

What's happening in the news this week?



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

17th April - 23rd April 2023



Let's look at this week's story

Loud siren-like sounds will be triggered on mobile phones and other devices on 23rd April as part of a UK Government test of its new emergency alerts system. The service will broadcast alarms and send emergency advice to people's devices to warn them of nearby danger that could threaten their life such as a large fire or flooding. As part of the service's roll out, a number of trials are taking place.



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 information below, which explains more about how the new alerts will work.

What is the new emergency alert system?

Phones and other devices in the UK may unexpectedly make a loud sound like a siren in April. The siren will be a test of a new emergency alert system from the Government. Some localised testing has already been carried out. If it works, it may be used nationwide to warn people about floods or other life-threatening situations in the future. The Government has said it could become 'the sound that saves your life'.

How will it work?

The device will make a loud siren sound, even if it is on silent. The alert will last for ten seconds, and you will need to click on the message to clear it, in order to use your phone again. The emergency alert test will happen on Sunday, 23rd April in the UK.



Do other countries have alert systems?

Other countries have already been using emergency alerts.

- The Philippines have used alerts since 2017 via text message for typhoons and flooding.
- Both Greece and France used emergency alerts to warn of fires in 2022.
- USA have used thousands of alerts to warn the public about dangerous weather including tornadoes and hurricanes.



Above: A flood warning. The most common emergency in the UK is flooding. **Source:** Jeremy Segrott

Do you think they are a good idea?



Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about emergency services and how they help us.

The emergency services in the UK consist of three main organisations: the Fire and Rescue Service, the Police Service and the Emergency Medical Services.

Fire and Rescue

Fire and Rescue Services prevent fire and accidents happening by making sure people are aware of fire hazards and giving them advice. They extinguish (put out) fires and help with other emergencies such as road traffic incidents and floods.



Police

The Police Service protect property, solve crimes and help in any emergencies. They also ensure people follow laws to help keep everyone safe.



Emergency Medical

Emergency Medical Services involve the ambulance service and an emergency department (A&E). They respond to anyone with a life-threatening illness or who has been involved in an accident and requires immediate treatment.



Have you ever seen any of these emergency services?

Resource
two



Look at the resource below, which shares some potential emergency situations.

Lost car keys making someone late to collect their children from school.



Emergency exit

High winds causing damage to power lines leaving homes without electricity for 24 hours.



Emergency vehicle responding with blue flashing lights in the rain

Painful toothache causing severe head and ear pain and nausea.



A broken-down car causing an obstruction to other traffic.

A large downpour of rain causing localised flooding.

A fire in an office building.



A sunken tanker ship causing a major oil spill.



Signage for the emergency department at a hospital

The smell of gas in someone's home.

A bicycle stolen from someone's back yard.



Emergency telephone

Do you agree each of these is an emergency? Is each serious, unexpected and dangerous? Are there any you would describe as urgent rather than an emergency? Why?



Can you prepare for emergency situations?



Reflection



Over our lives, we may find ourselves in emergency situations, which can be scary and stressful. Things like warning alerts can help us to respond better in these difficult times.





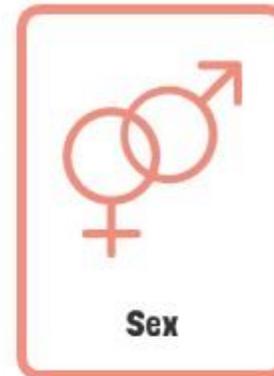
Individual Liberty

There are many situations in life that can become dangerous. By considering the consequences of our actions and managing risks, we can help to keep ourselves and others safer.

Protected Characteristics



Some people will not receive emergency alerts because they do not have mobile phones or other devices. There are other ways people can be alerted so everyone can be kept as safe as possible.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of a Child



We all have the right to live in a safe environment. The emergency alert is one way that can help us stay safe.



Useful vocabulary



Device

An object or machine that has been invented for a particular purpose.

The **device** will make a loud siren sound, even if it is on silent.

