

**What's happening  
in the news this week?**



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

**24th - 30th January 2022**



**Should everyone  
learn sign language?**

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



Ever since Rose Ayling-Ellis became the first deaf contestant to compete in Strictly Come Dancing, the number of people wanting to learn British Sign Language (BSL) has surged. One half of the overall winning couple, Rose was frequently seen using sign language on the show and she used a translator to interpret what others were saying.



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



Read the information below, which provides details about the increased demand for learning sign language and the impact that Rose has had starring in *Strictly Come Dancing*.

## Rose Ayling-Ellis



Rose Ayling-Ellis is a British actress who is deaf and a British Sign Language user. She is known for playing Frankie Lewis in the BBC soap, *EastEnders*.

In 2021, she became the first deaf contestant in *Strictly Come Dancing*, and with professional Giovanni Pernice, won the nineteenth series in December.

“ I feel like it’s so important for somebody like me to be on the show. I want to break down the stereotype that deaf people can’t dance and can’t enjoy music. ”

### What is sign language?

Sign language is a way of communicating using hand gestures and movements, body language and facial expressions, instead of spoken words. Sign language is used mainly by people who are deaf or have hearing impairments.

In the UK, sign language usually refers to British Sign Language (BSL), the most common sign language in the UK, used by around 150,000 people.



### Learning sign language

Along with the usual increase in people wanting to take dance lessons, there has been a huge demand in the number of people wanting to learn sign language, thanks to the success of finalist, Rose Ayling-Ellis.

Russell Fowler, director of the website, BSL Courses, has said that to date, enrolments to their sign language courses have risen by more than 2,000% since Rose joined *Strictly Come Dancing*!

Fairfield High School (FHS) in Bristol is hoping to help their pupils and has set up a club in response to the increasing appetite to learn BSL. Joining with local school, Elmfield School for Deaf People, FHS pupils come together for a fun experience learning BSL, with numbers increasing each week. Sophie Cockram, communication support worker at FHS, is helping drive this initiative. “To see Fairfield and Elmfield students come together to learn, communicate, build confidence and form new friendships is a real pleasure.”

**Do you think that it is important to raise the awareness of sign language?**

Resource  
**one**



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about sign language

## What is sign language?

Sign language is a way of communicating with other people using hand gestures and movements, body language and facial expressions, instead of spoken words.

Like the many different languages spoken around the world such as French, Mandarin, Spanish, there are also many different sign languages used too. In the UK, people usually use British Sign Language (BSL)



Child saying 'thank you' in BSL

### Saying 'thank you' in BSL

To say 'thank you' in BSL, you start with your fingertips on your chin. Move your flat hand down and away from you.

Have a go at saying thank you using BSL. Perhaps you could learn some other hand gestures too!

**Do you know anybody who uses sign language to communicate with others?  
How important do you think it is that everyone can communicate with others?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about our five senses.

### Sound

Our ears pick up sounds that travel through the air in sound waves. The sound waves are caused by vibrations. You can hear loud and soft sounds. Hearing allows us to listen to conversations, music, TV, hear the telephone ring etc. Using our sense of sound also can warn of potential danger such as hearing a fire alarm go off or a horn honking.



### Taste

Taste is how we sense the flavour of something in your mouth. There are five main tastes: sweet, savoury, sour, bitter and salty. Taste can detect amazing flavours, allowing us to enjoy our delicious meal but it can also warn us if something doesn't taste nice (perhaps because it has gone off) and we can spit it out before it makes us poorly!



### Touch

The sense of touch allows us to tell if something is hot, cold, wet, dry, rough, smooth, hard, soft. Our skin is packed with sense receptors. The most sensitive parts of our skin such as your fingertips and lips have the most sense receptors in them. We can enjoy using our sense of touch such as stroking a pet or the feel of slime squidding in our hands but it can also keep us safe e.g. moving away from something too hot.



### Smell

We use our nose to smell. Our sense of smell can pick up a range of odours such as delicious meals cooking, beautiful perfumes or the smell of gardens, forests and fields! Our sense of smell can also detect unpleasant smells and may also keep us from harm e.g. smell of gas or burning.



### Sight

We use our eyes to see and they can help us learn about our surroundings. Our eyes can perceive shapes, distance, movement, colour, heat and depth. We need light to be able to see. We can use your sight for so many things such as taking in stunning scenery, crossing a road safely, reading, spotting our friends in the park!



**For each, think about when you use them. Which of these senses do you think is the most useful?**

# Reflection



For those who are hearing impaired or unable to hear, the world can be a completely different place. If we are aware that someone is deaf, it is important to do all we can to ensure they are included.







