

What's happening in the news this week?



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

14th - 20th October 2024

Arsenal.com



Why do people give gifts?





Let's look at this week's story

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has faced questioning and criticism recently for accepting free gifts. The Prime Minister has said he would continue to accept such gifts, despite the negative comments, stating that he is not doing anything wrong. Sir Keir, an Arsenal football fan, has also come under pressure for receiving thousands of pounds worth of football tickets. Although he is already an Arsenal season ticket holder, Sir Keir explained that security concerns mean he can no longer watch games from his usual seat in the stands.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).

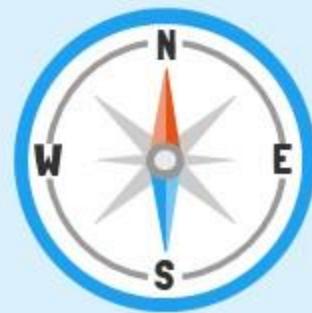


How does it make me feel?



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





Read through the information below exploring the conversations around politicians receiving free gifts. Do you think Sir Keir Starmer is right to accept gifts?

What are the rules on UK politicians accepting gifts?

The ministerial code, which details what is expected of government ministers, states, 'no Minister should accept gifts, hospitality or services from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an obligation.' This means they are allowed to accept gifts, as long as they are not expected to do anything in return for the gift.

What Sir Keir Starmer said about accepting free football tickets.

I'm a massive Arsenal fan. I can't go into the stands because of security reasons. Therefore, if I don't accept a gift of hospitality [in the VIP area], I can't go to a game.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.

What are some of the gifts politicians have received in 2024?

Homeware (glasses and plates)

Taylor Swift tickets



Football match tickets



Holidays

Clothes



Resource one



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of gifts that are given around the world. Have you heard of any of these gifts or celebrations before?

In Finland, it's common for people to celebrate special occasions, like birthdays, with a trip to a **sauna**. Although it's not a material gift, it is considered a treat!



In Russia, **Name Day** (celebrating the feast day of the saint you were named after) is often more important than birthdays. People receive flowers or other small gifts on this day.



In the Maasai culture of Kenya, giving **beaded jewellery** is a significant tradition. Each bead colour and pattern has meaning and often represents blessings, protection, or a sign of friendship.



A world map with three points marked: one in Europe, one in Asia, and one in Africa. Lines connect these points to the corresponding text boxes.

During Lunar New Year in China, children receive **red envelopes** with money inside to bring good fortune for the upcoming year.



**How do you think giving/receiving gifts makes people feel?
How might giving gifts impact these people and their relationships?**



Look at the resource below, where some people share their experience of showing gratitude. For each, discuss what they were grateful for and how they showed gratitude.

I was driving to see a friend when my car got a flat tyre. I managed to get to the side of the road and was about to phone for assistance when an amazing lady pulled up and offered to help me. She changed my tyre for me and I was able to continue my journey.

Afterwards, I wanted to show how grateful I was, but as I didn't know the lady, it was tricky. I wrote a post in my local community group on social media to explain what had happened and to say thank you. Lots of people commented about how kind the lady had been and eventually, she saw it too!

Jemima



I wrote some letters to thank several different people and charities in my local area that helped me in my time of need. I was struggling for lots of different reasons and I wanted them all to know the impact their kindness and generosity had on me. They helped make such a difference to my life.

Ben



My football coach is a volunteer. He gives up his time to coach us every week. As a team, we wanted to show him how much we appreciate him. We worked together to create a rap all about him and then performed it as a surprise at our last session of the season.



Brianna

My neighbour looked after my hamsters whilst I was away for a few days. To thank her, I painted her a portrait of her dog – she loved it!



Siti

I appreciate the people in my family so much. We all try our best to be there for each other for support, guidance and encouragement. We smile, wink, hug and actually say thank you to each other often.

Gregor



Can you think of any other ways of showing gratitude?

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Why do people give gifts?



Reflection



There are many reasons why people give and receive gifts. The purpose of the gifting can influence what and how we choose to give or receive.





