

# What's happening in the news this week?



Beata Zawrel/NurPhoto/Shutterstock

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

19th - 25th May 2025





## Let's look at this week's story

A vehicle once used by Pope Francis to wave and greet people—called a popemobile—is being turned into a mobile health clinic for children in Gaza. Pope Francis, who recently passed away, was the head of the Catholic Church and often spoke about helping others. One of his final wishes was to help children affected by the conflict in Gaza.

The vehicle will be refitted with medical equipment, as found in ambulances, so it can be used to aid children in areas where hospitals may be hard to reach. The project aims to deliver essential medical care to those who need it.



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

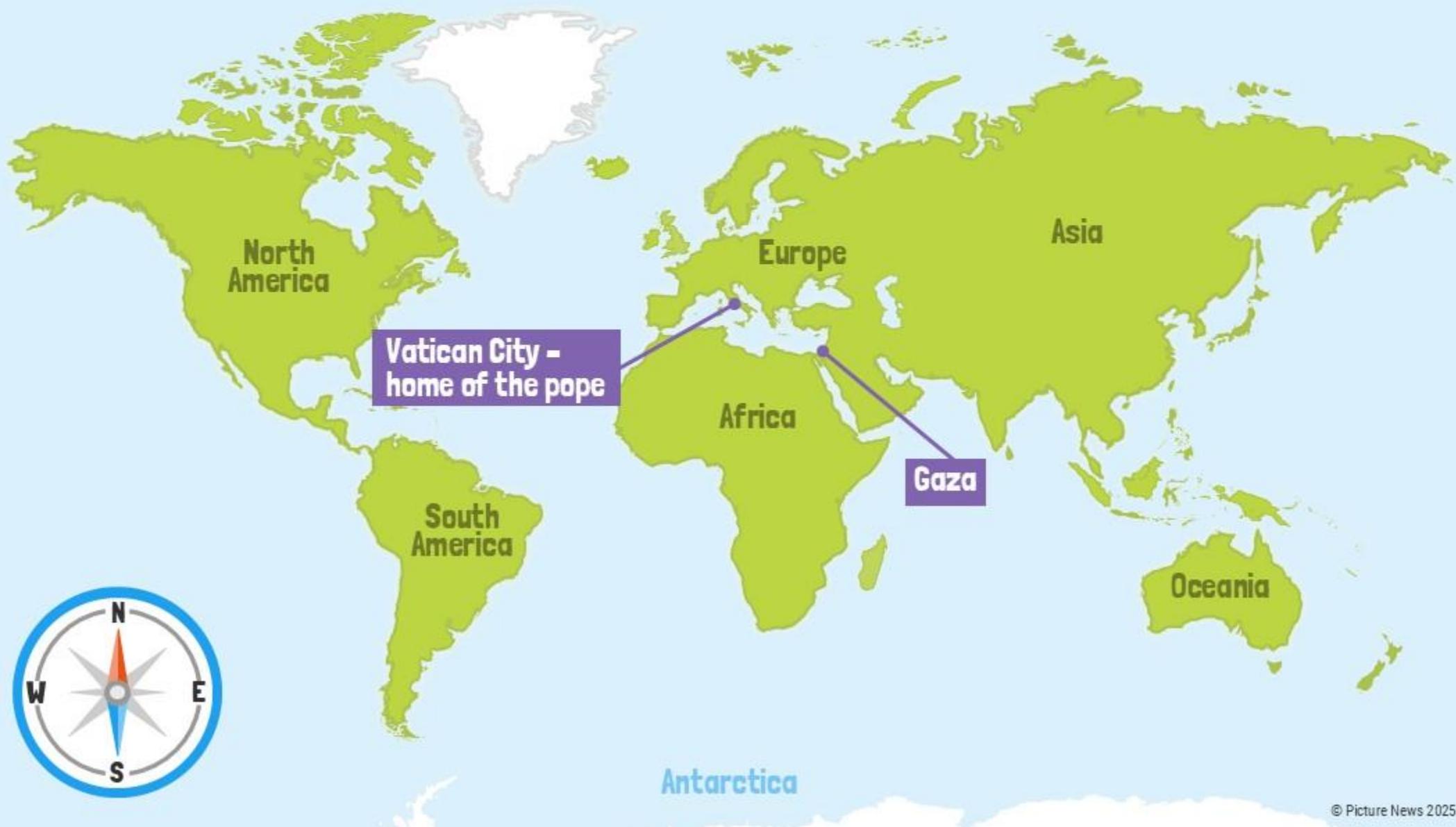


# How does it make me feel?



|   |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <b>sad</b><br>despondent<br>disconsolate<br>dismal<br>doleful<br>downhearted<br>forlorn<br>gloomy<br>melancholic<br>miserable<br>woeful<br>wretched | <b>angry</b><br>aggrieved<br>annoyed<br>discontented<br>disgruntled<br>distressed<br>exasperated<br>frustrated<br>indignant<br>offended<br>outraged<br>resentful<br>vexed | <b>happy</b><br>beaming<br>buoyant<br>cheery<br>contented<br>delighted<br>enraptured<br>gleeful<br>glowing<br>joyful | <b>confused</b><br>addled<br>baffled<br>bemused<br>bewildered<br>disorientated<br>indistinct<br>muddled<br>mystified<br>perplexed<br>puzzled         | <b>excited</b><br>animated<br>elevated<br>enlivened<br>enthusiastic<br>exhilarated<br>exuberant<br>thrilled | <b>worried</b><br>agitated<br>anxious<br>apprehensive<br>concerned<br>disquieted<br>distraught<br>distressed<br>disturbed<br>fretful<br>perturbed<br>troubled<br>uneasy | <b>overwhelmed</b><br>engulfed<br>inundated<br>overburdened<br>overloaded<br>saturated<br>submerged<br>swamped   | <b>afraid</b><br>alarmed<br>apprehensive<br>daunted<br>fearful<br>frantic<br>horrified<br>petrified<br>terrified                 |
