

What's happening in the news this week?



Zuma/Shutterstock

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

17th - 23rd February 2025

Are drones the future of delivery?





Let's look at this week's story

Global retail giant, Amazon, has announced its first UK drone deliveries will take place in Darlington as part of a trial. If successful, it could soon be rolled out across the rest of the UK. Amazon's drone delivery service, known as Prime Air, has been operating in the United States since 2012. Amazon said it is, "ready and excited to make drone delivery a reality for our UK customers".



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

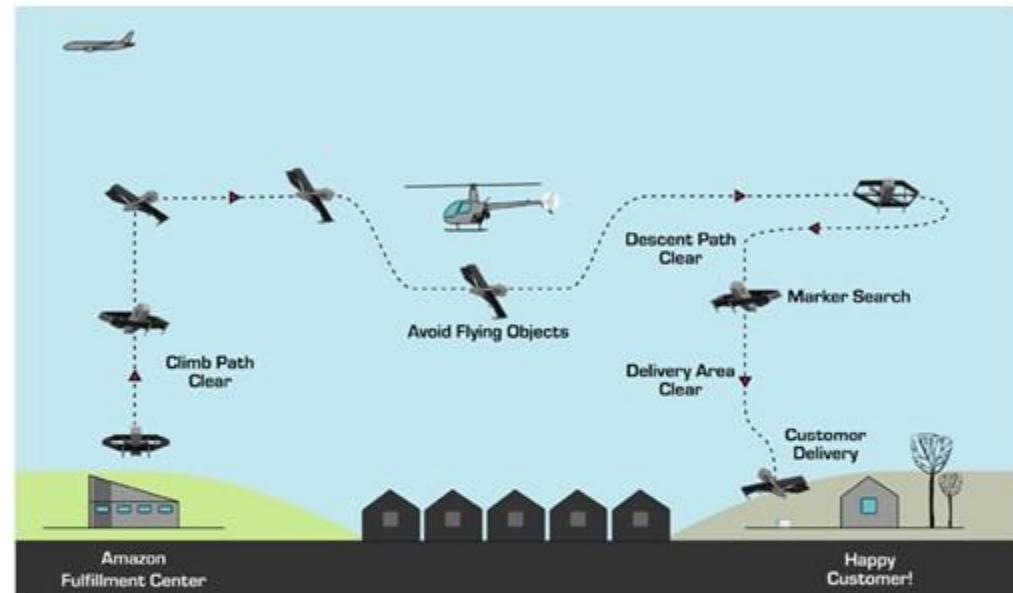




Read through the information below, all about Prime Air and the new drone delivery service.

What is Prime Air drone delivery and how does it work?

1. Customers, who live within 7.5 miles of the warehouse, will be able to choose to use the service or more traditional delivery methods.
2. If drone delivery is selected, customers will choose a delivery location on an aerial image of their address, displayed on the screen.
3. The battery-powered drones can carry one package weighing up to 2.3kg at a time.
4. The package will then be delivered to the location provided on the same day – sometimes within an hour!



Pictured left: How the drone will take the delivery package to the customer. Source: Amazon.

Overall, do you think it's a good idea? Would you like to see this service in your local area?

We have worked tirelessly with Amazon to bring this UK first to Teesside, which will support high-quality jobs, deliver vital multi-million pound investment in our local economy and drive growth.

The world is moving at pace - and if we don't keep up, we will be left behind. If you're not first, you're last.

Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, who has worked closely with Amazon over the past 18 months on the project.





Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of how drones can help us in our lives.



Help in emergency rescue situations, when it is not safe to send people. They can be used on the land or at sea.



Accurately locate fish that might be hiding, to help fisherman catch them.



Quickly deliver human organs needed for emergency transplant operations.



Help farmers analyse their land, plant crops, track livestock, and make predictions about the number of crops grown successfully.



Track wildlife for animal conservation.



Deliver medicine to people in remote places.



Take beautiful aerial photographs (photos from the air!).

Have you ever seen a drone? Would you like to fly one?

Resource two



Before modern postal services, carrier pigeons were used to deliver messages over long distances. They were especially useful in wartime and for sending urgent information. This method dates back thousands of years, with evidence of pigeon messaging in ancient Egypt, Rome, and China.