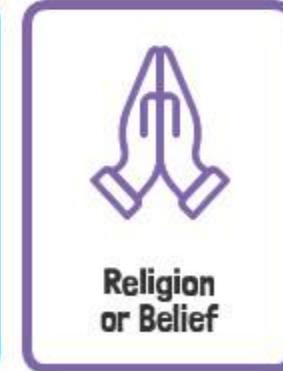
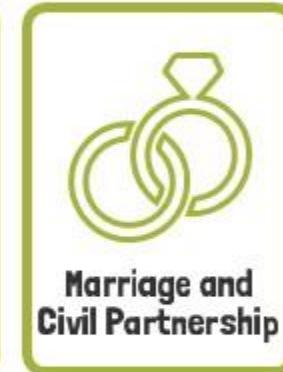
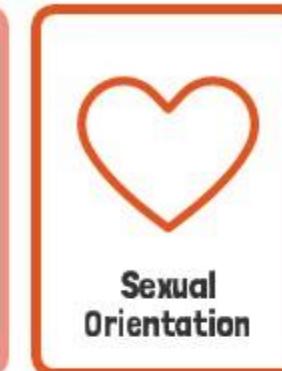
Rule of Law

The ministerial code is a set of rules that exists to ensure ministers act in the best interests of the general public. Rules can guide us on how to uphold values such as honesty and integrity.

Protected Characteristics



UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is British; this is his nationality. As leader of the government, he must ensure that people of all nationalities living in the UK are treated fairly.





UN Rights of the Child



Countries have their own rules and laws, alongside the UN rights. When acting in the interests of children, adults and governments must apply the laws or rights that best protect or benefit the child.



Useful vocabulary

Criticism

The pointing out of flaws or mistakes in something or someone that people disapprove of.

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has faced questioning and **criticism** recently for accepting free gifts.

Influencers

People, often on social media, who have the power to affect the opinions, behaviour, or choices of others because they have a large following.

Can you think of other well-known people or **influencers** online who receive gifts?

Hospitality

Acts of generosity or friendly treatment, such as offering meals, gifts or entertainment.

The ministerial code [...] states, 'no Minister should accept gifts, **hospitality** or services from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an obligation.'

Ministerial code

A set of rules and guidelines that outline how government ministers in the UK (and some other countries) should behave.

The **ministerial code** [...] states, 'no Minister should accept gifts, hospitality or services from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an obligation.'



Influence

The power or ability to affect how someone thinks, feels, or acts.

The purpose of the gifting can **influence** what and how we choose to give or receive.

Obligation

Something that you are required to do.

The ministerial code [...] states, 'no Minister should accept gifts, hospitality or services from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an **obligation**'.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Collective worship



Pupil involvement

Ask for some volunteers to prepare some gift-giving/receiving scenarios to act out, e.g., a thank you gift, birthday gift, free gift for advertising purposes.

Have your volunteers act out their gift-giving/receiving scenarios. For each, discuss why the gifts were given and how it might have felt to give and receive them.

Share any other examples of giving and receiving gifts.

Think about some of the most special gifts you have received. Was it something you wanted? Was it something expensive? Was it made by the person giving it to you? Was the person giving it to you special? Had a lot of thought gone into choosing/creating the gift?

Bible Link: Isaiah 9:6
Christian Value: Love
Theme: The greatest gift

Pupil talk

- Share your experiences of giving and receiving gifts. Consider who, what, where, when, why.
- What gift would you like to receive?
- What gift could you give to others?
- Are kindness, love, joy, or friendship gifts you would like to give or receive?

Think

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has faced questioning and criticism recently for accepting free gifts. The Prime Minister has said he would continue to accept such gifts, despite the negative comments, stating that he is not doing anything wrong. Sir Keir, an Arsenal football fan, has also come under pressure for receiving thousands of pounds worth of football tickets. Although he is already an Arsenal season ticket holder, Sir Keir explained that security concerns mean he can no longer watch games from his usual seat in the stands.

People are precious and special to God, so much so, that He gave the most important gift to mankind, Jesus. Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem. We celebrate his birth at Christmas and often give each other gifts as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for each other.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the gift of Jesus,
Thank you for the gifts we can give to others,
Help us spread the gifts of love, joy, peace and friendship,
Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Do you enjoy giving and/or receiving gifts?
- Not all gifts can be wrapped up. Sometimes, the gifts we give can help others. Have you ever gifted your time to help someone?
- Make a list of gifts you could give to others that don't cost a penny!

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Gifts are often a symbol of love, care, gratitude or friendship. Is the reason why a gift is given important to you? Does it influence how special the gift is?
- Can you think of a time when a gift was given without love, care, gratitude or friendship at the forefront? E.g., a business wanting to advertise its product, someone wanting to show off?

