

# What's happening in the news this week?



Xinhua/Shutterstock

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

27th January - 2nd February 2025





**Who should be  
involved in key  
decisions for the  
world?**





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

New data has shown that 2024 was the Earth's hottest year on record, warming by 1.5°C. Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more extreme weather. This includes events such as heatwaves, storms, and wildfires.



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

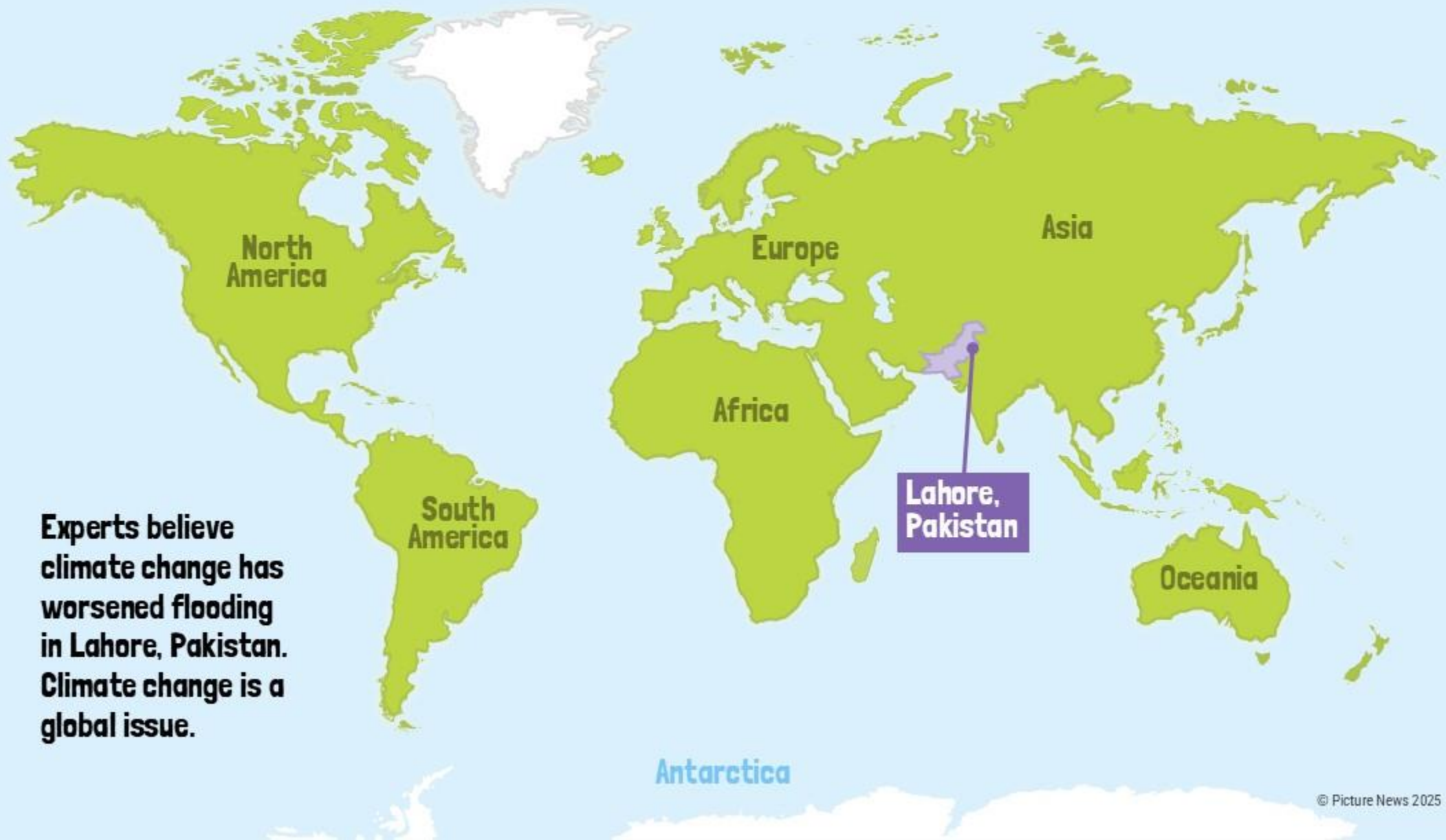
ashamed  
awkward  
chagrined  
demeaned  
discomposd  
humiliated  
self-conscious  
uncomfortable  
uneasy  
unsettled

