

What's happening in the news this week?



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

19th - 25th September 2022



Could we live our lives without plastic?



Let's look at this week's story



A housing association has built Europe's first virtually plastic-free housing development in the UK. Built by GreenSquareAccord, the £1.3m project in Redditch, Worcestershire consists of 12 affordable one-bedroom homes built using many plastic-free alternatives to reduce environmental impact.



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 through the useful information below about the new virtually plastic-free housing.

Why are the virtually plastic-free homes being built?

The exciting project in Worcestershire is thought to be the first to build almost entirely plastic-free homes in UK and Europe. Built by GreenSquareAccord, the development is providing 12 affordable homes using plastic-free alternatives as an example of what can be achieved to reduce environmental impact.

The development is the first of its kind in Europe and is transforming the site of a former factory carpark in Redditch, into one bedroom apartments for local people, which will be managed by Redditch Cooperative Homes.

Would you like to live there?

Do you think more homes will be built like this in the future?



Pictured above: An artist's impression of the finished apartment block. **Source:** GreenSquareAccord.

How will the new housing reduce plastic consumption?

Each apartment features plastic-free alternatives, such as wooden kitchen units and aluminium window frames. The wiring uses a mineral-based insulation rather than the usual plastic, and solar thermal heating systems are also installed.

"We can't carry on building homes the way we are at the moment; we need people's energy bills to be lower and homes that don't have a negative effect on the planet."



Carl Taylor,
the housing developer's
assistant director.



Look at the resource below, which shares examples of what happens to some of our plastic waste.

Incinerated

Some plastic waste is incinerated, which means it is burned. The gas produced when the plastic is burning can harm the environment but sometimes the energy made can be used to heat and power businesses and homes.



Reused

Some plastic waste may be reused. Toys or clothes that people no longer use might be passed on to someone else, sold second-hand or given to charity.



Sent to landfill

If we throw plastic into our general waste collection, it can end up in landfill.



Recycled

If we throw plastic into our recycling bin, some of it will be turned into something that can be reused again.



Littered

Some plastic items can end up being left behind after a picnic or perhaps blown out of a public bin. This can cause damage to plants and animals living in our environment. Plastic from land also blows into the sea. About 80% of litter in the sea is blown in from land.

**Do you have a recycling bin or box at home?
What do you do with your old toys or clothes?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some alternatives to plastic that could be used.

Paper and cardboard

Many items can be packaged in plastic. Paper or cardboard can be an alternative. Paper or card can also be used to produce items such as disposable plates, cups and straws.



Natural textiles

Clothes made from materials such as cotton, wool, hemp and linen are alternatives to nylon and polyester.



Wood

Wood can be used as an alternative in construction e.g., window frames, worktops, doors. It can also be used for handles, toys and kitchen utensils.



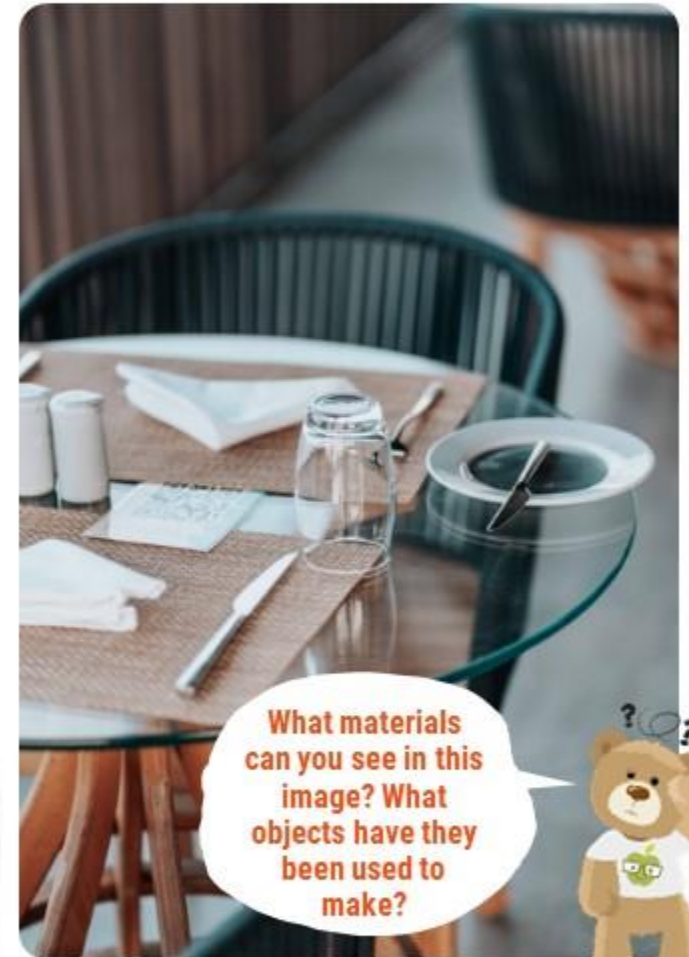
Metal

Tin and foil can be used as an alternative to plastic in the food industry. Furniture, building and construction materials can also be made using metal instead of plastic.



Glass

Glass can be used for food products. It is fully recyclable and doesn't contain chemicals like plastic does. It can also be used as an alternative for furniture or in the construction industry.



For each of the materials above, consider the pros and cons of using it as an alternative to plastic.



Could we live our lives without plastic?



Reflection



We make hundreds of decisions a day, which impact the world around us. It's important to think carefully about the consequences of these and the imprint they will leave.





Individual Liberty

Our actions have consequences.
If we choose to buy and use
items made from plastic,
we must consider the impact
this will have on our world.

