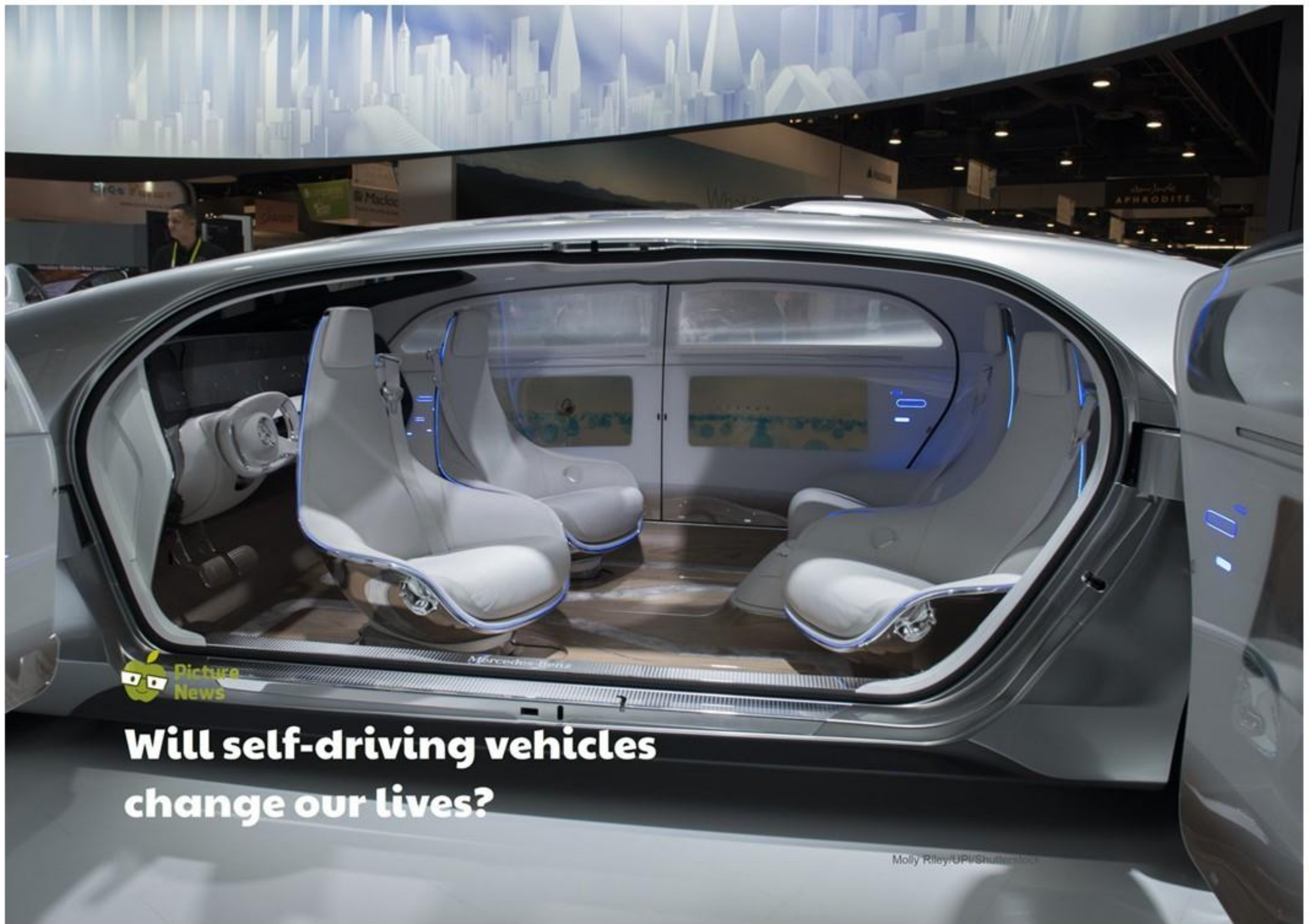


What's happening in the news this week?



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

22nd - 28th January 2024



**Will self-driving vehicles
change our lives?**



Let's look at this week's story

Motorists in Britain could be completing journeys using driverless cars by 2026 the transport secretary, Mark Harper, has predicted. He believes that fully autonomous vehicles, in which people become passengers in their own cars, will arrive in the UK that year and follow a gradual rollout. The government introduced a bill in a speech by King Charles III that paved the way for autonomous cars, without a safety driver, after pressure from industry, MPs, and Sir Patrick Vallance in his recent review of technology regulation.



