

What's happening in the world today?



We encourage children to read this together with their adults at home to develop their understanding of current news items and topics for discussion. We have included links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals against each story, which will help the children to see how they can have a positive impact in the wider world.



COP26 – What, Why, Who, When and Where?



What - COP stands for Conference of the Parties. The 2021 meeting will be the 26th meeting, which is why it's called COP26.

Why - The COP26 meeting is about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. Any decisions made could lead to big changes to our everyday lives.

Who - The meeting will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994. This is a legally binding agreement when countries committed to avoiding any behaviours that could lead to "dangerous climate change".

When and Where - COP26 is taking place between 31st October and 12th November 2021 at the SSE Hydro Venue in Glasgow.

So far...

➤ At the Opening Ceremony, in a video message, the Queen urged world leaders to act on climate change for future generations saying "the time for words has now moved to the time for action".

➤ Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed the conference, saying it "must mark the beginning of the end" of climate change.

➤ Naturalist David Attenborough says carbon emissions must be halved this decade.

➤ Climate activist Greta Thunberg tells young protesters politicians are "pretending to take our future seriously"

➤ The summit's first deal will see more than 100 countries including Brazil, Canada and Russia promise to stop deforestation by 2030.



What decisions would you like world leaders to make? What areas do you think they should focus on? What little things can we all do that could help make a big difference?

Long legs on a long walk

Hundreds of people gathered in Wigan to welcome a giant puppet of a nine-year-old Syrian refugee to the town. Little Amal, who is 3.5m tall, was met by crowds of people on Sunday as she neared the end of her journey. Controlled by three puppeteers, Little Amal's journey started in July and she has travelled almost 5,000 miles from the Turkish-Syrian border to the UK. The project is called "The Walk" and Little Amal was created as part of an initiative to raise awareness of the plight of young migrants.



How would you welcome a refugee who had travelled 5000 miles?

Happy Diwali!

The Hindu festival of Diwali always falls some time between October and November, but the exact date varies each year as the Hindu calendar is based on the Moon. This year Diwali is on Thursday 4th November. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' and Hindus celebrate the festival with firework displays and decorating buildings with fancy lights.



Do you know why lights are so important in the story of Diwali?

