

# What's happening in the news this week?



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

6th - 12th December 2021

LIVE 19.4K



- Presence
- Avatars
- Home space
- Teleporting
- Interoperability
- Privacy and safety
- Virtual goods
- Natural interfaces



**Do we need to create a  
virtual universe?**

Eric Risberg/AP/Shutterstock



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



Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg has announced Meta, a new company brand for Facebook apps and technologies. Meta recently declared that they're changing direction from developing social media platforms to building what it's calling the next version of the internet. They've described the metaverse as a way of using the internet through virtual reality (VR).



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Assembly [here](#).



# How does it make me feel?



<b>sad</b>	<b>angry</b>	<b>happy</b>	<b>confused</b>	<b>excited</b>	<b>worried</b>	<b>shocked</b>	<b>afraid</b>
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



Look at the resource below, which shares more information about virtual reality.



To view the virtual world, people wear a headset. In some virtual reality (VR) worlds the virtual character copies your actions. If you turn your head left, it does too. If you start to walk, the character will walk in the virtual world too!



Some VR headsets also come with controllers or gloves that you hold during the experience. This means you are able to grab, throw move or touch objects in the virtual world.



Some virtual games and content can be very similar to our real life; others allow us to experience imaginary worlds.

**Do you think you would enjoy experiencing virtual reality?**





Look at the resource below, which shows some pros and cons of living a virtual life.

You can take part in activities without risk such as walking a very high tightrope.



You can meet with friends and family, who live anywhere in the world.

You need to wear equipment all of the time.

You can walk around and take part in activities but can sometimes do this whilst seated in the real world.



## Pros

There is no real physical contact such as a high five or a hug.

## Cons

You can explore an imaginary world such as living on another planet or experiencing the future.



Using VR can cause dizziness, sickness and headaches.



You can learn or practise a new skill without breaking or damaging equipment.

You can stay indoors and not have to go anywhere for your experiences.

**Can you sort them? Does everyone agree? Can you think of any other pros and cons? Do you think you would prefer virtual reality life or a real one?**

# Reflection



Virtual reality can provide opportunities for interactions that feel similar to real life. It's important for us to know and understand the difference between what's real and what isn't.

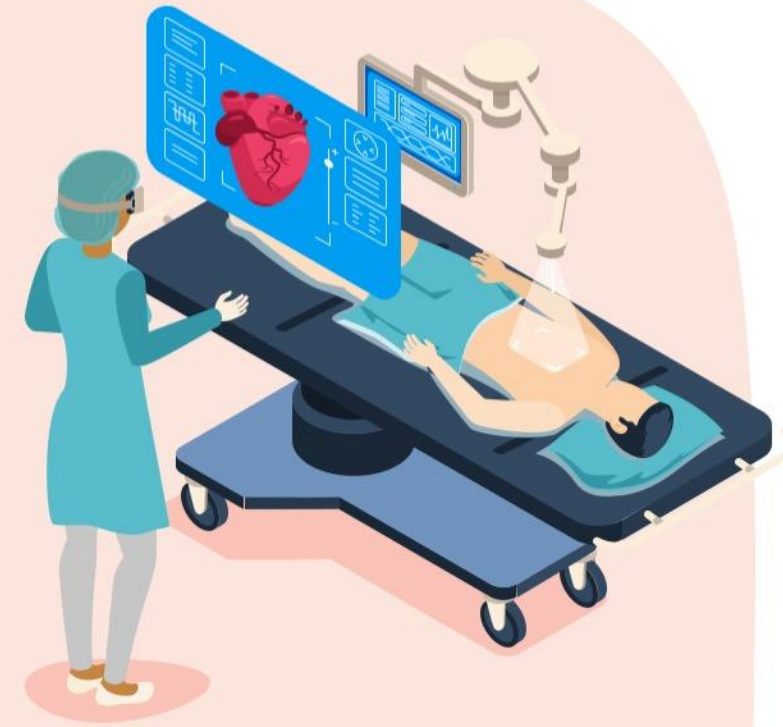




# Tolerance

People have different ideas and opinions of how virtual reality could impact our world.

It is important to tolerate and accept these ideas and opinions even if they differ from our own.







# UN rights of a child



We can stay in contact with family members that we do not live with using a variety of ways such as writing letters, emailing, video calling. In the future, we might be able to use virtual reality to connect too!



# Useful vocabulary



## Brand

A business or marketing idea that allows people to identify with a company or a product.

*Mark Zuckerberg has announced Meta, a new company **brand** for Facebook apps and technologies.*

## Concept

A plan, idea or intention.

*The **concept** means the user would use a VR headset to access websites and interact with others.*

## Founder

The person who started something or caused it to be built such as an organisation or a building.

*It is Mark Zuckerberg, the **founder** of Facebook.*

## Interact

Communicate or be involved directly with others.