Worship song

The best gift



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God



Why do people give gifts?

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- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you can see. Do you recognise anyone? What do you think this week's story could be about?
- The poster image shows UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, during the Premier League match between Arsenal and Wolverhampton Wanderers. He was given the tickets for free, as a gift. This week's story is about politicians, and others with important roles in government, accepting free gifts.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which explores the conversations around politicians receiving free gifts. Do you think Sir Keir Starmer is right to accept all the gifts?
- Watch this week's useful video, which asks whether politicians should accept presents. Share your response to the video.
- Can you think of other well-known people or influencers online who receive gifts? Talk about why you think businesses give them free things.
- What are some of the other times that you give and receive gifts? Do you prefer to give gifts or receive them?

Reflection

There are many reasons why people give and receive gifts. The purpose of the gifting can influence what and how we choose to give or receive.



KS1 focus

What is a gift?



Listen



Think



Share

- What do you think a gift is? Talk with a partner to share your ideas.
- Think of the presents or gifts you have received. What were they? Who gave them to you and why?
- Who can you give gifts to? Have you ever given a gift? What was it for? How did it feel to give?
- Look at the images on resource 1. What gifts do you see? Why might these gifts be special? How do you think the people might be feeling to give or receive these gifts?
- Read the information, which explains some different gift-giving traditions from around the world. Have you heard of any of these traditions before? Are there any that you do/would like to do? Which ones, and why?
- What types of gifts can you think of? Do you think you always need money for a gift? How about non-material gifts, such as smiling, hugging or helping someone?
- What's the most special gift you've ever received? What was it? Who was it from? What made it so special?
- Do you think you prefer giving or receiving? Why?
- What do you think is more important: the gift itself or the thought behind it? Why?

Reflection

Gifts, whether big or small, show thoughtfulness and care. The act of giving often means more than the gift itself.



KS2 focus

Aside from gifts, what are some other ways we can show our gratitude?



Listen



Think



Share

- Write 'gratitude' on the board. What does it mean? Can you share a synonym for gratitude?
- Gratitude is the feeling or state of being thankful, grateful or appreciative. Can you think of a time you have shown gratitude, or someone has shown it to you?
- Look at resource 2, where some people share their experience of showing gratitude. For each, discuss what they were grateful for and how they showed gratitude. Can you think of any other ways of showing gratitude?
- Gratitude can be shown in many different ways. People may spend time, effort and money showing their gratitude. What means the most to you or is any show of gratitude meaningful and valuable?
- Make a list of emotion words that you believe are associated with showing gratitude. Consider how it feels to both show gratitude and receive it.
- What do you think are the benefits of showing gratitude? Do you think being grateful can bring joy? How might it affect wellbeing? Can you think of any drawbacks to showing gratitude?
- Some people believe that by showing gratitude, we develop better relationships and have a more positive outlook on life. Do you agree with this? Share any other thoughts you have.

Reflection

We can show our gratitude in many different ways. Recognising and appreciating the good people and things in our lives, can help to bring us joy.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Records show Sir Keir Starmer has accepted tens of thousands of pounds in gifts since becoming Labour leader, including:

- £20,437 in accommodation.
- £16,200 in clothes.
- £2,485 worth of glasses.
- £4,000 on tickets from the Premier League for a Taylor Swift concert.

Look at the amounts above to complete the following:

- Read and write each amount in words.
- Order them from most to least.
- Partition each amount.
- Round each to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.
- Sort them into odd and even.
- Find the total amount.

Option 2

Practise gratitude! Each day this week, spend some time taking part in one or more of the following gratitude challenges:

- Sit in a quiet, comfortable place, close your eyes and reflect on the people and things you have been grateful for today.
- Keep a gratitude diary. Write one thing you are grateful for each day.
- Write a thank you card, letter or note for someone.
- Appreciate the bad too. If anything went wrong today, what good came from it? What can you learn from it?
- Create a piece of art to represent the people and things you are grateful for.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Let's create a classroom gift jar! Think about some non-material gifts, such as smiling at someone, helping a friend, holding a door open. Draw or write your gift on a small piece of card and pop it in the jar! When you want to offer someone a gift, you can take one from the jar!



Option 2

Resource 1 shows gift-giving traditions from around the world, including countries like Russia, China and Finland.