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	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

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





Read the information below about driverless vehicles.

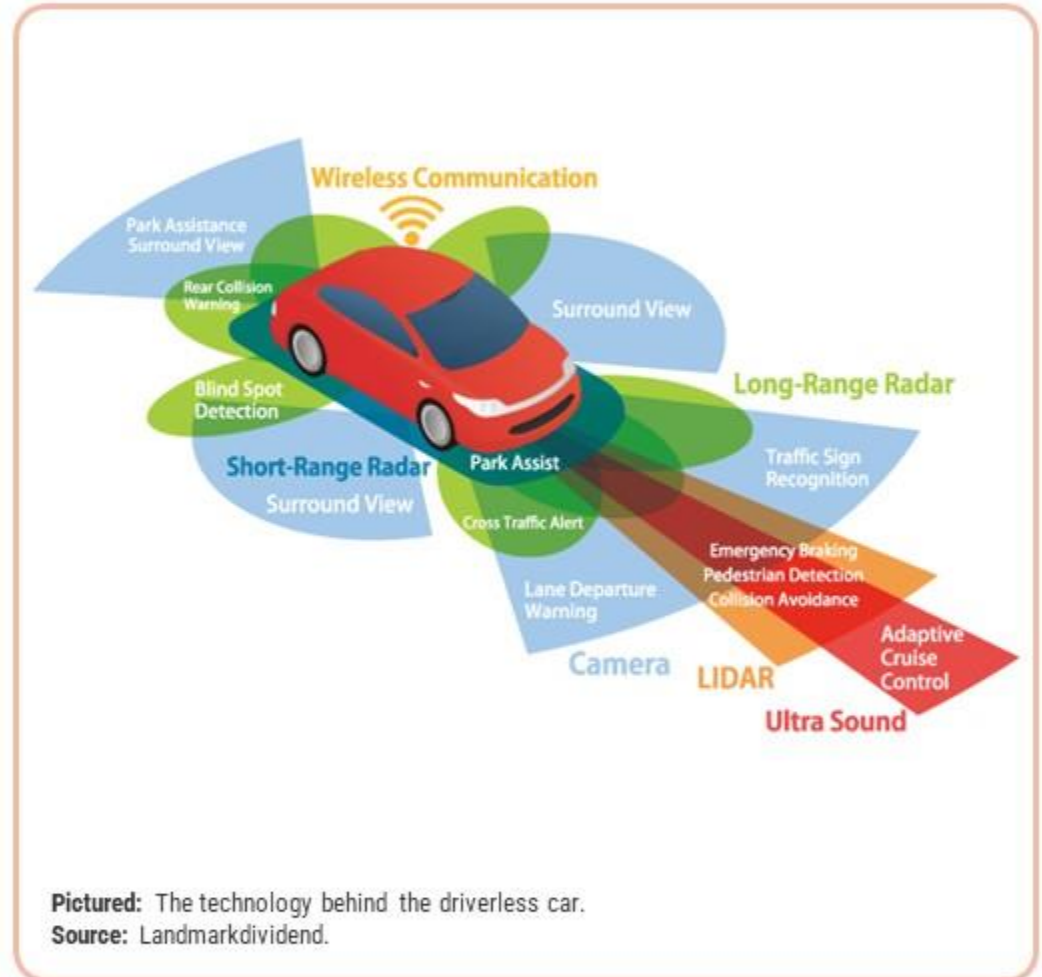
What is a driverless vehicle?

A self-driving vehicle, also known as an autonomous or driverless vehicle, is a mode of transport that can travel without human input. Self-driving cars use sensors to identify their surroundings, such as optical and heat cameras, radar, GPS, and other technologies.

Using this information, the car then identifies an appropriate navigation path and strategies for managing traffic controls e.g., traffic lights or stop signs.

Are driverless vehicles ready to be used in the UK?

At the moment, only Ford's Mustang Mach-E can allow drivers to take their hands off the wheel on certain sections of motorway in England, Wales, and Scotland. The carmaker says drivers must keep their eyes on the road.



Do you think you would feel comfortable travelling without a driver?



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of different vehicles.