| <b>guilty</b><br>ashamed<br>compunctions<br>contrite<br>culpable<br>penitent<br>responsible<br>rueful   | <b>jealous</b><br>bitter<br>covetous<br>desirous<br>envious<br>envying<br>resentful<br>wary   | <b>thankful</b><br>appreciative<br>grateful<br>gratified<br>indebted<br>obliged<br>relieved                          | <b>shocked</b><br>astonished<br>astounded<br>disconcerted<br>distressed<br>dumbfounded<br>horrified<br>staggered<br>startled<br>stunned<br>surprised | <b>disgusted</b><br>affronted<br>appalled<br>horrified<br>repelled<br>repulsed<br>revolted<br>sickened      | <b>inspired</b><br>activated<br>encouraged<br>exhilarated<br>galvanised<br>influenced<br>motivated  | <b>embarrassed</b><br>ashamed<br>awkward<br>chagrined<br>demeaned<br>discomposed<br>humiliated<br>self-conscious<br>uncomfortable<br>uneasy<br>unsettled | <b>interested</b><br>absorbed<br>captivated<br>curious<br>engaged<br>enthralled<br>fascinated<br>gripped<br>intrigued<br>riveted |

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





**Read the information below, all about the popemobile's new role and why Pope Francis chose to donate it.**

## What is the popemobile?

The popemobile is a special car that the pope uses to travel and wave to people safely. It's usually white and has big windows so everyone can see him. Sometimes, it's open at the top, and other times, it's covered to protect him from bad weather or large crowds. There is more than one popemobile, and different ones are used in different countries or situations. The popemobile helps the pope meet lots of people all around the world!

## What will the popemobile's new purpose be?

Currently, there is an ongoing war in Gaza. For the many people who live there, it can be difficult for them to get the things they need, like food, clean water, and medicine.