## interested

absorbed  
captivated  
curious  
engaged  
enthralled  
fascinated  
gripped  
intrigued  
riveted



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





Read the information found below, which explains more about climate change and what the recent news could mean. Whose responsibility do you think it is, ultimately, to take care of our planet?

## What is climate change?

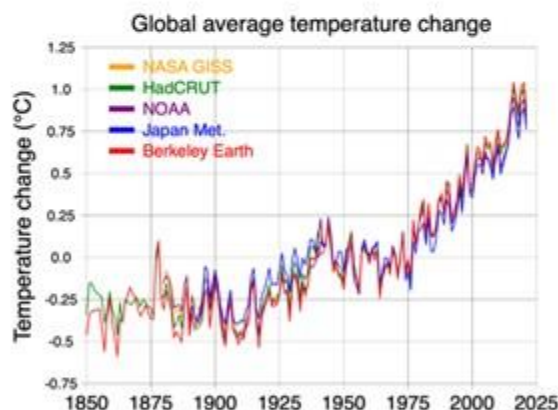
Climate change is the long-term change in our world's temperatures and weather. The Earth has been warming up more quickly over the past 100 years. Many places have consequently seen changes in weather, including flooding, droughts and heatwaves. Since the 1980s, each 10-year period has been warmer than the previous one, according to the UK Met Office.



The European Copernicus climate service, which monitors world temperatures, found that 2024 was the world's hottest year on record.

## What extreme weather took place in 2024?

1. In April, the United Arab Emirates received almost a year's rainfall in 24 hours. Roads were submerged and flights from Dubai's international airport were grounded.
2. A heatwave affected many parts of Asia in April and May. In India, red alert temperatures of 47°C happened at the same time as when many people queued outside to vote.
3. Austria experienced its warmest summer on record, Spain had its hottest August ever recorded, Finland tied for its warmest summer, and Switzerland recorded its second warmest summer.



**Pictured above:** A chart with different sources showing an increase in the Earth's temperature.

**Source:** Wikimedia Commons.



"I have learned you're never too small to make a difference."  
Climate activist, Greta Thunberg (pictured left).

**Do you agree with climate change activist, Greta Thunberg?**





Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about the climate change conference, COP29.

## What is COP29?

COP29 is a big meeting, where leaders from countries all over the world come together to talk about how to take care of our planet. The name 'COP' stands for Conference of the Parties, which means it's a meeting for countries that have promised to work together to stop climate change. The meeting takes place every year. The 29<sup>th</sup> meeting was held in 2024, so it was named COP29. It happened in a city called Baku in Azerbaijan.

Source: @Rens0288 on X.



## What happened at COP29?

At this meeting, world leaders made some important decisions:

- They promised to give more money to help countries protect themselves from problems caused by climate change, like floods and wildfires.
- They agreed on ways to make the air cleaner, like using less coal and oil, and planting more trees.
- They talked about how everyone needs to work together to keep the Earth safe and healthy.

## Fun fact!



Did you know that leaders from nearly 200 countries come to COP meetings? It's like a school council meeting, but for the whole world!







Look at the resource below, which shares some of the everyday actions we can take to help tackle climate change.