Boat



Digger



Motorbike



Tractor



Car



Van



Train



Aeroplane



Bicycle



Bus



Lorry



Scooter

Which of these vehicles have you used to travel with before? Which do you prefer? Why?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about the six levels of driving automation.



Level 0 no automation

The driver of these vehicles is always in control and fully responsible. Some of these vehicles may contain driver assistance features, such as automatic emergency braking, but these are not considered as autonomous functions. The driver must always remain engaged in driving.

Level 1 hands on/shared control

The automation in these vehicles provides the driver with continuous assistance with acceleration, braking or steering e.g., adaptive cruise control. The driver must remain fully attentive and engaged.

Level 2 hands off

These vehicles are similar to level 1 automation as they continuously drive with acceleration, braking, and steering but they are also often equipped with advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) that can take control. Some level 2 vehicles allow drivers to take their hands off the steering wheel (if the road permits them to). The driver must remain fully attentive and engaged.

Level 3 eyes off

Vehicles with level 3 automation handle all driving tasks. Drivers still need to be there, ready to take the wheel in case ADAS needs assistance but this level of automation should allow drivers to send emails, scroll social media or read a book!

Level 4 mind off

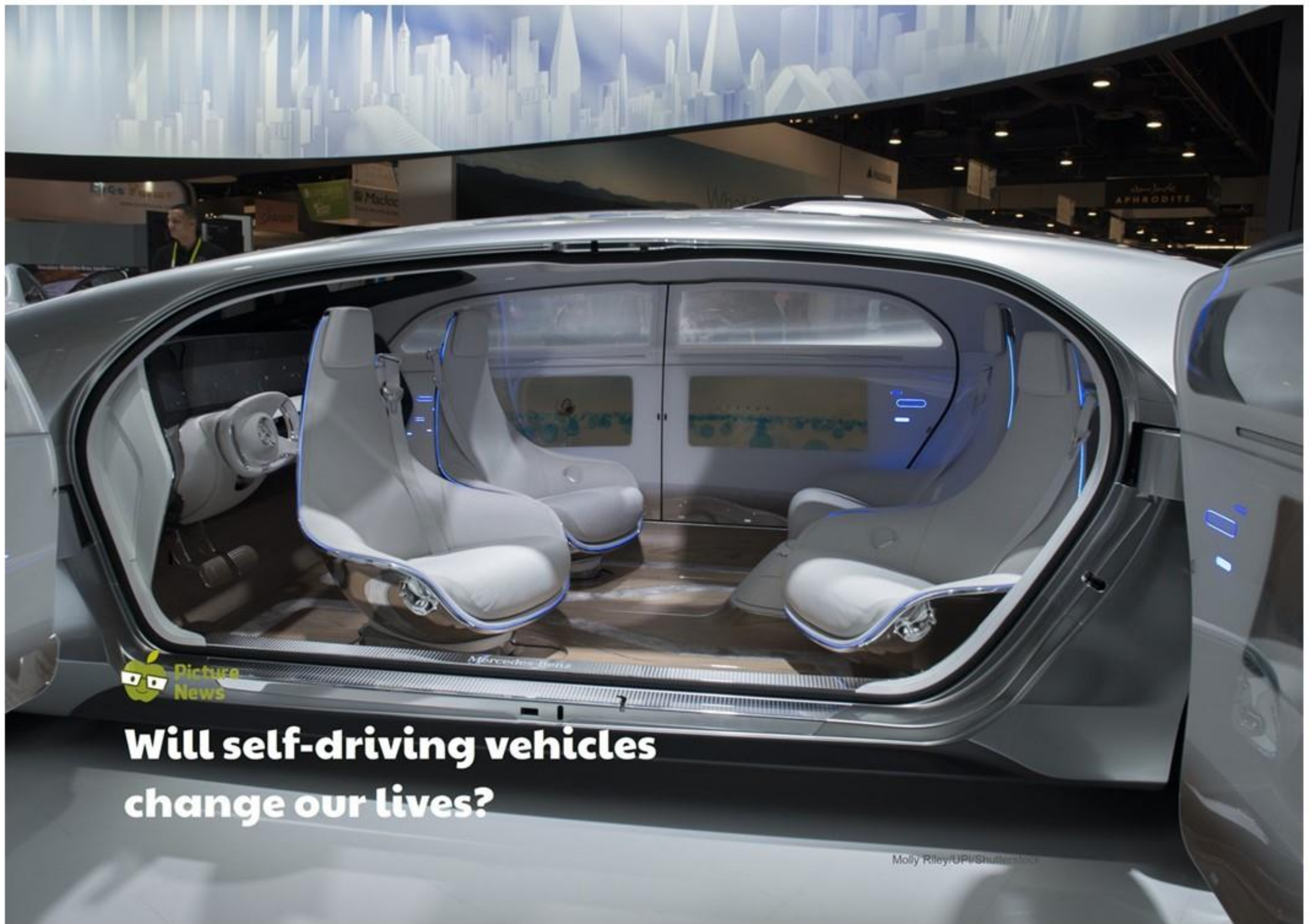
The autonomous systems in these vehicles are completely responsible for all driving and navigation. Passengers can be transported in these self-driving vehicles and do not need to be ready to take control.