Emergency

A serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

How would you describe an **emergency**?

Roll out

Officially launch or introduce a new product or service.

As part of the service's **roll out**, a number of trials are taking place.

Siren

A warning device which makes a long, loud noise.

The device will make a loud **siren** sound, even if it is on silent.

Triggered

Caused it to work.

Loud siren-like sounds will be **triggered** on mobile phones and other devices on 23rd April as part of a UK Government test of its new emergency alerts system.

Unexpectedly

In a way that was not expected or regarded as likely.

Phones and other devices in the UK may **unexpectedly** make a loud sound like a siren in April.

Can you use them in your writing this week?



Can you prepare for emergency situations?

Loud siren-like sounds will be triggered on mobile phones and other devices on 23rd April as part of a UK Government test of its new emergency alerts system. The service will broadcast alarms and send emergency advice to people's devices to warn them of nearby danger that could threaten their life such as a large fire or flooding. As part of the service's roll out, a number of trials are taking place.



- Look at this week's poster image. Share what you already know about the emergency services and how they help us.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which explains more about how the new alerts will work. Do you think they are a good idea?
- How would you describe an emergency? Have you ever found yourself in an emergency?
- Talk about how people respond differently to emergency situations and that it's often hard to predict how you might react. Do you believe that having a plan or preparing for some situations is a good idea?
- Can you come up with examples of different emergencies? For each example, consider and share different ways you could prepare for it. Do you think that you can prepare for every possible emergency?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explains how the testing will work. Can you think of any times you experienced a situation when the alerts may have been useful?

Reflection

Over our lives, we may find ourselves in emergency situations, which can be scary and stressful. Things like warning alerts can help us to respond better in these difficult times.



KS1 focus

How do the emergency services help us?



- Make a list of some of the people who help us e.g., a teacher, an adult at home, friends, shopkeeper, police officer. For each person, discuss how they help us. Is there anyone who would help you in an emergency?
- Explain that many people would help each other in an emergency but people who work for the emergency services have special training and equipment to help them do this. It is their job.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some more information about emergency services and how they help us. Have you ever seen any of these emergency services?
- Discuss how you would contact the emergency services if you ever needed them. If you can, perhaps practise a call explaining which service you need and where you are. Do you know your school and home address?
- Focus on the image of the fire alarm. Do you know what the purpose of a fire alarm is? Have you seen one in school? A fire alarm makes a loud noise to warn people of fire so they can evacuate the building quickly and safely.
- Do you know anyone who works for an emergency service? Is it something you would like to do?
- As well as the three main emergency services, there are many other emergency organisations such as Coastguard Rescue Service. Can you think of any others? For each, discuss how they help people.

Reflection

Emergency services can help prevent danger and keep us safe. Their special training and quick response means they can help many people who find themselves in an emergency situation.



KS2 focus

What are some examples of different emergencies?



- How do you define an emergency? Look it up in a dictionary or share the following definition: a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. Do you agree with this definition? Do you think people's definition of an emergency will differ? Why?
- Have you ever witnessed or being involved in an emergency? If you would like to, share any experiences.
- Look at resource 2, which shares some potential emergency situations. Do you agree each of these is an emergency? Is each serious, unexpected, and dangerous? Are there any you would describe as urgent rather than an emergency? Why?
- For each potential emergency situation, discuss who it affected. If it affects more people, does it make the emergency more serious? Discuss who might help in each situation e.g., friends, family, an emergency dentist, Fire and Rescue, a stranger?
- When dealing with an emergency situation, being prepared and responding quickly is important. Can you think of anything else that is important? Have you considered your own safety when dealing with an emergency?
- Think about your home and school setting. What are the potential emergency situations that could happen here? How might you respond to them? Do you have an emergency action plan?
- Do you think some emergency situations can be prevented? How?

Reflection

There are many different emergency situations people face. Some can be more serious than others, but there are many ways to reduce their effects and sometimes even prevent them.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

One way of preparing for/preventing potential emergency situations is by creating a risk assessment. Have a look at some of the risk assessments you have in school for activities you take part in.