- Use less energy - turn off lights and unplug chargers.
- **Walk, cycle, or use public transport instead of driving.**
- Choose local foods to cut down on emissions.
- **Recycle paper, plastic, and glass to reduce waste.**
- Plant trees - they absorb carbon dioxide and help clean the air.
- **Save water by turning off taps when brushing your teeth.**
- Write letters to leaders about taking action on climate change.
- **Avoid single-use plastics, like straws and bags.**
- Buy less and reuse more - reduce waste!
- Talk to friends and family about why it's important to help.



Read the quote below from explorer and environmentalist, Robert Swan.

What do you think it means?

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."



**Do you do any of these activities? Which ones? Which do you think might make the biggest impact? How can you inspire others to take action?**





**Who should be  
involved in key  
decisions for the  
world?**



# Reflection



Our actions have a direct impact on the world around us.  
It's everyone's responsibility to be aware, from  
individuals to governments and world leaders.





# Media Literacy

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



**Explanation:** Let's consider the rise in temperature, and if there is anything we can do about it.



**Analyse**



**Evaluate**



**Research**



**Act**

## Questions to Discuss

- How has the rise in temperature impacted the Earth? How do you feel about this?
- What do others think about it? Can you learn anything from their perspectives or ideas?

## Reflection

Why is it important to listen, share ideas and work with others?

## Activity

Make a list of actions you could take that will have a positive impact on the Earth.

You could design a poster, leaflet or video to raise awareness and help others take action too!





## **Democracy**

We all have the right to share our ideas and be listened to. At COP29, world leaders showed democracy in action by working together to make decisions that will protect our planet.



# Protected Characteristics



The Earth's climate impacts everyone, no matter their background or nationality. To find solutions that work for everyone, it's important to listen to voices from all countries equally.



Sex



Sexual  
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender  
Reassignment



Marriage and  
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy  
and Maternity



Race



Religion  
or Belief





# UN Rights of the Child



We have the right to live in a world that is clean, healthy, and safe. World leaders can protect this right by meeting and making decisions that help tackle global warming and its effects.





# Useful vocabulary



## Climate change

The long-term change in the Earth's average temperatures and weather conditions.

Over recent years, the flooding has worsened, which experts believe is linked to **climate change**.

## Involved

Being a part of something important, like helping to make a decision.

Who should be **involved** in key decisions for the world?

## Decision

An important choice made by an individual or a group of people.

Who should be involved in key **decisions** for the world?

## Extreme weather

Types of weather that have a big impact on communities and the environment.

Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more **extreme weather**.

## Monsoon season

A time of very heavy rain in some hot countries, like in parts of Asia during the summer.

Explain that it is Lahore in Pakistan, and it often floods during the **monsoon season** there (June - September).

## Responsibility

Something that can be your job or duty to help to deal with.

Whose **responsibility** do you think it is, ultimately, to take care of our planet?

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



# Picture News



## Who should be involved in key decisions for the world?

New data has shown that 2024 was the Earth's hottest year on record, warming by 1.5°C. Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more extreme weather. This includes events such as heatwaves, storms, and wildfires.



- Look at this week's poster and talk about what you can see. Where in the world do you think this is? Explain that it is Lahore in Pakistan, and it often floods during the monsoon season there (June - September). Over recent years, the flooding has worsened, which experts believe is linked to climate change.
- Share what you know or are aware of about climate change.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource, which explains more about climate change and what the recent news could mean. Whose responsibility do you think it is, ultimately, to take care of our planet? E.g., individuals, educators, world leaders.
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows a news report about the story, including an interview with a climate scientist. What do you think are the most important points mentioned in the video? Do you think enough is currently being done?

### Reflection

Our actions have a direct impact on the world around us. It's everyone's responsibility to be aware, from individuals to governments and world leaders.

