

# What's happening in the news this week?



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

26th February - 3rd March 2024



**How can you make your  
voice heard?**



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

In countries across Europe, including Romania, Belgium, France, Hungary, Poland and Greece, tractors have been blocking city streets and motorways as farmers protest against certain European Union (EU) rules. Their concerns include falling incomes, rising red tape, and competition from imports. Both national governments and the EU are now under pressure to stop the demonstrations. One protesting farmer, Hugo Auge from France, told news reporters for CNN that the current system, 'makes a mockery of both farmers and consumers'.



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 about the farmers' protests across Europe.

### France



Farmers have created blockages in sections of motorways with tractors, leading to a crisis for new Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.

Some of their concerns, such as lots of extra paperwork, only apply to farmers in France. Further concerns also affect other countries, including the increasing cost of fuel, and cheaper food coming in from other countries.

### What is happening in some of the countries protesting?



**Pictured:** Tractors blocking a motorway in France.  
**Source:** SAMUEL ARANDA.

### Spain



In big cities, such as Bilbao, large numbers of tractors have been heading to town centres, closing down roads. Agriculture unions have complained about some EU policies. Minister Luis Planas said he respects people's right to demonstrate but urged farmers to remain peaceful.

### Greece



Farmers have been blocking roads around the country, insisting they need lower electricity prices, tax-free diesel, and subsidised food for animals, as well as other things.



**Discuss the reasons why they have decided to take this action.**



Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about protests.

Everyone has the right to protest. It is part of living in a democracy and is one way to have our voices heard. Whilst people protest, they must still follow laws to make sure everyone is kept safe.

There are many different reasons why people choose to protest such as:

- Making sure everyone is being treated fairly
- Taking action to stop war around the world
- Reducing climate change
- Pay and work conditions
- The introduction of new technologies



These people are blowing whistles, using a megaphone and holding placards as they take part in a protest march.

"I joined a protest to stop a tree from being taken down to make room for new buildings. It had lived in our local community for hundreds of years and was important to us. We made placards and banners to let people know our thoughts and sat around the tree and sang."



Edward

**Have you ever experienced a protest, either seen it happen or been part of it?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some different ways people choose to raise awareness.



### Poems or songs

These are often catchy and powerful as they can capture emotions to raise awareness.

### Words

The words that once caused me harm,  
Just land on an empty shell,  
I no longer feel their pain,  
I no longer feel alone,  
I no longer feel empty,  
Because I am nothing.

The words that once gave me hope,  
Made me believe,  
Encouraged me and supported me,  
I felt their kindness,  
I felt their love,  
Because I am something.

### Presentations

These can communicate ideas and messages through speech. Presentations can take place in person, online or through radio or TV.



### Leaflets or posters

These can be written and shared in local communities, posted to people's homes or shared on social media.



### Letters

Writing letters can raise awareness. They may be sent to a local MP, a local business or people in your community.



### Websites

A cause may have its own website to share its message such as RSPCA (an animal welfare charity) or it may use a website such as Go Fund Me to raise awareness and funds.



### Hosting events

Organised parties, bake sales, walks, picnics etc can be a fun way to gather people and raise awareness.



### Blogs

These can be an effective way of sharing information and connecting with others online. Blogs can be shared with online communities.



### Games

Playing a game such as Top Trumps can be used to raise awareness of issues such as litter and waste or unhealthy lifestyles.

**Which do you think would be the most effective way to raise awareness?**

**Do you think it depends on the problem or issue?**

**Do you think some people may prefer to raise awareness one way more than others? Why?**





**How can you make your voice heard?**

# Reflection



There will be times when we feel that a situation is unfair and to ensure our voice is heard, we need to act.





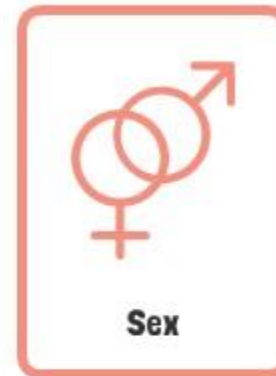
## Democracy

As part of a democracy, we have the right to protest. It is one of the ways a group of people can show when they strongly agree or disagree with something and have their voices heard.

# Protected Characteristics



Our beliefs affect our everyday lives and how we choose to live. If we feel strongly about something and the effect it is having on our lives, we can use our voices. We should never be treated unfairly because of our beliefs.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion and Belief



# UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to share freely with others what we learn, think and feel. We can do this by talking, writing, drawing or any other way unless it harms other people.



# Useful vocabulary



## Agriculture

Farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.

**Agriculture** unions have complained about some EU policies.

## Demonstrations

A public meeting or march protesting against something or expressing views on a political issue.

Both national governments and the EU are now under pressure to stop the **demonstrations**.

## Imports

The products brought in from another country.

Their concerns include falling incomes, rising red tape, and competition from **imports**.

## Mockery

Makes something or someone appear worthless or foolish.

One protesting farmer, Hugo Auge from France, told news reporters for CNN that the current system, 'makes a **mockery** of both farmers and consumers'.

## Red tape

Official rules and procedures that seem unnecessary and cause delay.

Their concerns include falling incomes, rising **red tape**, and competition from imports.

## Subsidised

Part of the cost is paid by the government or another organisation.