An electric Royal Mail delivery vehicle, designed by Canoo in 2024. @oonac15 on X.

Look at the resource below, which shares some information about delivery methods over time.



A Boston mail wagon in 1895.
Silverbanks
Pictures on Flickr.



A Royal Mail van outside the Post Office, circa 1910-1930. @mongsley on X.

Before motorised transport, postal workers relied on horses to deliver letters and parcels. These wagons were essential for connecting communities, and ensuring people received important news and goods.



As postal services aim to reduce carbon emissions, electric vans are becoming more common for deliveries. They help lower air pollution and operate more quietly than traditional diesel vans, making them better for both the environment and urban areas.



What do you predict for the future of deliveries?

Are drones the future of delivery?



Reflection



Drones and other advances in technology can have a positive impact on our everyday lives. However, it's important to understand and consider all the consequences before making big changes.



Media Literacy

What information can we trust?



Explanation: Let's research and verify the information in this week's story.



Questions to Discuss

- Where did this news story come from?
- Can we find another article about this subject? Does it say the same thing?
- What kind of evidence is used to support the claims in the news story?

Reflection

If a story is reported by multiple news outlets, does that always mean it is true?



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Activity

Find a second source that talks about Amazon's drone delivery service.

Do both articles give the same facts? Do they use different language or opinions? Which source do you think is more trustworthy? Why?



Democracy

Decisions about new technologies, such as drones, require input from both the government and the public, to ensure they are used safely and fairly.

We can use our voices to share our thoughts on this and impact the future.

Protected Characteristics



Technology should be accessible to everyone. Companies must consider how they can be inclusive, ensuring that all customers can benefit equally from advancements like drone technology.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



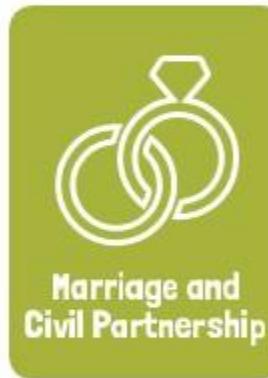
Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



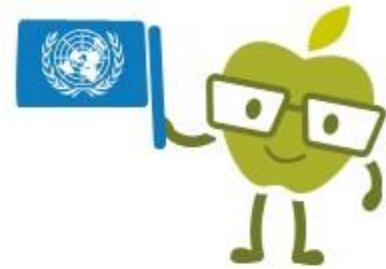
Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



We all have the right to privacy. As drone deliveries become more common, it is important that private spaces are respected. Companies using drones must ensure they are designed and operated in a way that protects people's privacy and security.



Useful Vocabulary



Advances

New developments or improvements, often in science or technology, that make tasks faster, easier, or more efficient.

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Drone

An aircraft or small flying object, that does not have a pilot, but is controlled by someone on the ground.

Amazon has said it is, "ready and excited to make **drone** delivery a reality for our UK customers".

Investment

To put money into something to make a profit.

"We have worked tirelessly with Amazon to bring this UK first to Teesside which will ... deliver vital multi-million pound **investment** in our local economy and drive growth."

Prime Air

A new delivery service from Amazon, where packages are delivered to the customer via a drone.

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Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



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- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you can see. What could this week's news story be about?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, all about Prime Air and the new drone delivery service. Overall, do you think it's a good idea? Would you like to see this service in your local area?
- Thinking about your local area at the moment, how are deliveries made? Would drones improve this?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows how the delivery service will work. Do you think this type of delivery could replace existing services?
- Can you think of some of the pros and cons of drone deliveries?
- Have you ever used a drone? Can you think of any other everyday uses for them?

Reflection

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Picture News



KS1 focus

How else can drones help us in our lives?



- Think about how drones are being used for deliveries. How might this be helpful to us in our lives? What can drones do that humans can't?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some other ways drones can help us.
- Did you know about any of these uses before? Are you surprised by any of them? Which do you think is the most important? Why?
- What are some of the advantages of using drones? Do you think they are better than other ways of delivering things? Why?
- What are some of the disadvantages of using drones? How might they affect people living nearby? Can you think of any important safety rules that should be followed when operating drones?
- Is anyone allowed to fly a drone? What skills might you need to learn before operating a drone? Would you like to try flying one?
- What type of jobs might use drones? E.g., photographers, firefighters, farmers.
- Can you think of new ways drones could help us in the future? How could they be improved to make them even better?

