

What's happening in the news this week?



ANDY RAIN/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

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

28th April - 4th May 2025



Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?



Let's look at this week's story

Many workers in Birmingham have been on strike (choosing not to work) since January, because they believe they are not being treated or paid fairly. The workers on strike are the people whose job it is to collect rubbish and empty the bins from outside homes and streets. As an all-out strike has now been going on since 11th March, huge piles of rubbish are building up around the city.



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 below, which provides more details about the strikes in Birmingham and what's happening to rubbish there.

Why are refuse workers in Birmingham on strike?

The workers feel that their health and safety isn't always treated with importance, and that their pay isn't going up enough, given the responsibility they have in their roles. They also have concerns about job reductions, where some people might lose their jobs in the future.

There are meetings and discussions being held, but no agreements have been made yet.



Pictured above: Local resident, Maksood Altaf, with his car full of rubbish.
Source: Maksood Altaf.

When did the strikes start?

Many workers have been holding strikes since January, with an all-out strike, involving most workers, beginning on 11th March. Some people have not had their waste collected in over four weeks.



How are people managing?

Some people are taking their own rubbish and recycling to landfill and recycling centres, like Maksood Altaf (pictured). For others without transport, it's more difficult to move the waste.

Birmingham resident, Claire Perkins, said it was horrible seeing her bins go uncollected, 'You come out in the morning and the bins are so full. The crows sit on top of the bins because there are no lids, and they throw rubbish everywhere'.

Share your thoughts on the situation. How would you feel if it was your local neighbourhood?



Look at the resource below, which shows some of the people in communities who help to take care of local areas.



police officers



local volunteers



gardeners

Reflection

When people work together in our local area, it can help to make a cleaner, safer and nicer place for everyone to live.



waste disposal and recycling collectors



builders



street cleaners



road workers

Why might these roles be important? Have you ever met or spoken to any of these community workers before?



Look at the resource below, which explains what happens to our rubbish.

General Waste

General waste includes items such as dirty packaging or food-contaminated cardboard (e.g., greasy pizza boxes), broken toys or household items, disposable nappies, tissues, and wipes. It is the rubbish we throw away that cannot easily be recycled or composted.

Once collected, most of our general waste goes to landfill sites, which are large areas of land designed to store rubbish safely underground. However, landfills fill up quickly and can cause environmental issues, like pollution.

Some general waste is burned in special incinerators to create electricity and heat for buildings, helping reduce landfill use.



Metal

Metal cans and tins are cleaned, sorted (steel or aluminium), then melted down. The molten metal is poured into moulds or sheets to form new metal products, such as drinks cans, bikes and scooters, cars and buses, and kitchen utensils like saucepans and cutlery.



Plastic

Plastic bottles and containers are cleaned, sorted by type and colour, then shredded into tiny pieces called flakes. These flakes are melted down into pellets that can be reshaped into new plastic items, including drinks bottles, clothing like fleece jackets, plastic bags, toys and storage containers.

Paper and Cardboard

Paper and cardboard are collected and sorted. They're then mixed with water and chemicals to form a pulp, cleaned to remove ink and staples, and finally dried and rolled into new paper products, like newspapers, notebooks, writing paper, toilet rolls and cardboard boxes.



Food and Garden Waste (Composting)

Food scraps and garden waste naturally break down into compost over time. You can do composting yourself at home, or at special facilities. This compost is rich in nutrients and can be used to help plants grow.

Glass

Glass jars and bottles are separated by colour and then crushed into small pieces called cullet. This cullet is melted down and shaped into new glass products, including jam jars, drinks bottles, windows, and glass containers for food and drinks.



Reflection

We can all make a difference by sorting rubbish carefully, recycling more, and taking responsibility for how we deal with waste.



Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?

Reflection



When we care for the place we live, we care for the people in it too. Even small actions, like putting rubbish in the bin, can help make our local area cleaner and better for everyone.



Media Literacy

Can you reflect on how your actions might impact others?