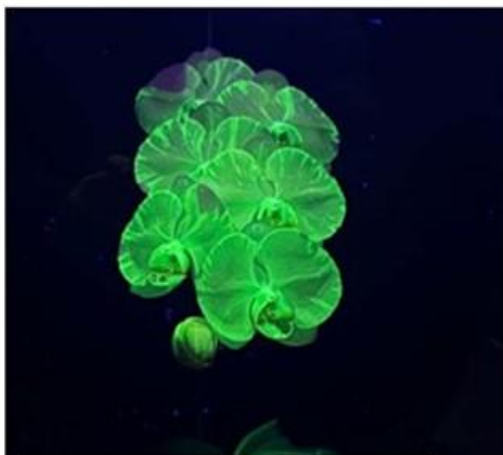
Farmers have been blocking roads around the country, insisting they need lower electricity prices, tax-free diesel, and **subsidised** food for animals, as well as other things.

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



## First Fluorescent Orchid

The world's first fluorescent orchid has been displayed in Tokyo at the Japan Grand Prix International Orchid and Flower Show 2024. The Glowing Phalaenopsis Orchid emits yellow-green fluorescence under black light – not just the petals but the whole plant can be seen to glow! The luminous moth orchid was developed using the gene of a fluorescent plankton by scientists from Chiba University. The flower festival is described as one of the biggest and most extravagant orchid exhibitions in the world, and this year's exhibition will feature more than a thousand different orchid species. To enter the event, visitors will pass under the beautiful 'Orchid Gate' made from 100,000 orchids. As well as exhibiting groundbreaking and beautiful flowers, the show will create a platform for the world's best flower artists to show their skills. At the festival's opening ceremony, Princess Tsuguko of Takamado said, 'I would be glad if this exhibition became an opportunity for people to consider the importance of preserving biodiversity.'



**Pictured:** The Glowing Phalaenopsis Orchid. **Source:** Flower Show @TheFlowerShow X page.



**Pictured:** An Orchid. **Source:** Canva.

## Britain's Funniest Class



**Pictured:** How to apply to be named Beano Britain's funniest class. **Source:** Beano @BeanoOfficial X page.

Beano, the world's longest-running comic, has announced its search for Britain's funniest primary school class! The comic posted on X, 'Help Class 2B in their search for Britain's Funniest Class (and teacher)! 🤔 As much as The Bash Street Kids love a bit of hard work (ha!), a little help wouldn't hurt... 🙋 If you think your students have the gift of the gag, enter now.' The well-loved children's comic is celebrating the Bash Street Kids' 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the launch of 'Britain's Funniest Class 2024' competition. Teachers can submit their classes' hilarious gags and jokes via the website before the closing date on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The most side-splitting entries will then be put to a public vote, resulting in one comical class being named the

funniest in the country! Last year's winner was Greasley Beauvale Primary School, and their headteacher Michelle Bates, encouraged other schools to enter saying, 'The classroom and the school flourished when we rallied together as a team for the common goal of laughter. It was wonderful to see the classroom grow in confidence and creativity.' This year the winners will be rewarded with a whole range of Beano goodies and be drawn into a special edition of the comic. This will be the very first time ever that a whole class of real-life children will be included in the comic book! **Can you get your funny bones moving and think up a giggle-inducing gag? Do you think that your teacher and/or class are funny?**

# Flamingo-saving Flight Attendant



Pictured left: Flamingos. Source: Canva. Pictured right: Sunny the flamingo chick. Source: Woodland Park Zoo Facebook page.

Fast-thinking flight attendant, Amber May, received a unique request from one of the people on board the plane she was working on. The passenger, a zookeeper, had a very unusual problem and needed help building a nest! They were transporting rare flamingo eggs from Atlanta Zoo in Georgia, USA, to Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, when their incubator broke. They asked the surprised flight attendant to help them keep the six eggs safe and warm. With hours of flight left to go, Amber came up with a plan – filling rubber gloves with warm water to keep the eggs at the correct temperature, which she refilled as the water inside cooled. Other travellers helped too, sharing their coats and scarves to keep the precious eggs insulated. The idea worked! All six eggs made it safely to

their new home and the chicks hatched last September. There are four females called Magdalena, Amaya, Rosales, and Gonzo and two males, named Sunny and Bernardo. Amber was invited to choose a name for one of the flamingos, and she picked Sunny as it is her granddaughter's name. She and her granddaughter have even been to meet the chicks. 'The flamingo eggs would not have survived in a non-functioning portable incubator for five hours,' said Joanna Klass, a Woodland Park Zoo animal care manager. 'We're so grateful for the creative thinking that led to the safe transport of our precious eggs.'

**Did you know that a group of flamingos is called a 'Flamboyance' or a 'Stand'?**  
**Do you know any flamingo facts?**

## Last week's topic: Should we learn sign language at school?



I like that the option is there for pupils to choose it, but I don't think we should all have to learn all languages.

**Bekki**

If you know someone deaf, I think you should.

**Thibault**

I think it's a good idea because we are all different and we should respect others.

**Arthur**

Yes, I think that everyone should learn at least one other language. Sign language should be an option at school along with others. I would be really interested in learning to sign.

**Petra**

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

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# TAKEHOME



How can you make your voice heard?

## In the news this week

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

- > Talk about the actions that farmers across the EU are taking and why you think they chose to block roads as one of their actions.
- > What are some of the other ways you can take action if you don't agree with something?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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