The popemobile that is being sent to Gaza hasn't been used since 2014, but it will now help people who are unwell or injured. Instead of carrying the pope, the vehicle will contain medical equipment, and transport people to receive care.

**"We call it a vehicle of hope because it conveys a message to the children of Gaza that peace is possible, there will be peace, you will have a future, and the world has not forgotten about you."**

Peter Brune, the secretary general of the Catholic charity, Caritas Sweden.



**Pictured above:** What the refitted popemobile could look like inside, based on another mobile health unit. **Source:** WHO (World Health Organisation).

**Can you think of a time when you have donated something to help others?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some of the ways we can donate to help others.



Donate to food banks.



Give clothes that don't fit or are no longer worn.



Give our time to help others, such as people in our community.



Give away toys that are no longer played with.



Donate money to charity.



Hold events, such as cake sales or running races, to raise money.

### Reflection

When we donate, we show kindness and help make the world a better place for everyone, especially those who don't have everything they need. Whether it's food, clothes, toys, or time, even small things can make a big difference.

**Have you ever donated in any of these ways before?  
How did it make you feel?**



**Look at the resource below, which shows how the popemobile has evolved over time.**

### Reflection

The popemobile has changed over time, but its purpose stays the same - to help the pope connect with and care for others.

**1378**

Popes are carried on the *sedia gestatoria* (Italian for 'chair for carrying').

**1929**

Motorised papal vehicles are introduced.

**1981**

Popemobiles are redesigned with bulletproof features after an assassination attempt.

**1378**

**1800**

**1920**

**1940**

**1960**

**1980**

**2000**

**2020**

**1800**

The first use of a horse-drawn carriage by a pope.

**1979**

The term 'popemobile' becomes popular.

**2015**

Pope Francis uses simpler, eco-friendly cars.

**2025**

Plans for a popemobile to be converted into a mobile clinic.



In the past, popes were carried on thrones by attendants to be seen by the public.



After 1981, popemobiles were designed with bulletproof glass for safety.

**Pictured:** The *sedia gestatoria* of Pope Pius VII (1800-1823).  
**Source:** Wikimedia Commons.

**Pictured:** Pope Francis visiting Iquique, Chile, in 2018.  
**Source:** Gobierno Regional de Tarapacá on Flickr.

### Fun Facts

- The popemobile helps the pope be seen and stay safe.
- The pope doesn't have a private jet – he uses regular airlines.
- The license plate for the popemobile is SCV 1, which stands for *Stato della Città del Vaticano* (State of Vatican City in English).

**What's the biggest change you notice about the popemobile over time?**



# Reflection



When we share things that matter to us, we show others how much we care. Even a small donation to others can make a big difference.



# Media Literacy

**Can you think of other approaches, solutions, or ideas?**



**Explanation:** Let's think about other ways we can take action to support people in need.



## Questions to Discuss

- Why was turning the popemobile into a health clinic a good idea?
- What made this solution thoughtful and helpful?
- What other kinds of support could be given to children living in difficult situations?

## Reflection

How can thinking creatively help us find new ways to care for and support others?



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

## Activity

Design your own idea for a creative solution to help others.

- What object, space, or resource could you use in a new way?
- Who would it help and how?

Draw or describe your idea and give it a name!



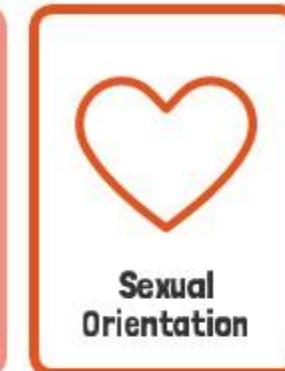
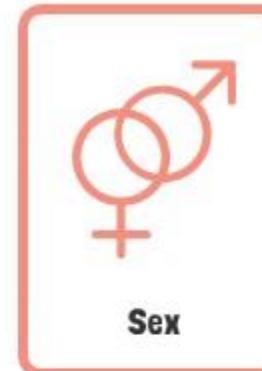
## Individual Liberty

We each have the freedom to make kind and generous choices. We can show compassion by giving what we can to those in need.