# Picture News



## KS1 focus

### What is COP29 and what did it achieve?



- What do we mean by climate change? What are some of the changes the world has seen as a result? Can you think of any recent extreme weathers that have had an impact on the world?
- Why is it important to take care of our planet? Can you think of some ways to help?
- What do you think leaders from all over the world discuss at COP? Can you name any world leaders?
- Look at resource 1, which explains more about COP29. Do you think these meetings are having an impact?
- What more do you think could be done by countries and world leaders to help prevent climate change from getting worse?
- What can you, your family, or your community do to help the planet? What are some small changes that could make a big difference?
- Whose responsibility should it be to implement changes?
- This year's COP meeting happened in Azerbaijan, and many leaders had to fly there. Do you think there could be a better way for leaders to meet and make decisions? How might long-haul flights affect the environment?

### Reflection

Leaders from all over the world make decisions to help keep the world safe and healthy. We can all make choices to help too – we all have a part to play!

# Picture News



## KS2 focus

### What are some things we can do to address climate change?



- What is climate change, and how does it affect the Earth and its people and animals?
- Why do you think it's important for us to take action to slow down climate change?
- What are some small changes you or your family can make to help the environment, like using less energy or recycling?
- Look at resource 2 for more ideas about the actions we can take. Which ones do you think are the most important? Why?
- How can schools or communities work together to make a difference, like planting trees or starting a recycling programme?
- What role do governments and world leaders play in addressing climate change?
- Why do you think some countries or people might find it harder to make changes than others?
- Do you think everyone has a responsibility to help, or should it be up to leaders and companies?
- Read the quote on resource 2, from Robert Swan. What do you think it means? How does it make you feel? How can messages from others inspire us to do more?
- If you were in charge of making a big decision about climate change, what would you do first? Why do you think it would make the biggest difference?

### Reflection

Climate change is a very real part of our lives. It is important that we consider our own responsibility in tackling it and making the world a better place for everyone.



# Picture News



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Work together to create a campaign to raise awareness about climate change. You might want to think about:

- What do you want people to know or do? Keep it simple and clear.
- Who are you trying to reach, e.g., other children, families, or the whole community?
- Will you create posters, leaflets, or maybe a short video?
- Suggest easy ways for people to help, like recycling, walking instead of driving, or using less energy.

When you've finished, present your campaign to the class, or display it around your school to inspire others!

### Option 2

Create a climate change impact map.

Use a blank world map or draw one as a group.

- Research to find examples of extreme weather or other climate-related changes in different regions (e.g., rising sea levels in island nations, wildfires, or droughts).
- Mark these events on the map using drawings, symbols, or colours (e.g., a flame for wildfires, a wave for flooding).
- Around the map, write or draw actions that could help each region, like planting trees, using renewable energy, or reducing water waste.

Share your map with others to raise awareness of these issues, but also to show that there are still things we can do to restore our climate.

# Picture News



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Why not hold a school council meeting to come up with some planet-friendly initiatives you can begin at school? You could plan something exciting, like a whole-school recycling challenge or even start a 'plant a tree' project! Everyone can pitch their ideas and vote for the best ones!



### Option 2

Get crafty and make your very own rain gauge! Use an empty plastic bottle (ask an adult to help cut it), pop it outside and watch how much rain you collect. You could use a pen to mark the water level and measure how much water you collect. You might even like to record your results to see when the most rainfall occurs, or how much water you can collect in a week/month.

Use the rainwater to water plants around school or at home. You're saving water and helping plants grow at the same time!

# Picture News



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd7575x8yq5o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd7575x8yq5o)

### This week's useful video

2024 first year to pass 1.5°C  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdOaNELFmQY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdOaNELFmQY)

### This week's Virtual Picture News

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

## This week's vocabulary

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## Message in a Bottle!

An Australian man walking along his local beach in Peterborough, in the southeastern state of Victoria in Australia, was very surprised to find a real message in a bottle! The bottle had been sent by an American man, named Joe Johnson, whilst on a cruise ship holiday in Brazil in November 2008. The bottle took 16 years to travel across the southern hemisphere! Mr Johnson said he had sent 'about a hundred' messages in bottles in his life, and that he had launched this one into the Atlantic Ocean, somewhere between Rio and Salvador.



