



## What's going on this week?

Internet and media companies should do more to tackle the spread of misinformation as falsehoods have increased during the coronavirus pandemic, fact-checking organisation Full Fact said in a report released early May. "Bad information ruins lives," Chief Executive Will Moy said. "Here in the UK, we have seen misinformation take hold in the form of fake cures, spurious claims, conspiracy theories and financial scams."

### Main question:

**Should we always believe what we hear from the news?**

#### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about how we hear about what's happening in the news. Do we watch newsround or read a paper? Do we hear about the news from adults at home?
- Have we ever heard of the term 'fake news', what do we think this means? Explain that fake news is simply news stories we may hear about that aren't true.
- Explain that sometimes, news stories have been completely made up, others are based on the truth—often it is because what isn't true may seem more interesting and it may get us to click a link, or watch something we may not have done otherwise.
- Watch this week's useful video which explains what we mean by fake news. Does any of the information surprise us?
- Read through the assembly resource which provides information about the news and guidance on how to check what we hear.
- Talk through some of the places that we know provide news that we can trust. E.g. Newsround, BBC News, First News etc. Explain that it is still important to know that even places that check can still make mistakes too, as they may want to get the news out there quickly and not check all their facts!

### Reflection

The news can help to educate us and inform us about what is happening all over the world. It's important to check what we hear to make sure it's true!



## KS1 Focus

### Question:

**How can we hear about the news?**

#### Listen, think, share

- Explain that the news is information about events that are happening at the moment. Do you watch, listen to or read about the news?
- Think about something that is being shared in the news at the moment. How did you hear about it?
- There are many ways the news can be shared. Look at the main assembly resource to remind you of some of these. Do you access the news using any of these ways? Can you think of any other ways?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some children's opinions about the news and how they access it. Which way do you prefer? Do you think everyone likes to hear about the news in the same way? Why?
- Look at Benjamin's comment. He would prefer not to hear about the news at all. What do you think about his choice? Do you think some news is difficult not to hear about? Discuss what you might do if you heard news that you didn't understand or were worried about.
- Sometimes news is local, regional, national or international. Do you know what these mean? Explain that local and regional refer to the area where you live, national is the country you live in and international is another country in the world.
- We might even have school news! Can you think about how news in school might be shared e.g. in assemblies, on the website, in a weekly newsletter.

### Reflection

We can choose how we want to hear about the news. Sometimes we find out about news without even meaning to. It is important to ask questions and talk to a grown-up if this happens.



## KS2 Focus

### Question:

**Can you always tell if news is fake?**

#### Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'fake'. What does it mean? Can you give an example of something that can be fake e.g. fake money, fake nails?
- Explain that fake is when something is not genuine, real or true. Some fake things are marketed that way and are harmless such as fake nails but others are deliberately deceitful and can cause harm such as fake money and fake news!
- Think of some of the harm hearing fake news might cause e.g. it might persuade you to buy a product that isn't as described, it might influence your political opinions, it might affect businesses or individual people in a negative way.
- It can be tricky to tell if the news is fake or genuine. Look at the main assembly resource to recap ways to spot fake news then look at resource 2, which shows examples of the news. Can you spot which are fake and which are real? How do you know? Are there any you are unsure of and would need to find out more? (Facebook post and word of mouth are the fakes).
- Explain that news on the internet can spread rapidly and reach the whole world. List the positives and negatives of this.
- Fake news can also be spread through word of mouth. We sometimes call a story or report that is spread this way a rumour. Have you ever come across this before, perhaps at school, where something was spread that wasn't true. What might it feel like?

### Reflection

Spotting fake news can be tricky and if it is believed and shared it can become harmful. There are steps we can take to help us check if it is fake news or not. If we cannot tell, it is always good to ask an adult you trust to help.



## KS2 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Think about an incident or event since your time in lockdown e.g. a family game night, learning a new skill, creating a meal, camping in the garden. Turn the event into a news report! Think about:

- How will you report your event e.g. newspaper, television report, interview.
- Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- Report in third person – she, he, they.
- Use past tense – it has already happened.
- Will you include a headline, pictures, quotes?
- Make sure it is true!

Write or record your report. If possible, share them with others in your class or school so you can see everyone's news!

**Option 2:** Media Maths! Look at the following information from the 2018 Ofcom News Consumption in the UK report produced by Jigsaw Research:

- How adults access the news - 44% radio, 79% TV, 40% newspapers, 64% internet.
- Most used news sources – ITV 41%, Facebook 33%, BBC 62%.
- Six in ten children aged 12-15 claim to be interested in the news.

Complete the following:

- What is the most used news source?
- Order how adults access the news from most popular to least popular.
- Can you record each percentage as a decimal percentage and a fraction?
- How many 12-15 year olds in every ten are not interested in the news?
- What percentage of 12-15 year olds do claim to be interested in the news?



## KS1 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Find out about something that is happening in the news at the moment. Perhaps you could use the Picture News Paper or watch a clip from BBC Newsround? Once you have chosen your story think about:

- What happened?
- Where did it happen?
- When did it happen?
- Who was involved?
- How did the news story make you feel?
- Do you have any questions you would like to ask?

Draw a picture to show the news story.

**Option 2:** Quite often, when we watch or listen to the news on the TV or the radio, it begins and ends with music. Sometimes we call this a jingle. It is usually quite catchy, simple and easily recognised. Listen to the music found at the start of BBC Newsround or the Picture News Virtual Assembly.

- What do you like about the music?
- What don't you like about the music?
- Can you describe the sound? Is it soft or loud? Fast or slow?

Use items found at home such as pans, boxes, any musical instruments or even your body (clapping, clicking, your voice) to create your own jingle that could be used at the beginning of the news.



## This Week's Useful Websites

[This week's news story](#)

<https://reut.rs/2Svc9PD>



## This Week's Useful Videos

[What is fake news?](#)

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51271837](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51271837)



**\*\*NEW\*\*** [This week's Virtual Assembly](#)

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

## This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Conspiracy theory** – a belief that a group of people or an organisation are responsible for an unexplained event that may be trying to harm someone or achieve something.

**Falsehood** – the state of being untrue.

**Financial scam** – a dishonest or fraudulent scheme that attempts to take money from people.

**Media** – the main means to mass communicate e.g. newspapers, TV, Internet, radio.

**Misinformation** – wrong information given to someone in a deliberate attempt to make them believe something that is not true.

**Spurious** – seems to be genuine but is false or fake.