# Protected Characteristics



Pope Francis was an important religious leader who believed in helping others. Everyone has the right to follow their own beliefs and be treated fairly, no matter their religion.

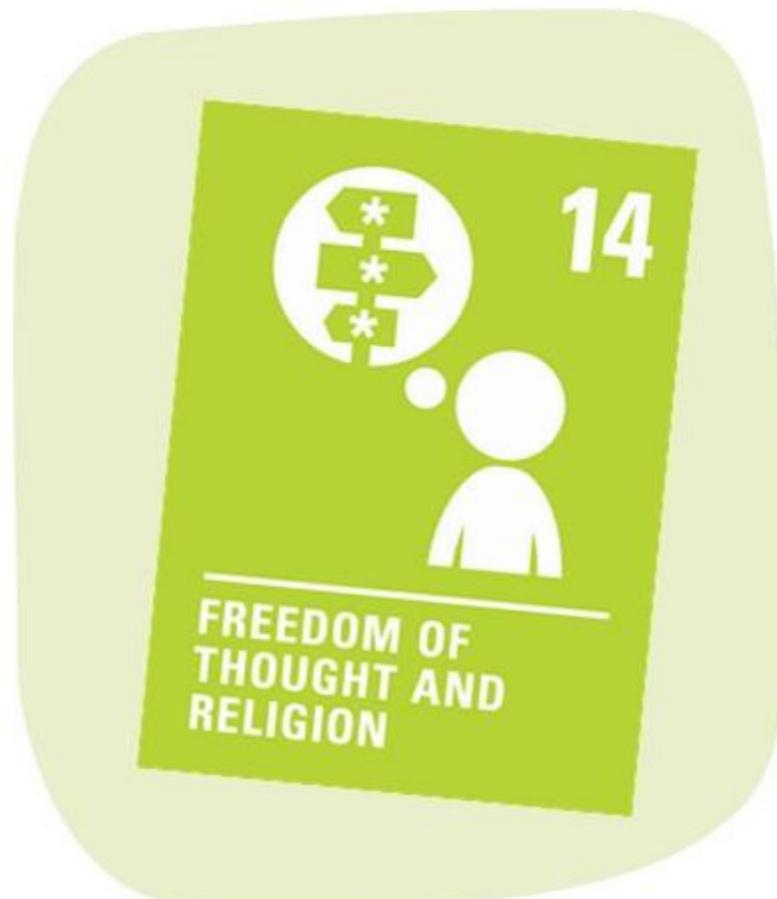




## UN Rights of the Child



Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion. Adults should support children to explore and develop their beliefs as they grow up.



# Useful Vocabulary

## Conflict

When people or groups disagree or fight. It can happen between friends, families, or countries.

One of his final wishes was to help children affected by the **conflict** in Gaza.

## Mobile health clinic

A special vehicle that has medical equipment inside. It travels to help people who are unwell or hurt, especially if there is no hospital nearby.

A vehicle ... is being turned into a **mobile health clinic** for children in Gaza.

## Donate

To give something to help others, such as clothes, toys, food, or money, without asking for anything back.

Pope Francis **donated** his popemobile.

## Peace

When people live together in a calm and friendly way, without fighting or causing harm to each other. Peace can happen between individuals, groups, or countries.

'We call it a vehicle of hope because it conveys a message to the children of Gaza that **peace** is possible...'



## Final wishes

The important things a person hopes will happen after they pass away.

One of his **final wishes** was to help children affected by the conflict in Gaza.

## Refit

To replace or repair something, to fix it or change its purpose.

The vehicle will be **refitted** with medical equipment ... so it can be used to aid children in areas where hospitals may be hard to reach.