**Pictured:**  
Message in a bottle found on beach!  
**Source:** Canva.

Mr Johnson's letter, inside the bottle, promised the finder a reward of \$20 for their trouble of contacting him, to let him know it had been found and where its final location was! One of the funniest parts of this story is that Mr Johnson had thrown many bottles into the ocean on his holidays to Australia, but it was the one he sent from Brazil (approx. 15,000km/10,000m away!) that had made the incredible journey all the way there!

***If you were to send a message in a bottle, what would you write?***

## Mammal Migration

An incredible and unusual natural phenomenon has captured scientists' awe, wonder and interest in Zambia, Africa. Kasanka National Park is currently seeing millions of fruit bats from all over the world flock to its evergreen forests. Scientists aren't exactly sure why the nocturnal mammals are choosing this particular habitat as their home for just three months, but they have said it could be for the delicious fruits that are found there. Whilst there, they play an important role in helping preserve the ecosystem, by

spreading and dispersing fruit seeds when they fly at night. One bat, dropping one seed, in a colony of a million, equals a lot of seed spreading! Like many creatures, they are at risk from habitat loss and hunting, which could affect both animals and humans who rely on the seeds they disperse, once they have grown into plants.

***Can you name any other nocturnal animals?***



**Pictured:** Flying fruit bats!  
**Source:** Canva.

### Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



*I think if people have paid for the land they should be able to build their homes on that land.*

**Jasper**



## Planetary Parade

It is an exciting time for skywatchers, as throughout January and February, six planets of our solar system will align in the sky. Saturn, Venus, Jupiter, Mars, Uranus and Neptune will form a planetary parade. During this period, you may be able to see Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn with the naked eye in the northern hemisphere! You will need a telescope to see Uranus and Neptune. The celestial event doesn't occur every



**Pictured:** The solar system. **Source:** Canva.

year - the next one won't happen until 2040! The planets will appear to be in a line. They are always on the ecliptic plane (an imaginary line in the solar system on which the planets orbit around the sun), though we typically can't see them! Famous astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, posted on social media, 'We may be in the depths of winter, but the coming planetary alignment is something to look forward to at the end of January. We should be able to start seeing things on the 18<sup>th</sup> and moving into February. I know it's great when the "stars align" but it's something else when the planets get in order!'

**Are you interested in planets?**

**Would you like to see the planets align?**



**Pictured:** Looking through a telescope.  
**Source:** Canva.

## Endangered 'Dancing' Bird Thriving in Captivity

The Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity (ACCB), in Cambodia, has announced their Bengal florican population is 'thriving in captivity'. The birds are being reared in a special facility, where they can develop their wild instincts. The critically endangered birds are ground-dwelling and the largest member of the bustard family. Their numbers are decreasing as the grasslands they live in come under threat. The species are well known for the male birds' elegant courtship displays. Described as an 'aerial dance', they hum, strut, fluff their necks, and can jump up to 2.4 metres in the air to strike impressive poses! Bengal florican eggs laid in the wild are being carefully hatched and then

raised at a conservation centre, as the subspecies was predicted to be extinct by 2023. It is hoped that the semi-captive birds will be able to be reintroduced to the wild.

**Do you know any facts about Bengal floricans?**

**Have you seen the birds' 'aerial dance'?**



**Pictured:** Bengal Florican Management Programme. **Source:** Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity on Facebook.

### Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



No, because some people are building homes in deserts, beaches and forests and taking animals home!

**Ella May**

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



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



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



@HelpPicture



# TAKEHOME

27th January  
- 2nd February



## In the news this week

New data has shown that 2024 was the Earth's hottest year on record, warming by 1.5°C. Around 200 countries had agreed to help keep the temperature rise below this figure because scientists say that increases could cause more extreme weather. This includes events such as heatwaves, storms, and wildfires.

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

- > Share what you know about climate change with others at home, and ask others to share their understanding.
- > Do you think more could and should be done to tackle climate change? If so, what and by whom?

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)