Reflection

Drones are an invention that can help people, especially in places that are dangerous or difficult to reach. However, it's important to use them safely and with respect, for others and the environment.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How have deliveries changed over time?



- Think about the deliveries you see or receive at home. What things do you have delivered? How did you order them? How did they get to you?
- How do you think people sent packages or letters before cars and planes existed? What challenges might they have faced?
- Why do you think deliveries have changed over time? Has technology played a significant role in these changes?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some information about delivery methods over time. Can you order these from oldest to most recent? What inventions or innovations have led to the evolution of delivery methods?
- What jobs are involved in getting a parcel from one place to another? How might these jobs change in the future?
- How important is it to deliver things quickly? Is speed always the most important thing?
- What technology helps us deliver things faster today? How might this change in the future?
- What might be good about using drones for deliveries? What might be a problem? How do you feel about the idea of drones delivering parcels?
- Can you imagine a future way of delivering items that doesn't exist yet? What would it look like? How would it be better than today's methods?
- How do you think people in the past would react to seeing drone deliveries? Why? What other modern inventions might surprise them?

Reflection

Deliveries have evolved from horses to high-tech drones, highlighting how innovation and invention continually shape and, hopefully, improve our lives.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Imagine it is the year 2050. How will deliveries work in the future? Design your own futuristic delivery method!

- Will it be a drone? A robot? Something else?
- How will it be powered? (Solar energy? AI? A brand-new invention?)
- How will it make deliveries quicker, safer, or more eco-friendly?

Draw and label your idea, explaining how it works. Write a short advert, convincing people to use your new delivery service.

Present your idea to the class, explaining why it's the best future delivery method!

Extra challenge: Think about the problems delivery drones or robots might face. How would you solve them?

Option 2

Think about how deliveries have changed over time. Create a timeline to show the different ways people have sent and received parcels and letters.

- Use pictures, drawings, or labels to show key moments in delivery history.
- Can you add the dates (or time periods) when these changes happened?

What do you think might come next in delivery technology? Add your own futuristic idea to the end of your timeline!



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Let's get a Prime Air parcel ready for drone delivery! First, we need to find out how much a Prime Air package weighs. The maximum weight for a Prime Air parcel is 2.3kg. Can you find some objects around your classroom that weigh 2.3kg to help you understand what that feels like?

You will need:

- Some weighing scales.
- Some kilogram and gram weights if you are using balance scales.
- Various items from around your classroom - you could use some books, a pot of pencils, or even some items of school uniform!

You could use a cardboard box and package up some of the things you found. Just don't forget to open up your parcels and put everything back before the end of the school day!

Option 2

Think about how drones can help us. Using the ideas discussed in resource 1, choose your favourite, or the one you think is the most important. Design a poster informing others of how drones can be used to help us in our lives.

- Include a big, catchy title which will grab people's attention.
- Write some positives of what the drone is used for and how it helps.
- Draw a picture to show the drone in action.
- Make sure your poster is bright and colourful!



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://news.sky.com/story/amazon-chooses-darlington-for-launch-of-drone-delivery-service-13298124>

This week's useful video

Amazon's new drone deliveries
www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4g79374wz1o

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Is it a bird? Or is it a train? It's un-break-lievable!

Who doesn't enjoy the gentle sounds of singing birds? Well, you're in for a loud wake-up call if you ever hear the noise created by the amazing male white bellbird!

'I really thought there was a train coming! But then I remembered I was in a forest so that wasn't possible!' said Sam Nash, who was travelling through the Guianas in South America, when he heard the incredible horn-like sound. Although smaller than a 30cm ruler, male white bellbirds can produce a sound up to 125 decibels, which is as loud as a pneumatic drill – wow! Males are all white and have a long



Pictured: A white bellbird.
Source: @Louise_rvn on X.

wattle dangling from their black beaks, similar to a cockerel's but much longer. They tend to stay high up in the trees, so aren't seen very often but you can be sure that they'll be heard!

[Click this link to hear the amazing sound! Make sure your volume is down!](#)

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



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help@picture-news.co.uk



@HelpPicture

Risky Play All The Way!