*The user would use a VR headset to access websites and **interact** with others..*

## Virtual reality

A computer-generated environment that seems very like reality to the person experiencing it.

***Virtual reality** can provide opportunities for interactions that feel similar to real life.*

## Vision

How someone imagines or hopes something will be like in the future.

*Read the information found on the assembly resource about the metaverse and Meta's **vision**.*

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

## Insulation made from popcorn



Pictured: A bowl of popcorn Source: Canva

**M**any homes use insulation to help keep them warm or cool and with many buildings contributing to a large percentage of global emissions, good insulation is a must. At the moment, about 90% of materials used to make insulation for buildings is plastics or mineral fibres, which are non-biodegradable. The insulation also generates carbon dioxide in its manufacturing process, contributing to pollution and making it unsustainable. However, scientists may have found an alternative: a favourite film snack! The team from Göttingen University, Germany,

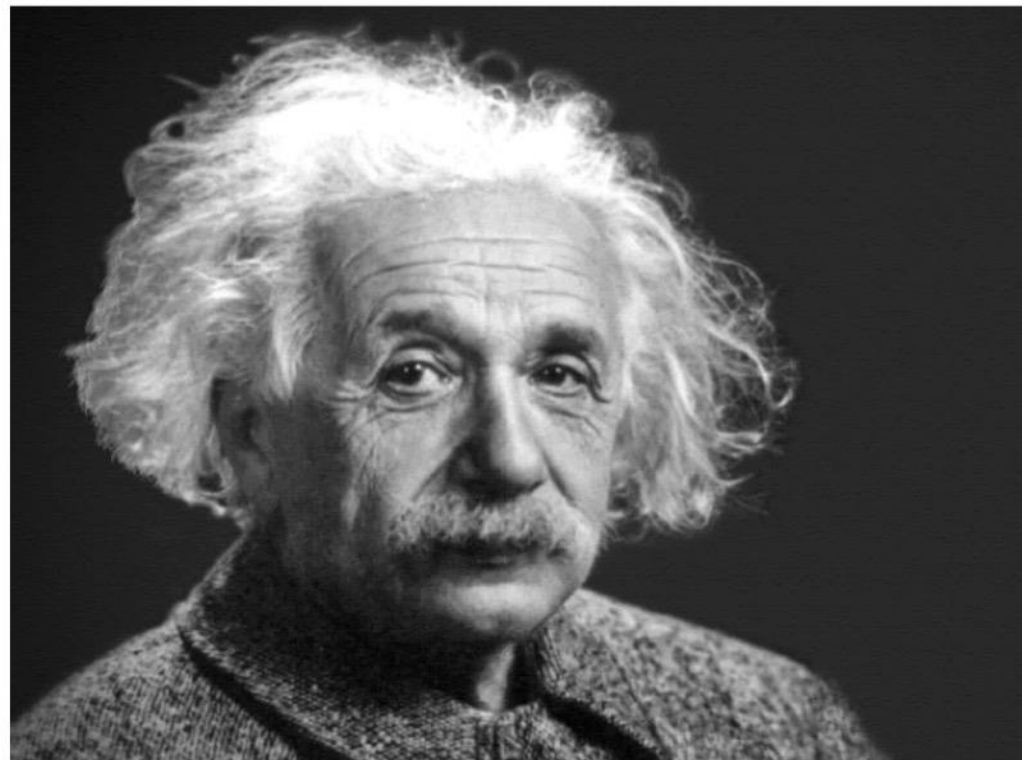
have devised a technique to turn popcorn into insulation boards. They said the boards had: 'excellent thermal insulation properties and good protection against fire'. They also added: 'the great advantage of this granular material is that it is a plant-based, environmentally friendly and a sustainable alternative to the products derived from petroleum currently used in the industry'. Göttingen University has signed a licence agreement with a building materials company, Bachl Group, so popcorn insulation boards may appear in the not-too-distant future!

## Relativity document sells for £9.7m

**A**lbert Einstein is often acknowledged as one of the greatest physicists of all time. He is perhaps best known for his theory of relativity, which helped scientists understand how the universe works. A manuscript containing calculations made by Einstein, as he attempted to formulate his theory, has recently sold at Christie's auction house, Paris, for £9.7m.

Vincent Belloy, an expert at the auction house, said, 'Einstein is someone who kept very few notes, so the mere fact the manuscript survived and made its way to us already makes it extraordinary.' The manuscript has broken the record for the highest amount an autographed scientific document has sold for. However, the buyer has not been revealed.