Explanation: Let's think about how we can all make a positive difference through our own actions.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- Why do you think the bin workers felt it was important to take action?
- How can taking a stand make a positive impact?
- Can you think of examples where someone's actions helped bring about change?

Reflection

Even small, thoughtful actions can make a big difference to the people around us. When we act with kindness, fairness, or courage, we help shape a better world.

Activity

Small Actions, Big Impact

On one side of a piece of card, draw or write one action you could take this week, to help someone else or improve your school or local area. On the other side, explain how this action could make a positive difference.



Mutual Respect

Everyone deserves to feel valued and respected at school or work. By showing respect to others, we can help make sure everyone feels fairly treated and listened to.

Protected Characteristics



Both men and women work as refuse collectors, but sometimes people wrongly think it's a 'man's job'. It's important not to stereotype. Everyone, no matter their sex, deserves fair pay and respect at work.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the right to a clean and safe environment. When rubbish piles up, it can affect children's health and safety. Governments should work to solve problems quickly, so that children have clean places to grow up.



Useful Vocabulary



Consequences

The results of something that has happened. Consequences can be positive or negative.

Share your response to the actions and **consequences** of the workers in Birmingham.

Job reductions

When an employer decides some job roles or workers are no longer needed.

They also had concerns about **job reductions**, where some people might lose their jobs in the future.

Landfill

A large place where rubbish, that cannot be reused or recycled, is taken to. The rubbish is buried in the ground and left to break down.

Some people are taking their own rubbish and recycling to **landfill** and recycling centres.

Recycling centre

A place where things such as plastic, paper, metal and glass can be collected, sorted and processed by special machines to be made into something new.

Some people are taking their own rubbish and recycling to landfill and **recycling centres**.

Resident

A person who lives in a particular place, such as a house, town, city or country.

Birmingham **resident**, Claire Perkins, said it was horrible seeing her bins go uncollected.

Strike

When workers choose to stop working. They might ask for more money, safer working conditions, or other changes to their job role.

The workers on **strike** are the people whose job it is to collect rubbish and empty the bins from outside homes and streets.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?

Many workers in Birmingham have been on strike (choosing not to work) since January, because they believe they are not being treated or paid fairly. The workers on strike are the people whose job it is to collect rubbish and empty the bins from outside homes and streets. As an all-out strike has now been going on since 11th March, huge piles of rubbish are building up around the city.



- Look at this week's poster, and make a prediction about the story. Share your response to the workers' actions and the consequences of the strikes in Birmingham.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource, which provides more details about the strikes in Birmingham, and what's happening to rubbish there. Share your thoughts on the situation. How would you feel if it was your local neighbourhood?
- Watch this week's useful video, showing some of the streets in Birmingham. How would you describe what you can see?
- Talk about the reasons behind the strikes, the difficult circumstances, and why the workers may have chosen to take that action. Share your thoughts on how the situation could be resolved. Can you think of a time when you made a stand about something that was unfair?

Reflection

When we care for the place we live, we care for the people in it too. Even small actions, like putting rubbish in the bin, can help make our local area cleaner and better for everyone.

Picture News



KS1 focus

Who in our community helps take care of our local area?



- Reflect on your walk or journey to school this morning. What was it like? Were the streets, pavements and bins clean, tidy and empty? Or did you notice rubbish and litter nearby? What were the roads like if you travelled by bus or car? Were they smooth or were there potholes and bumps in the road?
- Encourage the children to share their experiences of their journeys to school, and ask – why do you think your local area is clean, tidy and looked after? Or if it is not, why not?
- If an experience was a negative one, ask the children to think why that might be. Could it be that there isn't someone to help look after the local area? Or could it be that there is, and that they are busy and haven't got to that place yet? Perhaps there is another reason. Share your thoughts.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some images of people in the community who help take care of the local area.
- Do you recognise any of these job roles? Have you ever seen any of these people at work before? Why do you think their job might be important?
- Ask the class to choose one of the job roles shown on resource 1. What might happen in our local area if this person didn't do their job? Choose another role and discuss again.
- Most of these people's job roles and duties are completed outside. What do you think happens when the weather is bad? What do you think it would be like?
- Would you like to do any of these jobs in the future? Why?