Level 5 full driving automation

These vehicles take full control of all driving and navigational tasks. Passengers set the destination and then relax, work, play, sleep, chat – whatever they would like to do!



What level of automation has there been in any of the vehicles you have travelled in?



**Will self-driving vehicles
change our lives?**

Reflection



Self-driving transport has the power to revolutionise how we travel and could allow people to hand the control over to technology.





Rule of Law

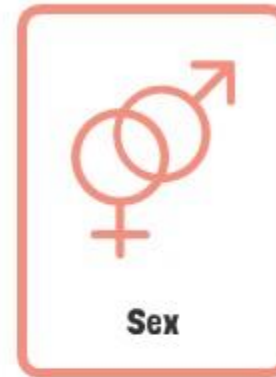
There are rules and laws that people must follow when driving vehicles. These help keep everyone safe.

As we move into the future, the rules and laws will change. Who is responsible for vehicles in the future may change too!

Protected Characteristics



Driverless vehicles may make travel more accessible and inclusive.
Having a disability should never mean we are treated unfairly.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



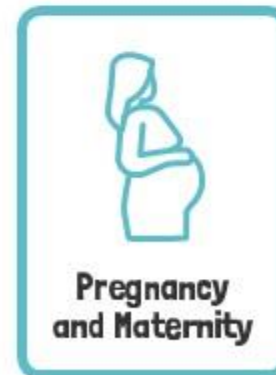
Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion and Belief



UN Rights of a Child



When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children, which may affect how and when we use driverless vehicles in the future.



Useful vocabulary



Autonomous

Able to operate without being controlled directly by humans.

The government introduced a bill in a speech by King Charles III that paved the way for **autonomous** cars.

Bill

A formal statement of a planned new law that is discussed before being voted on.

The government introduced a **bill** in a speech by King Charles III.

Navigation

The act of knowing your position and planning and following a route.

Using this information, the car then identifies an appropriate **navigation** path and strategies for managing traffic controls.

Optical

Relating to vision or light.

Self-driving cars use sensors to identify their surroundings, such as **optical** and heat cameras, radar, GPS, and other technologies.

Revolutionise

To drastically change something for the better.

Self-driving transport has the power to **revolutionise** how we travel.

Rollout

Make something available for the first time.

He believes that fully autonomous vehicles, in which people become passengers in their own cars, will arrive in the UK that year and follow a gradual **rollout**.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Teenager 'beats' Tetris



Pictured (top): Willis Gibson aka Blue Scuti. **Source:** Blue Scuti - Willis Gibson @bluescuti1771 X page.

Pictured (bottom): Image of Willis playing Tetris from his YouTube video 'The First Time Somebody Has Ever "Beat" Tetris'. **Source:** YouTube.

13-year-old Willis Gibson, aka Blue Scuti, has made gaming history by becoming the first person to complete the original version of the popular computer puzzle game, Tetris. The Tetris player prodigy from Oklahoma, USA uploaded a video, which documented his victory, titled 'The First Time Somebody Has Ever "Beat" Tetris' to YouTube. Willis stated, 'When I started playing this game, I never expected to ever crash the game, or beat it. This run was also the Overall Score, Level, Lines, and 19 Score world record.' The gaming superstar advanced so far in the original Nintendo version of the game that, after reaching level 157, it froze, and his score read 999999. The classic video game's website describes itself saying, 'The goal of Tetris is to score as many points as possible by clearing horizontal lines of

Blocks. The player must rotate, move, and drop the falling Tetriminos inside the Matrix (playing field). Lines are cleared when they are filled with Blocks and have no empty spaces. As lines are cleared, the level increases and Tetriminos fall faster, making the game progressively more challenging. If the Blocks land above the top of the playing field, the game is over.' The game was first released 34 years ago and has been described until now as 'unbeatable'.