Would you like to play with sticks, climb trees, and build with real tools? In the Netherlands, some people want to bring back 'risky play'. Many playgrounds have the usual swings and slides, but new play spaces could let children build with hammers, start small fires (safely), and even cook outdoors. The idea is to help children learn new skills, take safe risks, and spend more time outside. Rob Hofland, a leader in the plan, says, 'The problem is that children are hardly moving. All kinds of problems stem from just



Pictured: Children using hammers and nails.
Source: Canva.

sitting behind a screen.' Experts say playing in exciting ways can help children make friends, solve problems, and feel more confident. Some places, like the Woeste Westen play park, already let children explore nature in fun and adventurous ways!

Would you like to play there?

Do you need to feel under pressure to achieve great things?

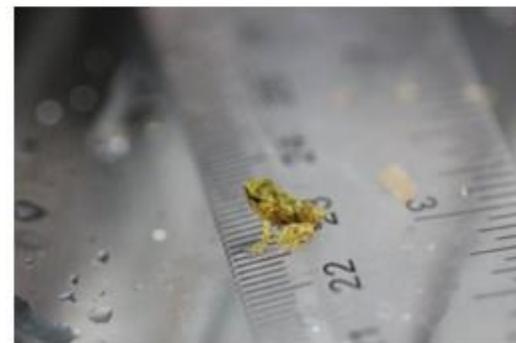


Good pressure is needed to succeed but too much is unhealthy.

Chloe S

Fantastic Froglets!

Fifty-three very rare, tiny frogs have travelled 7,000-miles, from the Parque Tantauco forests of southern Chile to London Zoo. The zoo is part of a mission to help increase the population of the endangered Darwin's frog, named in honour of Charles Darwin. The 3cm-long frogs are under threat from the chytrid fungus, which has caused a 90% loss in their population. Scientists hope to learn how to combat the effects of the deadly fungus, breed healthy froglets, and safely reintroduce the miniature



Pictured: Darwin's frog sat on a ruler.
Source: London Zoo on X.



Pictured:
Darwin's frog.
Source: London
Zoo on
Facebook.

amphibians to their forest home. This species of frog is unique, as the males 'give birth' to the froglets from their mouths! When the frog dads see movement within the fertilised eggs on the forest floor, they appear to eat them. This is how they keep their young safe in their vocal sacs, until they turn from tiny tadpoles into little froglets.

London Zoo posted on social media, '🐸 Massive news 🥂 33 endangered Darwin's froglets have been born at London Zoo 🥂.'

These precious froglets are a symbol of hope for one of the world's rarest species.'

Have you ever heard of this frog species before?

Did you know that the frog fathers carry tadpoles in their mouths?

Breaking the Sound Barrier



Pictured: Boom Supersonic aircraft – Overture.
Source: Boom Supersonic @boomaero on X.

The company, Boom Supersonic, is celebrating as its XB-1 prototype jet has broken the sound barrier!

Breaking the sound barrier means an aircraft or any object exceeds the speed that sound travels. This speed, also known as Mach 1, is about 741mph! Boom Supersonic's XB-1 is the first civilian aircraft to achieve this speed since Concorde, the British-French supersonic airliner, which was retired in 2003. The US company says on its website it is, 'building the world's fastest airliner, Overture – optimized for speed, safety, and sustainability.' Boom

Supersonic's chief test pilot, Tristan "Geppetto" Brandenburg, took the aircraft on three test flights, which broke the sound barrier in the Mojave Desert in California. During the test flights, the plane reached an altitude of 35,000ft, before accelerating to 844mph (called Mach 1.1). When an object travels this quickly, the shock waves created produce a sonic boom, which is a massive bang, sounding similar to a thunderclap. However, this noise would not be heard by the pilot as they also move faster than the speed of sound!

Would you like to fly this fast?

How do you think it would feel?

Do you need to feel under pressure to achieve great things?



No, you don't need to feel under pressure to achieve great things.
Nad Y6 St Margarets CE Primary

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



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help@picture-news.co.uk



@HelpPicture

TAKE HOME

17th - 23rd
February



Are drones the future of delivery?



In the news this week

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your response to this week's news with someone at home. Do you think drone deliveries are a good idea?
- Would you like to see drone deliveries in your local area?
- Can you make a list of the pros and cons of drones? What other ways could they be used?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