Reflection

When people work together in our local area, it can help to make a cleaner, safer and nicer place for everyone to live.

Picture News



KS2 focus

Where does different rubbish go?



- Did you know that, in a typical year, households in the UK each produce around 1 tonne of waste on average? What do you do with your waste? Who takes out the bins? Do you recycle?
- Can you name some things that can be recycled? What happens if recyclable rubbish gets mixed with other waste? How do you know which items should go into recycling and which should not?
- What problems could arise if rubbish is not collected regularly, as seen in Birmingham? Think about how this might affect people, animals or the environment.
- Look at resource 2, which explains a little more about what happens to our rubbish.
- Have you heard of composting before? How can composting help reduce rubbish? Have you ever composted anything – what happened to it?
- Can you think of any other ways we can reduce the amount of rubbish we produce?
- Why might some people not recycle, even if they have recycling bins?
- Who do you think is responsible for making sure rubbish is disposed of correctly?
- What could you do at home, to reduce waste or dispose of rubbish more responsibly?
- How can we help encourage more people at school to recycle?

Reflection

We can all make a difference by sorting rubbish carefully, recycling more, and taking responsibility for how we deal with waste.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Become a rubbish detective for the day, or even the whole week!

1. Keep a diary or draw pictures of everything you throw away – food wrappers, paper, plastic, banana peels... whatever it is, write it down or sketch it.
2. At the end of your challenge, look back through your list. How many things could have gone in the recycling or compost bin instead?
3. Think like a waste-saving superhero: what could you do differently next time to cut down on waste?

Option 2

Could you do more to get rid of waste responsibly at school? Create an action plan to address an area of waste disposal that you'd like to improve. This could be composting food waste from lunchtimes, collecting items for recycling, or something else! Think about:

- What waste is being produced at school, that could be disposed of more responsibly? E.g., food, paper, plastic.
- What could you do about it? E.g., reuse for arts and crafts, collect for recycling, composting etc.
- What resources do you need? E.g., bins for collecting/storing, composting heap.
- How will you spread the word?

Work together to make signs and posters, informing others of the changes and encouraging them to join in with the project!

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Let's make a thank you card for someone who helps to take care of our local area!

It's always nice to say thank you and let others know that their work is appreciated. You could create a card from you all as a class or make individual cards.

You might like to think about:

- Who your card is for and the role they do. Will you make a card for the local gardener or perhaps for the street cleaner?
- What you would like to thank them for. Is it their hard work? Is it how nice they help to make your local area look? Is it that they complete their role, come rain or shine?

With the help of your teacher or grown up, deliver your card to your local community hero, and give them your thanks for how they help to look after your local area!



Option 2

Can you do some tidying and rubbish sorting in this fun [online game](#)? Help to tidy up the bedroom and sort the rubbish into the correct waste bins. Can you put all of the waste into the correct bins?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y4g7pp7d8o

This week's useful video

Some of the streets of Birmingham with uncollected rubbish
<https://youtu.be/Rru4g5HDp4w>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Girl (Pocket) Power!

When 8-year-old Georgia, from Suffolk, England, went shopping for new school trousers with her mum in Sainsbury's in 2024, she was shocked to find that the items available did not have pockets! 'They didn't have real pockets; they just had fake ones and then we went in the boys', and they had pockets, and I thought it was unfair, so I bought boys' trousers', Georgia said.

After her sad Sainsbury's shopping experience, Georgia wrote a letter to them with her findings, to which Sainsbury's replied, 'I'm sorry currently girls' school trousers do not have pockets. I agree they should'. Georgia then got 56 children to sign a petition, but Sainsbury's



Pictured: Georgia wearing her new school trousers with pockets!
Source: Family photo.

didn't respond to it. However, when shopping in Sainsbury's in 2025, Georgia found that the trousers for sale now had pockets! It wasn't until the 17th century that pockets began to be sewn into clothing, but they were separate bags sewn into the lining of coats or dresses. By the 18th century, pockets as we know them now were sewn into men's coats and trousers and were not included in women's clothes until much later. ***The average person uses their pockets 10-15 times a day! Do you like clothes with pockets?***

Tail Meow About It!