- What is the risk assessment for?
- What potential hazards have been identified?
- Are the risks low or high?
- Have any safety measures/precautions been put in place?

Create your own risk assessment for an upcoming activity or event!

Option 2

Share the statistics for 2022 from the government website:

- 35 million 999 calls.
- 74% from a mobile phone.
- 26% from a landline.
- 28,000 e-calls.

Use them to complete the following:

- Write 35 million in digits.
- Write 28,000 in words.
- Record 74% and 26% as a fraction and a decimal fraction.
- If 82% of people use a mobile phone to make a 999 call in 2023, what percentage will use a landline?

Challenge – can you work out the number of people who made a 999 call using a mobile phone?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Focus on the three main emergency service organisations from resource 1.

- Do you have any questions you would like to ask someone working for the emergency services?

You could send your questions to them or if possible, organise a visit from someone working for the emergency services.

Following the visit or alternatively, set up an emergency services role-play area. Think about:

- There is a fire over there, what number should I dial? What service do I need?
- Do I know the school address so I can tell the police where they need to come?
- That person has cut their arm. Who will help them? Is there a bandage to wrap around the cut?

Option 2

An alert is a warning given to people to be prepared to deal with something that might be dangerous.

- Can you think of any examples of alerts? Do you have a fire alarm in school? Have you a smoke detector or burglar alarm at home?
- Can you describe the noise these alarms make?
- Do they flash?

Design your own emergency alert system. Draw a picture of it and tell someone about how it works, what it is for and the noise it makes.



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/launch-of-life-saving-public-emergency-alerts>

This week's useful video

<https://bit.ly/3LVm90C>

Emergency life-threatening alert system launched on UK phones

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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WasteShark in plastic infested waters



In the Middle Dock at Canary Wharf, on the river Thames in London, a robotic shark is helping to tackle the waterways waste problem by eating up the plastic, which can be found littering the river, allowing it to be recycled! RanMarine's WasteShark is the world's first autonomous surface vessel that can monitor the water quality, whilst also removing rubbish and harmful algae from the water. Just when you thought the WasteShark couldn't be any better for the environment, its designers say it will also soon be able to clean up oil and it already

operates emission free! The ingenious invention uses two electric thrusters to move through the water, has a maximum speed of 3km per hour and can collect 22,700 plastic bottles per day. The floating machine has 15 different sensors that can measure things such as temperature, depth, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, blue-green algae, as well as crude and refined oils, helping scientists to analyse the conditions in the river. The battery-powered robot travels for up to five kilometres (3.1 miles) scooping up floating plastic. Creator, Richard Hardiman, said 'I am not against plastic, it is a convenient product. But we do have a huge mountain of plastic waste entering the environment. It's all about how to recycle plastic even better. We can make great strides in that and the WasteShark can contribute. My dream is to have millions of WasteSharks active all over the world.'

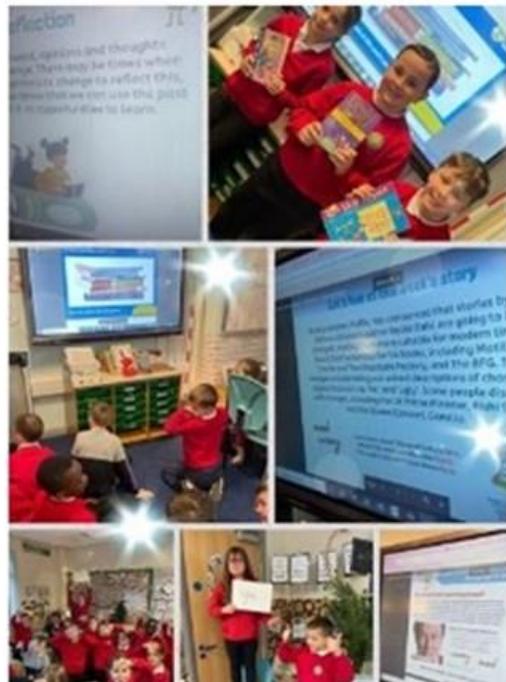
Pictured above and below: WasteShark models and in action cleaning up the waterways
Source: RanMarine Technology Twitter page.