## Can you use them in your writing this week?



## Can donating something important be a powerful way to show you care?

A vehicle once used by Pope Francis to wave and greet people—called a popemobile—is being turned into a mobile health clinic for children in Gaza. Pope Francis, who recently passed away, was the head of the Catholic Church and often spoke about helping others. One of his final wishes was to help children affected by the conflict in Gaza. The vehicle will be refitted with medical equipment, as found in ambulances, so it can be used to aid children in areas where hospitals may be hard to reach. The project aims to deliver essential medical care to those who need it.



- Look at this week's poster, and explain that Pope Francis requested for his popemobile (a special car used to safely carry him when he greeted crowds) to be sent to help people in Gaza. It was something that had been very important to him, and he wanted it to have a new purpose helping others.
- Pope Francis donated his popemobile. What does it mean to 'donate' something?
- Watch this week's useful video, and read the information found on the assembly resource, all about the popemobile's new role and why Pope Francis chose to donate it.
- Can you reflect on a time when you have donated something to help others? Have you ever received a donation from someone else? What was it and how did it help?
- Do you believe donations always have to be physical things? For example, could you donate your time to help others?

## Reflection

When we share things that matter to us, we show others how much we care. Even a small donation to others can make a big difference.



## KS1 focus

### What are some of the ways we can donate to help others?



- Recap on what the word 'donate' means. To donate means to give something to help others.
- Show resource 1, which shares some different ways we can donate to help others.
- If possible, sit the children in a circle to share their thoughts and ideas. Ask the children: have you ever given something to someone who needed it, like in any of the ways shared in resource 1?
- Do you have anything you can give to help others? Perhaps you have lots of soft toys or clothes.
- What could you do with clothes that are now too small for you? If you had some coins and saw a charity money box, how could you help? If you have some spare tins of food, where could you donate them?
- Use a talking object, such as a class mascot or teddy, to pass around the circle and ask the children to share something they could donate.
- Encourage responses such as "I could give toys I don't play with anymore", or "I could donate clothes that do not fit me", or "we could hold a class cake sale to raise money for charity".
- Imagine if you didn't have something you really needed—like food, warm clothes, or a toy to play with—and someone gave it to you. How would that make you feel? How do you think people feel when they receive help?
- Reflect on a time you have donated, or think of something you could do to help others. How do you, or might you, feel when you help someone else?

## Reflection

When we donate, we show kindness and help make the world a better place for everyone, especially those who don't have everything they need. Whether it's food, clothes, toys, or time, even small things can make a big difference.



## KS2 focus

### What is the history of the popemobile?



- Have you heard of the term 'popemobile' before? Why do you think people gave the vehicle a special name? Look at this week's poster and describe some of the key features of the popemobile. Why do you think it was designed this way?
- Look at resource 2, which shows how the popemobile has changed over time. The first image shows the *sedia gestatoria*. Why do you think popes were carried in the past? What message might this have sent to people watching?
- In 1800, the pope began to use horse-drawn carriages. Why do you think people started using carriages instead of carrying popes by hand? What might have been the benefits of this change?
- In 1929, the first motor vehicle was used. What do you think the benefits were of the pope switching to a car?
- After 1981, bulletproof glass was added. How do you think this made people feel - both the pope and the public?
- Pope Francis chose to use smaller, simpler vehicles. Why do you think he made this decision? What might it tell us about him?
- Looking at the whole timeline on resource 2, what's the biggest change you notice about the popemobile over time?
- Pope Francis requested that his popemobile be turned into a mobile clinic. What does this act of donation tell you about his values and beliefs?

## Reflection

The popemobile has changed over time, but its purpose stays the same - to help the pope connect with and care for others.



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Imagine you have been chosen to design the next popemobile! Think about:

- Who will use your popemobile? E.g., pope, security, driver, photographer.
- Where will it be used? E.g., will it go abroad? What sort of terrain will it travel?
- What features are most important? E.g., windows to be seen, a roof for shelter, steps, seats, first aid space, special symbols, safety features, eco-friendly parts?