Mr Pugsley Addams, a well-loved family cat from Minnesota, USA, has been given a Guinness World Record for having the longest tail! Mr Pugsley is a silver Maine Coon, a breed of cat which is one of the largest domestic cats around. They are also well known for being soft, fluffy, and super friendly. 'He's just a great little guy to be around', his owner said. The Maine Coon can be many different colours, from black, cream, tabby, tortoiseshell or grey, just like Mr Pugsley. Mr Pugsley's tail measures 46.99cm, which is about the same length as a skateboard or a baguette, and the family said that comments about his long tail



Pictured: Mr Pugsley Addams with his family!
Source: MPR News, on Facebook.

were mentioned during his very first appointment at the vets when he was a kitten. Remarks about his tail just kept coming, and when the family did some research on the internet, they found that Mr Pugsley's tail beat the one held on record! How purrrfect!

Watch a video of Mr Pugsley being confirmed as the Guinness World Record holder [here!](#)

What qualities should a positive role model have?



Role models should be people we can look up to. They need to be kind, honest and hard working.
Deepa

Egg-citing New Arrivals!

Philadelphia Zoo, in Pennsylvania, USA, has announced, for the first time in its 150-year history, that critically endangered Western Santa Cruz Galapagos tortoises have been born there! Galapagos Tortoise parents, Mommy and Abrizzo (the zoo's oldest residents) are estimated to be 100 years old. Four healthy babies have hatched, and it is hoped that they will help to ensure the species' survival. 'This is a significant milestone in the



Pictured: One of the tortoise eggs hatching.
Source: Philadelphia Zoo, on Facebook.

history of Philadelphia Zoo, and we couldn't be more excited to share this news with our city, region, and the world,' says Philadelphia Zoo's Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman. 'Mommy arrived at the zoo in 1932, meaning anyone that has visited the zoo for the last 92 years has likely seen her. Philadelphia Zoo's vision is that those hatchlings will be a part of a thriving population of Galapagos tortoises on our healthy planet 100 years from now.'

Did you know that a healthy Galapagos tortoise can survive up to a year without eating or drinking?



Pictured: Western Santa Cruz Galapagos tortoise.
Source: Philadelphia Zoo on Facebook.

Supermarket Sensory Support Boxes

UK supermarket, Morrisons, has introduced Sensory Support Boxes, with the aim of creating a positive shopping experience for autistic and neurodivergent customers. Morrisons announced it has worked with the National Autistic Society to develop collections of items that help encourage calmness and focus. The boxes include drawing boards, fidget balls, spinners, and squish mats. Customers are encouraged to request an item from the box at the beginning of their shop, and they will be available across 500 stores from May. Peter Watt, from the National Autistic Society said, 'The Morrisons Foundation Sensory Support Boxes are a brilliant initiative to support autistic and neurodivergent customers while shopping. Supermarkets are a key part of all of our lives, but for many autistic



Pictured: Children and Morrisons staff with a Sensory Box. **Source:** Morrisons, on Facebook.

customers they can be a loud, bright and crowded environment, which can be overwhelming especially for those with sensory sensitivities. During World Autism Acceptance Month, it's really important for all businesses and retail spaces to learn more about the changes they can make to be more inclusive and accessible for autistic and neurodivergent people.'
Do you think this is a good idea?
What else could supermarkets do to become more inclusive?

What qualities should a positive role model have?



Role models need to show us how to live a good life so that we can be happy.
Rhian

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



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@HelpPicture

TAKEHOME

28th April
- 4th May



Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Talk to someone at home about what happens to your rubbish. Where do you take it? Do you know where it goes? What about your recycling?
- > Tell someone at home about this week's story. What do you think it might be like for some people living in Birmingham at the moment?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