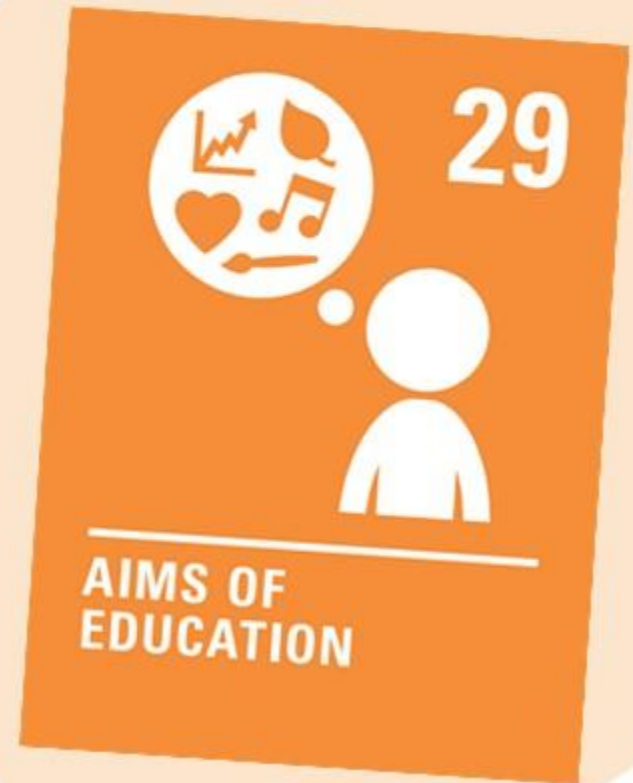




UN Rights of a Child



As part of our education, we should be taught about how we can help protect the environment.



Useful vocabulary



Alternative

Available as another possibility or choice.

...consists of 12 affordable one-bedroom homes built using many plastic-free **alternatives** to reduce environmental impact.

Consequences

The results or effects of something, often unpleasant or unwelcome.

It's important to think carefully about the **consequences** of these and the imprint they will leave.

Imprint

A strong and lasting effect.

It's important to think carefully about the consequences of these and the **imprint** they will leave.

Pollution

Damage caused to the environment by harmful substances or waste.

...offering the free hire of wooden bellyboards (a type of smaller surfboard) to try and fight plastic **pollution**.

Recycle

To collect, sort and convert waste materials into something that can be used again.

Do you **recycle** plastic?

Virtually

Almost.

A housing association has built Europe's first **virtually** plastic-free housing development in the UK.

Can you use them in your writing this week?



Pictured: A red deer stag waits as six-year-old Joshua Cox sets up his shot in London's Richmond Park.
Source: Joshua Cox, Wildlife Photographer of the Year @NHM_WPY Twitter page.

Snowy stag snapped

Joshua Cox, an eight-year-old boy who took a beautiful photograph of a deer in the snow, has scooped a top photography award. Joshua, who was six years old when he snapped the shot last January, has been highly commended in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. The red deer stag along with around 630 other red and fallow deer roam freely in Richmond Park, London. They have done so since 1637, shaping both the history

and landscape of the National Nature Reserve. The talented photographer, who began taking photos when he was three years old, shared his top tips for those wanting to take up wildlife photography, saying, "If you spot an animal then just wait for it to look into the camera, make sure it focusses and then press the shutter".

Is there anything that you would like to photograph?

Rescuing paint from landfill

Friends, Cat Hyde and Kate Moree, have set up a business in Leeds, West Yorkshire, that has saved more than 1.05 million gallons of paint from landfill. Partially used cans, that have been thrown away, are rescued and remixed, giving each one a new lease of life. They have grown the social enterprise, Seagulls Paint Store, to employ 14 staff members, who manage 10 volunteers. Approximately 300 tonnes of paint each year are collected from landfill,

sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable paint, the reusable paint is then re-blended into new colours as requested by the store's customers. They can then buy the perfect shade for around 75% less than new paint would cost in other shops. Cat said, "We were able to work with the local council to collect all the waste paint in Leeds and recycle as much of it as we can. It's very labour intensive to scrap all the paint tins and re-blend colours but we love it!"



Pictured: Ash and Ruksar, colour mixers at Seagulls Paint Store. **Source:** Seagulls Paint Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Making a splash!

298 people have simultaneously performed a cannonball dive at the LAGO Gent Rozebroeken leisure hub in Ghent, Belgium, surpassing the previous world record of 232, held by The Salty Syndicate (New Zealand). 345 people attempted to achieve a cannonball - a dive where the knees must be raised up towards the chest, with both hands clasped around them, even when hitting the water - into the 50-metre pool. Guinness World Records' guidelines were

used to determine that 298 people had successfully completed the dive. Thomas de Vetter, manager at LAGO Gent Rozebroeken, spoke of their success; "To celebrate the 10th anniversary, but above all the innovations, we wanted to come up with a stunt. The world record for most people performing a cannonball dive soon came up. Everyone was eager to be part of it. The party weekend and the bomb were a great success, with nothing but happy faces!"



Pictured: The world record attempted at the Olympic sized pool at LAGO Gent Rozebroeken leisure hub.
Source: Guinness World Records @GWR Twitter page.

Last week's topic:

Can toys help us celebrate our differences?



To feel included we need to see toys and dolls that look like everyone, not just one type of person.

Hardeep

I think it's too hard for toy companies to make toys look like us all, we're too different.

Axel


Yes - it's important for us to see ourselves reflected in the toys we see.

Elliot

No, I think toys are not meant to be real anyway, so they don't need to reflect how we look.

Xavier

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

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TAKEHOME



Could we live our lives without plastic?



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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your thoughts on this week's story. Do you think it's a good idea to create virtually plastic-free homes? Did you realise there was so much plastic in home building?
- > Think about your usage of plastic in a typical day, how much do you encounter in your everyday life?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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