On paper, sketch what your popemobile will look like. Label the key features and explain why you've included them. Think about the shape and structure - how will it move, stand up, and hold its parts together?

Bring your design to life using materials from around your classroom or home, such as cardboard boxes, bottle tops, dowels, tape etc.

Finally, you might like to add flags, symbols or other decorations!

Extra challenge: Could you redesign your popemobile to be more eco-friendly, easier to build, or used for a different purpose - like a food truck or rescue vehicle?

### Option 2

Create your own illustrated version of the timeline on resource 2.

Add drawings or symbols for each key moment. You can label the dates and events, and if you're interested, research any extra details you'd like to include - such as who the pope at the time was, or what was happening in the world.

Make your timeline colourful, creative, and informative!



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Helping Hands! Let's show some of the kind ways we can help others by donating.

1. Grab some paper, a pencil, and scissors.
2. Place one of your hands flat on the paper and draw around your hand. You can colour or decorate it if you wish!
3. Cut it out carefully with your scissors.
4. Think of something you could donate to help others – such as clothes, toys, food, money, or your time.
5. Write your idea on your paper hand.

Perhaps you could add your hand to a class display to create a wall of Helping Hands, and show all the ways we can be kind and give to others!

### Option 2

Why not take action to help your school or people in your local area? Work together to plan a community project. Think about:

- Who do you think needs help?
- What can you do to help? E.g., create a second-hand school uniform hub, hold a cake sale to raise money, collect food to donate to a local food bank.
- What will you need to organise?
- Who could support you? E.g., parent helpers, teachers, other pupils.
- How will you spread the word? E.g., posters, assemblies, class visits.

Carry out your community action. What impact did it have? How did you feel as a result?



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

[www.caritas.org/2025/05/pope-francis-last-initiative-turns-the-papemobile-into-a-mobile-clinic-for-children-in-gaza/](http://www.caritas.org/2025/05/pope-francis-last-initiative-turns-the-papemobile-into-a-mobile-clinic-for-children-in-gaza/)

### This week's useful video

What is happening to the papemobile?  
<https://youtu.be/qTJuSLXM9AQ?si=izCo0nUxATf3MyJj>

### This week's Virtual Picture News

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

### This week's vocabulary

#### Conflict

When people or groups disagree or fight. It can happen between friends, families, or countries.

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#### Donate

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#### Final wishes

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The vehicle will be **refitted** with medical equipment ... so it can be used to aid children in areas where hospitals may be hard to reach.

# It's Turtle-y Time to Help!

Last Friday, it was Endangered Species Day, a day to learn about animals that need our help. These animals are called endangered species, which means there aren't many of them left, and they could disappear if we don't do something to help. Some endangered animals include tigers, rhinos, pandas, elephants – and turtles! This Friday is World Turtle Day, a special day to celebrate turtles and find out how we can help them. Turtles are clever, gentle animals. Some live in the sea, and some live on land. They have been on Earth since the time of the dinosaurs! But today, many turtles are in danger and one big problem is



Pictured: Plastic in the sea. Source: Canva.



Pictured: A sea turtle eating plastic.  
Source: Canva.

plastic. Sea turtles love to eat jellyfish and seaweed, but sometimes they accidentally eat plastic bags floating in the sea, because the bags look just like jellyfish! This can make turtles very unwell, and some sadly die from eating plastic. There are some things we can all do to help, such as keeping beaches clean, recycling correctly, never dropping litter, learning more about turtles and telling friends and family how to help too! Let's all do our part to protect turtles and keep the sea a safe place for them to live! **Did you know a plastic bag can stay in the sea for hundreds of years?**

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



[picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



[help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)



@HelpPicture

# Flip-Flops for Bemorefab!

Would you like to walk day after day wearing flip-flops? That's what Henry Moores is doing – and it's all to help children with cancer. Henry is walking a very, very long way – from Manchester in England all the way to the island of Ibiza in Spain. That's more than 1,000 miles! He is not using a car or an aeroplane – just his feet to travel through England, France and Spain. He's walking to raise money for a special charity, called Bemorefab. This charity helps children who have cancer, and their families and schools too. A girl called Florence Bark and her family started the charity after she became very poorly with leukaemia, a type of cancer. Now Bemorefab helps other children who are ill to keep learning whilst in hospital having treatment and gives support to their families too.