Have you ever played Tetris? How do you think it felt to complete a game that people have been playing without finishing for so many years?

Happy Birthday Gruffalo!

Julia Donaldson's much-loved book, *The Gruffalo*, is 25 years old this year, and the celebrations have begun! The famous children's author has started the special year by returning to a very significant location – the primary school in Scotland where she first read her unpublished book. Julia visited Auchterhouse Primary School in 1997. She asked for the pupils' opinions on the story and encouraged them to draw pictures of what they thought the Gruffalo would look like, promising that if the book was ever published, she would dedicate it to the school. She was true to her word and the Angus primary school has been celebrated at the front of every version of the story that has been printed since it was first published in 1999! The Gruffalo became incredibly successful, has been translated into 107 different languages and dialects, and has sold millions of copies around the world! Ms Donaldson said, 'The Gruffalo's origins go back to when I first tried the story out in primary schools in Scotland, with a memorable visit to Auchterhouse, under the wing of Scottish Book Trust. Scottish Book Trust has been doing great work for 25 years supporting children with literacy and improving access to books.'



Pictured: The 25th anniversary edition of *The Gruffalo*. **Source:** Scottish Book Trust @scottishbktrust X page.



Pictured: *The Gruffalo* with Julia Donaldson and pupils at Auchterhouse Primary School. **Source:** Scottish Book Trust @scottishbktrust X page.

Have you ever thought about writing a book? Do you think any of your story ideas could be turned into a book to be published for everyone to read?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Welsh Tidy Mouse



Pictured: A mouse in a shed. **Source:** Canva.

A mouse caught on camera tidying up in a shed in Builth Wells, Powys, Wales, has been nicknamed Welsh Tidy Mouse. The tidy rodent has been 'mousekeeping' since October in a workshed belonging to Rodney Holbrook, a retired postman and keen wildlife photographer. Rodney said, 'One morning I went in early October and there were no nuts in there and I thought I put nuts in yesterday. I had lots of bits of stuff I had on my bench all put in there and I thought I'm going to set up a night camera. So, I set that up and that's where I get these incredible videos of the mouse doing what it does.' He went on to say, 'I'm just leaving it as it is. People have said to me about putting things in to get some

sort of funny videos. But I just leave it naturally. Just naturally let whatever's going to happen, happen.' The video camera has captured the mouse picking up clothes pegs, corks, nuts and bolts. Megan Jackson from the University of Bristol, who studied the mouse's behaviour commented that, 'It might be that the mouse is actually finding this rewarding. It does look like maybe the mouse is scouting out its environment to find things that it thinks might be useful for a nest and bringing it back to a place that seems to be safe.'

Do you know of any animals that like to tidy up or move things around? Why do you think they like to move things?

Last week's topic:

Are emojis an important part of communication?



Yes because: 1. They help us to express our feelings. 2. They help us to communicate better. 3. They also serve as a short and precise way of communication and expression.

Kimberly


Yes, especially if the symbols are in different colours.

Lynnfield Primary School

I think that is it important that we continue to use words as our main form of communication. Emojis are good because they can be understood by everyone!

Aleks

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

 www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

 help@picture-news.co.uk

 @HelpPicture

 Picture News Ltd,
Colber Lane,
Bishop Thornton,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



TAKEHOME



In the news this week

Motorists in Britain could be completing journeys using driverless cars by 2026 the transport secretary, Mark Harper, has predicted. He believes that fully autonomous vehicles, in which people become passengers in their own cars, will arrive in the UK that year and follow a gradual rollout. The government introduced a bill in a speech by King Charles III that paved the way for autonomous cars, without a safety driver, after pressure from industry, MPs, and Sir Patrick Vallance in his recent review of technology regulation.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you think you would like to travel in a self-driving vehicle?
- > Make a list of the positives and negatives of self-driving vehicles.
- > Do you believe we will see more self-driving vehicles on the roads over the next few years?

Will self-driving vehicles change our lives?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

