers, or parents and carers and record their responses. Look at the results together and discuss patterns. What do most people like about the local area? What new ideas came up?

Challenge – can you create a simple bar chart or pictogram to show the survey results?

Option 2

Let's go on a walk! While we explore, keep your eyes open for important things like parks, shops, bus stops, or schools. You could use a blank map, or draw your own, and fill in the places as you go. Alternatively, you could create a check list to tick off the places you spot. When you get back to school, think about what you saw. Was there anything missing? What would you like to add or change to make your local area even better?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.gov.uk/government/news/planning-overhaul-to-reach-15-million-new-homes

This week's useful video

New housing targets
<https://news.sky.com/video/what-labours-housing-plan-means-for-you-13272375>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Statue Lookouts!

In the city of Bend, Oregon, some people have been adding googly eyes to statues! The funny plastic eyes appeared on sculptures, like a statue of two deer and a giant metal sphere, making the artworks look quite silly. But the city council isn't laughing. They've asked people to stop because it costs a lot of money to remove the eyes without damaging the art. 'While the googly eyes [...] might give you a chuckle, it costs money to remove them with care to not damage the art,' said a council spokesperson. The council explained that decorations like Santa hats and wreaths have



Pictured: Googly-eyed sculptures in Bend, Oregon. **Source:** @dekebridges on X.

appeared in the past, but the sticky googly eyes are causing problems. So far, it has spent \$1500 (£1,190) removing them! Some people think the googly eyes are funny, but the council says it's important to protect the art for everyone to enjoy. **What do you think - should the googly eyes stay or go?**

The Long Nap

Hedgehogs, bats, and dormice are some of the animals that hibernate in the UK. Right now, many of them are curled up somewhere cosy, like a burrow or under a pile of leaves, sleeping through the chilly winter weather. While they're asleep, their bodies slow down so they don't need as much food or energy. Dr Sophie Hall, a wildlife expert, says, 'Hibernating animals are amazing - they've found a clever way to rest and stay safe during the winter. It's like hitting the pause button until spring!' In just a few months,



Pictured: A hibernating dormouse. **Source:** Canva.

as the weather gets warmer, we can expect to see these sleepy friends waking up, ready to enjoy the sunshine and search for food again!

How can we show others we care?



We can do small things like listen carefully and lend a hand.

Kevin

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



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UK's Biggest Dinosaur Trackway

The UK's biggest ever dinosaur trackway site has been excavated at Dewars Farm Quarry, Oxfordshire. Over 200 dinosaur footprints have been discovered, including those of *Megalosaurus* (a large, meat-eating dinosaur that walks on two legs) and *Cetiosaurus* (a plant-eating sauropod dinosaur that walks on four legs). Imprinted into the limestone floor around 166 million years ago, five



Pictured: The excavation team on site at Dewars Farm Quarry. **Source:** Dr Emily Swaby on X.

dinosaur trackways show how the giant creatures moved across the land. 'This is one of the most impressive track sites I've ever seen, in terms of scale, in terms of the size of the tracks,' said Professor Kirsty Edgar, a micropalaeontologist from the University of Birmingham. 'You can step back in time and get an idea of what it would have been like, these massive creatures just roaming around, going about their own business.'

Are you interested in dinosaurs?

Have you ever seen a dinosaur footprint?



Pictured: Dr Emily Swaby with one of the dinosaur footprints. **Source:** Dr Emily Swaby on X.

VR Goggles For Mice!

Scientists at Cornell University, in New York, USA, have built tiny virtual reality (VR) goggles for mice. The MouseGoggles allow the mice involved in the research project to have a more realistic experience. Researchers have previously tried to use large screens or projectors, but this has had limited success as it doesn't involve the mouse's full field of vision. The headsets were cleverly built using tiny parts from technology that already exists, such as smartwatches. 'It definitely benefited from the hacker ethos of taking parts that are built for something else and then applying it to some new context,' explained lead scientist, Matthew Isaacson, from Cornell University. 'The perfect size display, as it turns out, for a mouse VR headset is pretty much already made for smart watches. We were lucky that we didn't need to build or design anything from scratch, we could easily

source all the inexpensive parts we needed.' The biologists believe that the miniature immersive goggles could help us to understand how the brain deals with spatial navigation and memory. They hope this will help scientists understand diseases like Alzheimer's and its potential treatments.

Have you ever used a VR headset?



Pictured: MouseGoggles being worn by a mouse. **Source:** Matthew Isaacson on X.

How can we show others we care?



If someone is sick, you can give them a card or go to check up on them, give the food and company. You can listen to others, invite people to spend time. **Khadijah**

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



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TAKEHOME

13th - 19th
January



Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



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Things to talk about at home ...

- > What type of home do you live in? What are the advantages of where you live? Is there anything you find difficult about it?
- > Talk about the area around your home. What facilities are there?
- > Ask an adult whether they know of the nearest 'green belt' areas close to where you live.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