Pictured:  
Florence Bark  
and Henry  
Moores.

Source:  
Bemorefab  
Children's  
Cancer Charity  
on Facebook.

The charity also works with schools to help children learn more about cancer in a gentle way. 'What Henry's doing is absolutely amazing! He's going to help lots of children like me and their families', Florence shared on social media. Henry has completed epic walks before and has raised thousands of pounds for charities. He is hoping to raise £50,000 for Bemorefab. Good luck, Henry, we're toe-tally cheering you on!

**You can follow Henry's journey via social media! @henryoscarmoores or via @bemorefab**

## What makes somewhere special to visit?



I think trips are even more special when you can share the memories with your family.  
**Ollie**

## Axolotl Success!

A group of endangered axolotls has been released into special wetlands near Mexico City, and they're doing well! Scientists released 18 of the smiling amphibians, which were bred in captivity, into clean water habitats. Each one had a tiny radio tracker to help researchers follow them. All the axolotls survived, and many gained weight, meaning they were hunting and eating. Dr. Alejandra Ramos, from the Autonomous University of Baja California, called it an amazing result. Axolotls were once common in Mexico's lakes, but pollution and city growth pushed them close to extinction.



Pictured: An axolotl. Source: Canva.

Now, farmers and volunteers are helping clean up the habitat. Dr. Luis Zambrano, from the National University of Mexico, said, 'If we lose this species, we lose part of our Mexican identity.' He also said, 'If we can restore this [wetland] habitat and restore the axolotl's population in a city of more than 20 million people, I feel that we have hope for humanity.' Dr. Ramos added, 'You don't need to be a scientist to get involved; everybody in the world can help out.'

*Do you know any facts about axolotls? How would you feel if you saw an axolotl in real life?*



Pictured: An axolotl. Source: Canva.

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



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[help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)



@HelpPicture

## Record-breaking Runners

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the TCS London Marathon celebrated its 45th anniversary in a big way, setting new Guinness World Records and welcoming thousands of runners from around the world! This year, the marathon set a new record for the most finishers ever at a marathon, with 56,640 runners crossing the finish line



Pictured: Jason Burbury broke the record for most underpants worn during a marathon.  
Source: Guinness World Records @GWR on X.



Pictured: The TCS London Marathon has broken the Guinness World Records title. Source: TCS London Marathon on Facebook.  
At The Mall in London! The marathon also had a record number of people applying to run. So many people wanted to be part of this special event that it broke the record for the most people entering a marathon in history! And while some runners were focusing on speed, others had a lot of fun setting quirky records! Jason Burbury set the record for the most underpants worn during a marathon—a whopping 52 pairs! 'It was a fantastic occasion to see so many people reach the finish line and be part of such a special day,' said Hugh Brasher, the CEO of the London Marathon Events. **Have you ever trained for a long run? Which record do you find the most interesting?**

### What makes somewhere special to visit?



I think places are made special by the people that you go with to visit them and the memories that you make whilst you are there. **Joshua**

# TAKE HOME



**Can donating something important be a powerful way to show you care?**



## In the news this week

### Things to talk about at home ...

- What is your opinion of Pope Francis' decision to donate the popemobile? Why do you believe he decided to do this? Ask someone at home about their thoughts.
- Have you ever donated something? Could it be harder to donate something that's important to you?
- Can you think of examples of different times when people might donate items to help others?

**Please note any interesting thoughts or comments**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