- Can you find these countries on a world map?
- Which continents are they in?
- Do you know any other traditions from around the world?

Research and add them to your world gifting map!



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0jw193ydw60

This week's useful video

Should politicians accept presents?

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/videos/cjwdv21p4d60

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Magic Michael Rosen

Perhaps you are already familiar with children's author, Michael Rosen. He has recently been very busy meeting young book lovers in Jersey, an island just off the south coast of England. At a special event in the town library, Michael read his famous story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* – but with a local twist! He performed parts of the story in Jèrriais, a traditional language from Jersey, which made the audience cheer with delight. Talking about why he continues to write and perform, Michael said, 'It's fun apart from anything else – I just have lovely fun!' Michael is in Jersey for the 2024 Festival of

Words. He's excited to see young people enjoying stories and believes they're writing more than ever, through social media and texting. 'When I see children laugh and enjoy stories, it feels like magic,' he added.



Pictured: Michael Rosen reading his famous story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.
Source: @JerseyWordFest on X.

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



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@HelpPicture

World Leaders Meet

Leaders from around the world are meeting at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City, to talk about big problems facing the planet. The UN was created after World War II to help countries work together for peace, human rights, and helping people in need. Today, almost every country in the world is a member, and when issues or problems arise, the UN is one of the first places where countries share their concerns. This year, the UN will meet for the 79th time! There are many important issues to discuss,



Pictured: Debating at UN Headquarters in New York, USA. Source: @UN on X.

such as wars and the climate crisis. Leaders will also discuss new rules to keep artificial intelligence (AI) safe and helpful for everyone. UN leader António Guterres said, 'It's not just about signing agreements, it's about taking action.'

How important is it to know about the author behind the book?



I think it is important because it helps to understand why they write these books.

Shannay

Cozy Joeys!

Incubators, donated by a local hospital, are helping to care for orphaned baby kangaroos in Australia. The humidicribs, that previously cared for premature babies, are now being used by Mandy Watson at Kununurra Kangaroo Rescue Haven in East Kimberly. The cribs imitate the conditions of a mother kangaroo's pouch, where baby kangaroos, called joeys, live for the first eight months of their lives. Kangaroo Haven rescues, rehabilitates and releases orphaned and injured wildlife. Mandy explained, 'In 20 years, we've released 823 back into the wild. It's really hard, especially in the dry season, for us to keep up that constant temperature.'



Pictured: Rescued Joeys being cared for at the centre. Source: Kangaroo Haven Wildlife Rescue on Facebook.

The incubators were donated after paediatric nurse, Jane Darlington, saw a volunteer raising awareness of the rescue centre while she was shopping. Jane realised she could help save lives as, luckily for the centre, Kununurra District Hospital needed to replace outdated incubators with more modern versions. 'It was very cute and caught my attention [...] I'm very pleased we've been able to give [the incubator] to somebody [who will] use it.'

Can you think of a way to help a rescue centre near you?

Timed Tricks

Teenage magician, Cillian O'Connor from County Meath in Ireland, is celebrating after completing 28 magic tricks in 60 seconds! The former Britain's Got Talent contestant now holds the world record for the most magic tricks performed in one minute (under 16 category). The 15-year-old's set involved making a wand appear out of nowhere, a trick that changed the colour of two pieces of silk, and making pencils disappear. Cillian often talks about difficulties with socialising and why he became a magician: 'I was looking for something to help me engage and interact with people, and I thought maybe magic would help. The rest, as they say, is history. Magic has allowed me to interact more with people. I've also made friends with similar interests and travelled to the most amazing places.' Looking to the future, he added, 'I hope by sharing my



Pictured: Cillian O'Connor with his Guinness World Record certificate.

Source: Cillian O'Connor on Facebook.

story that I can inspire other kids. I would love to be able to bring magic into schools, as a form of therapy someday.' Cillian says he loves to perform with playing cards, 'My favourite magic trick is a card trick called Triumph, by Dai Vernon.'

Do you know any magic tricks?

How many do you think you could perform in one minute?

How important is it to know about the author behind the book?



It is important to know the author behind the book because they might relate it to their culture or even what has happened in their life or where they are from, their happiness and their struggles.

Ibrahim

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



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In the news this week

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you believe politicians should always be allowed to accept free gifts?
- Can you make a list of the different times you give people gifts, and times you receive them?
- Do you prefer to give or receive gifts? Ask your people at home what they think.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