Pictured: Albert Einstein Source: Canva



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Pictured: James Mayhew opening a reading shed with the 'Page Turners', St Helena's CE Primary School's reading for pleasure club.  
Source: St Helena's CE Primary School

## Reading shed – up and running

**A**fter sharing the Picture News big question 'Should all schools have a library?', the Year 2 children of St Helena's CE Primary School were spurred into action. Alongside their class teacher, Mrs Roberts, they began to contact various people in an attempt to acquire a reading shed. Within a week, the pupils had managed to source not just one but two reading sheds and enough funds to purchase new books especially for the little, wooden shacks. Headteacher,

Mrs Belton, said: 'It's amazing - a little reading haven of their own for breaktimes. They and especially their teacher are fabulous people! Thank you (Picture News) for the inspiring news story and look what it has achieved in just a week... 136 children and 8 teachers eager to read again!' One reading shed is officially up and running and was opened by author, James Mayhew, last month and they hope to have the second up and running soon! Well done everyone at St Helena's CE Primary.

Last week's topic:

## Should we be allowed to swim with dolphins?

We should be allowed to swim with dolphins but we must be extra careful to tell whether it's harmless or harmful.

Jayden – age 8

I want to go and free that dolphin so it can be with its family..... But what about the tigers in the zoo. They shouldn't be there either!

Toby – age 5

I think you shouldn't swim with dolphins because they should be FREE.

River-Rose – age 5




They should not be held captive so it's best if we swim with them in the wild. Also, we should not overwhelm them so a good stroke on the back will do.

Michael – age 9

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

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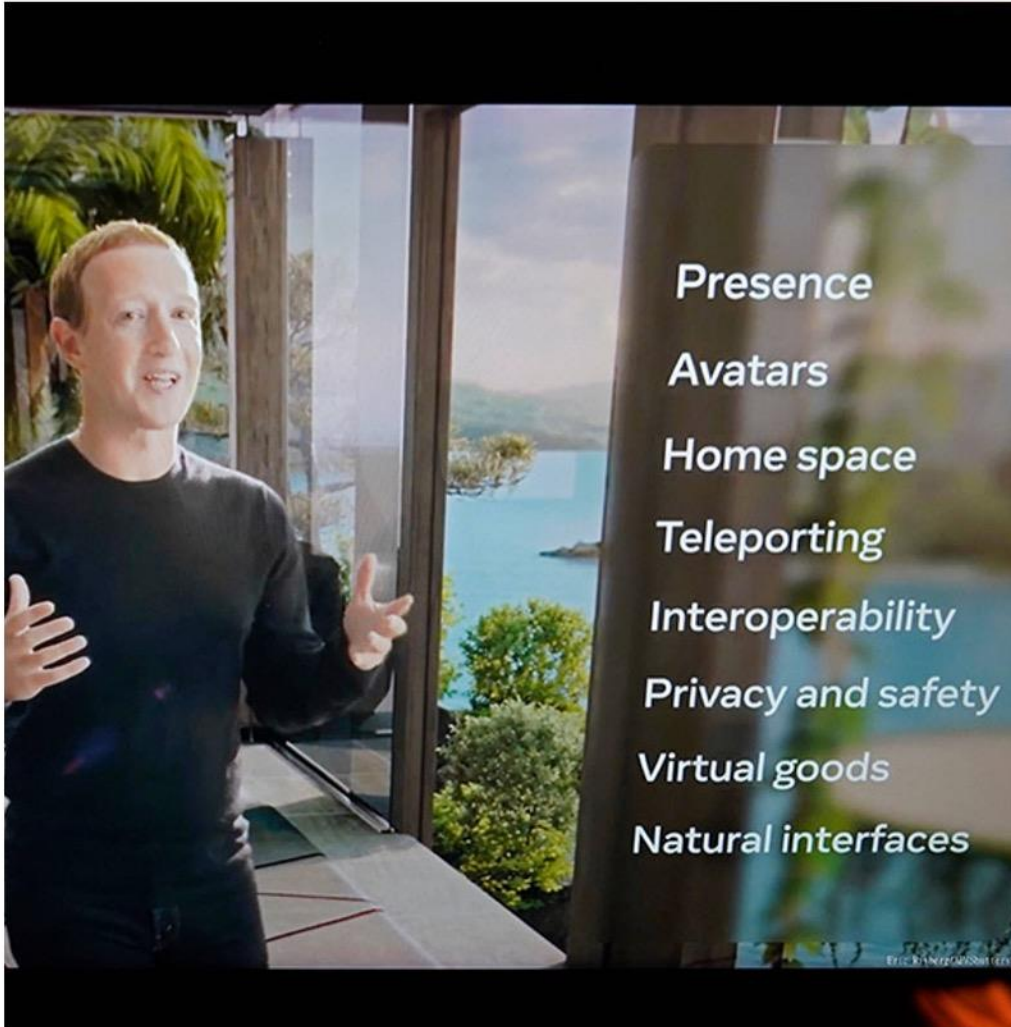
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# TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

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

- Have you ever used a virtual reality (VR) headset? How do you think using a VR headset may change how we experience computer games and forums?
- In the future, do you think you would like to have a virtual life?
- What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks of having a metaverse?

**Please note any interesting thoughts or comments**

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