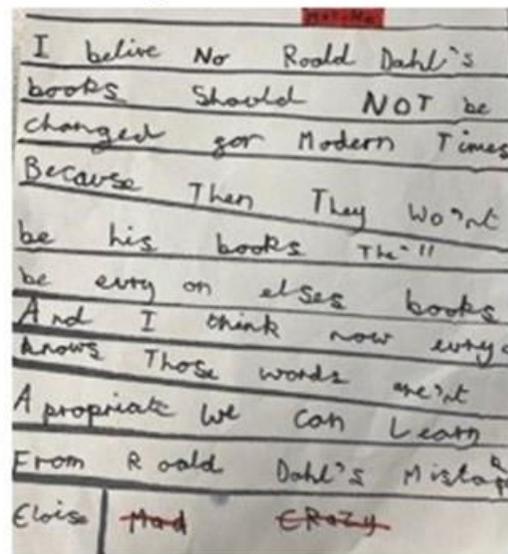
Your views on the news

Here at Picture News Headquarters, we love to hear your thoughts on our big questions and news stories! So many of you regularly share your fantastic opinions and answers through the discussion board found on our website and we want to take this even further. If you would like your voice to be featured in our newspaper or social media accounts – please get in touch by sending us your comments, your writing or photo snaps! Alternatively, if you are inspired by a news story or event, locally or in the wider world, and would like to write a story for us to publish 'in the spotlight' simply send it to us! Your teacher or grown-up can send us your work via post, email or social media using the links below.

Let us know your views on our stories!



Pictured: Pictures sent in to us from Picture News schools. Source: Picture News Facebook page.



Lucky Strike golden discovery

An amateur gold digger has discovered a ginormous gold nugget, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in Victoria, Australia. The metal detecting enthusiast, who does not wish to be named, discovered a 4.6kg rock in the Goldfields region of Victoria, also known as the 'Golden Triangle' as it is famous for its gold. The nugget, which was found with the help of a budget metal detector contained 2.6kg of gold and is worth £130,000! 'It's one of those life-changing pieces,' said Darren Kamp, who owns Lucky Strike Gold Prospecting where the gold was valued and bought. 'When he dropped it into my hand my jaw dropped with it. I've been in the gold industry for 43 years and it's the biggest gold specimen I've seen. You see big specimens found by big companies underground... but to find it with a detector, it's the biggest one I've seen.' In order to prospect for gold, a miner's right must be held. The licences, which last for 10 years, cost \$25.50 (about £20) and if you do not have one, you can't keep any gold you find as it then belongs to the crown. Whilst discoveries of this size are very rare, many people look for gold in Australia as it is believed to have the largest gold reserves on the planet and

The Lucky Strike Nugget 83 OUNCES OF GOLD



Pictured: Lucky Strike gold nugget.
Source: Lucky Strike Gold Facebook page

many of the largest gold nuggets have been found there. The largest recorded to date being the 'Welcome Stranger' which weighed 72kg and was found in 1869!

Last week's topic: How important are guide dogs for those in need?

I think all options should be explored to help people. It shouldn't be relied on by volunteers.

Mark



I think they are really important because they help people who need them and they also keep you company if you are lonely. They will become your best friend after a while because that is what they do. Guide dogs are really useful for those in need.

Grace

I think there are lots of tools around to help people who can't see.

Lily

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

 www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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 [@HelpPicture](https://twitter.com/HelpPicture)

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TAKEHOME



Can you prepare for emergency situations



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you believe the emergency alerts are a good idea? How do you think they might help?
- > Have you ever experienced an emergency? What happened and how did you feel? Have others in your home experienced an emergency?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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