## Democracy

We all have a voice and can share our opinions. Sometimes raising awareness of an issue, such as British Sign Language having no legal status in the UK, can make an impact.





# UN Rights of a Child



We all have the right to actively participate in school, at home and in our community. A disability or impairment should not be a barrier.



# Useful vocabulary



## Communication

Exchanging information, knowledge, ideas or feelings with others.

*They include signing as a form of **communication**.*

## Contestant

A person who takes part in a contest or competition.

*Rose Ayling-Ellis became the first deaf **contestant** to compete in Strictly Come Dancing.*

## Impairment

Partial or complete loss of the function of a body part or organ.

*Many believe she will inspire others with disabilities or **impairments**.*

## Perception

A belief or opinion, often held by many, based on how things seem.

*What impact do you think it might have on people's **perceptions** of sign language?*

## Routine

A series of movements used in a performance.

*Watch this week's useful video, which shows one of Rose's and her dancing partner Giovanni's **routines**.*

## Surged

A sudden and great increase.

*The number of people wanting to learn British Sign Language (BSL) has **surged**.*

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



## Damaged coral reefs can still provide food

A study, led by Lancaster University, finds damaged coral reefs can still provide seafood. The research team used more than 20 years of data from the Seychelles, where tropical reefs have been destroyed by coral bleaching. Coral bleaching is when corals become white due to various stressors, such as changes in temperature, light, or nutrients.

“coral reefs may be more resilient to climate change than previously thought”

Bleaching occurs when coral polyps expel the algae (zooxanthellae) that live inside their tissue, causing the coral to turn white. The study reveals coral reefs may be more resilient to climate change than previously thought; damaged reef fisheries remain rich sources of micronutrients, even increasing in nutritional value for some



Pictured: Corals and tropical fish.  
Source: Canva

minerals. This will bring hope to more than six million people, who work in small-scale fisheries and rely on tropical reefs. Dr James Robinson, who led the study, said: "We found that some micronutrient-rich reef species become more abundant after coral bleaching, enabling fisheries to supply nutritious food despite climate change impacts."

## Colour changing car

BMW have just unveiled their first colour-changing car: the BMW iX Flow featuring E Ink. "In the future, BMW customers may change the colour of their car with the push of a button," BMW project lead, Stella Clarke said. The new BMW has electronic ink (E Ink), which allows you to instantly change the exterior colour of the car from white to grey to black. The specially developed body wrap on the car has paint which, when stimulated by electrical signals, brings different coloured pigments to the surface, allowing the

colour and pattern of the car to change at any point in time, whenever the owner fancies. This feature, while being described as futuristic and cool, could also have practical uses, allowing the owner to flash their car's paint to find their vehicle more rapidly in car parks. The car also has a 31-inch (about 80cm) BMW theatre screen with smart TV functions and a resolution of up to 8K! We will, however, still need to wait a while to see these cars on our roads as they haven't gone into production yet!

Pictured: BMW iX Flow featuring E Ink. Source: BMW's Twitter page





**Pictured:** A border collie, like Dr Cuaya's Kun-kun  
**Source:** Canva

## Bilingual dogs!

**A** recent study, conducted by researchers at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary, has found that dogs can identify different languages! Dr. Laura Cuaya, the first author of the study, became interested to find out if her dog had noticed people speaking in a different language when they moved together from Mexico to Hungary. For the study, Kun-kun (who had only been spoken to in Spanish) and 17 other dogs were trained to lie very still in a brain scanner, which scientists used to watch language-specific areas of their brains,

to determine if the pooches recognised any words in the language they were listening to. "We played them speech excerpts of 'The Little Prince' in Spanish and Hungarian. All dogs had heard only one of the two languages from their owners. So, this way, we could compare a highly familiar language to a completely unfamiliar one," Dr. Cuaya explained. Senior author of the study, Attila Andics, said this "showed for the first time that a non-human brain can distinguish between two languages."

Last week's topic:

## Do you think it is important for us to know the history of our universe?



I think yes because if you want to be an astronaut you need to know everything about space and what is dangerous you need to know.

Jenni - age 11

No, I think we should spend the money on learning about and looking after the planet that we live on now!

Tarek - age 9

I think it is very important for us to understand the history of our universe because if we learn about it, we can understand and use this knowledge to expand our space travel.

Freddie Hardy - age 10

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

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

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# TAKEHOME



## Should everyone learn sign language?



## In the news this week

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

- > Have you ever seen sign language being used or used it yourself?
- > Can you make a list of all the different ways we communicate with each other? E.g. our body language, words, actions etc.
- > Do you think sign language is a skill that everyone should learn?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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