

What's happening in the news this week?



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

1st - 7th December 2025



**How important is it to feel a
sense of togetherness?**

This week's story looks at events related to ...

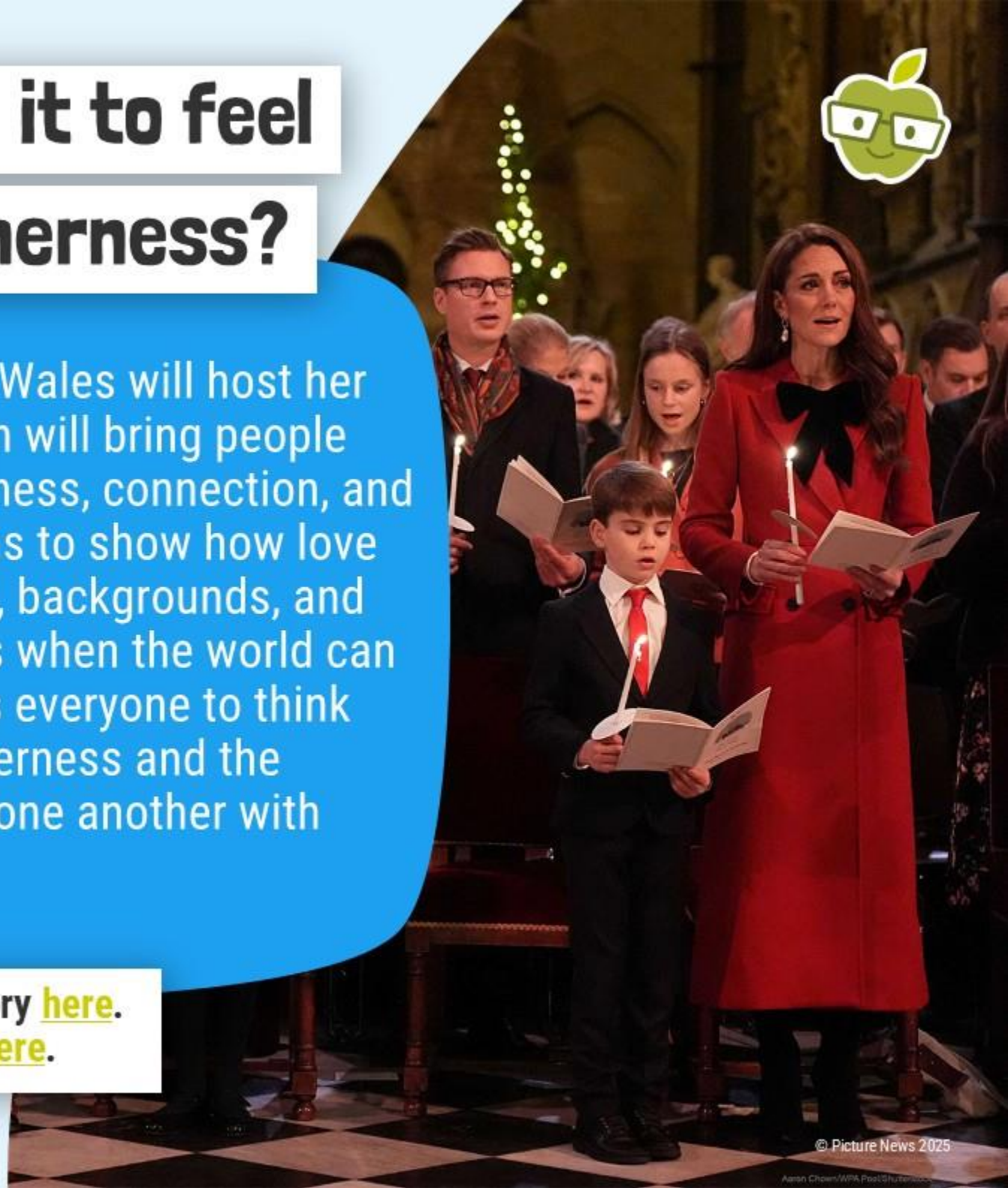


How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?



On Friday, the Princess of Wales will host her annual carol service, which will bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community. The event aims to show how love can link people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs, especially at times when the world can feel divided. It encourages everyone to think about the power of togetherness and the importance of supporting one another with compassion and joy.

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



Do you have an emotional response you would like to share?



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
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted



Questions

What does togetherness mean to you?

Can you recall a time when you felt truly connected to a group or community? What made it feel like a genuine sense of togetherness?



How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?



What is the most important thing we get from being part of a group – is it feeling safe, knowing who you are, or is it something bigger?

What helps people feel connection and belonging? What do you think stops people from feeling like they belong?

If a group of people, such as a form group or sports team, feel a strong sense of togetherness and unity, what advantages might this bring?

Can we only feel a sense of togetherness when we are surrounded by those we know, or can we feel it with strangers? How so?





Vital statistics

The 'social brain hypothesis', shared by the evolutionary psychologist, Professor Robin Dunbar, suggests that a primate's brain size is directly related to the size of its social group. Humans have unusually large brains compared to other animals of a similar body size, which is cited as strong evidence for the evolution of a basic need for social connection.



Research from the Harvard Study of Adult Development has shown that relationships are the most reliable predictor of lifelong happiness, better health and greater longevity. These social ties do more than offer comfort; they can actively enhance the immune system and may reduce the likelihood of stress and chronic illness.





What others think

Read through and share your responses to the two quotes below.

“Human beings are social creatures. We are social not just in the trivial sense that we like company, and not just in the obvious sense that we each depend on others. We are social in a more elemental way: simply to exist as a normal human being requires interaction with other people.” Atul Gawande, surgeon and writer.

“The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.” Thomas Merton, monk and writer.

Further questions for discussion



Has the online world given further opportunities for togetherness? How so?

When you're talking to a friend online, can you truly feel together in the same way you do when you are with them in person? Why?



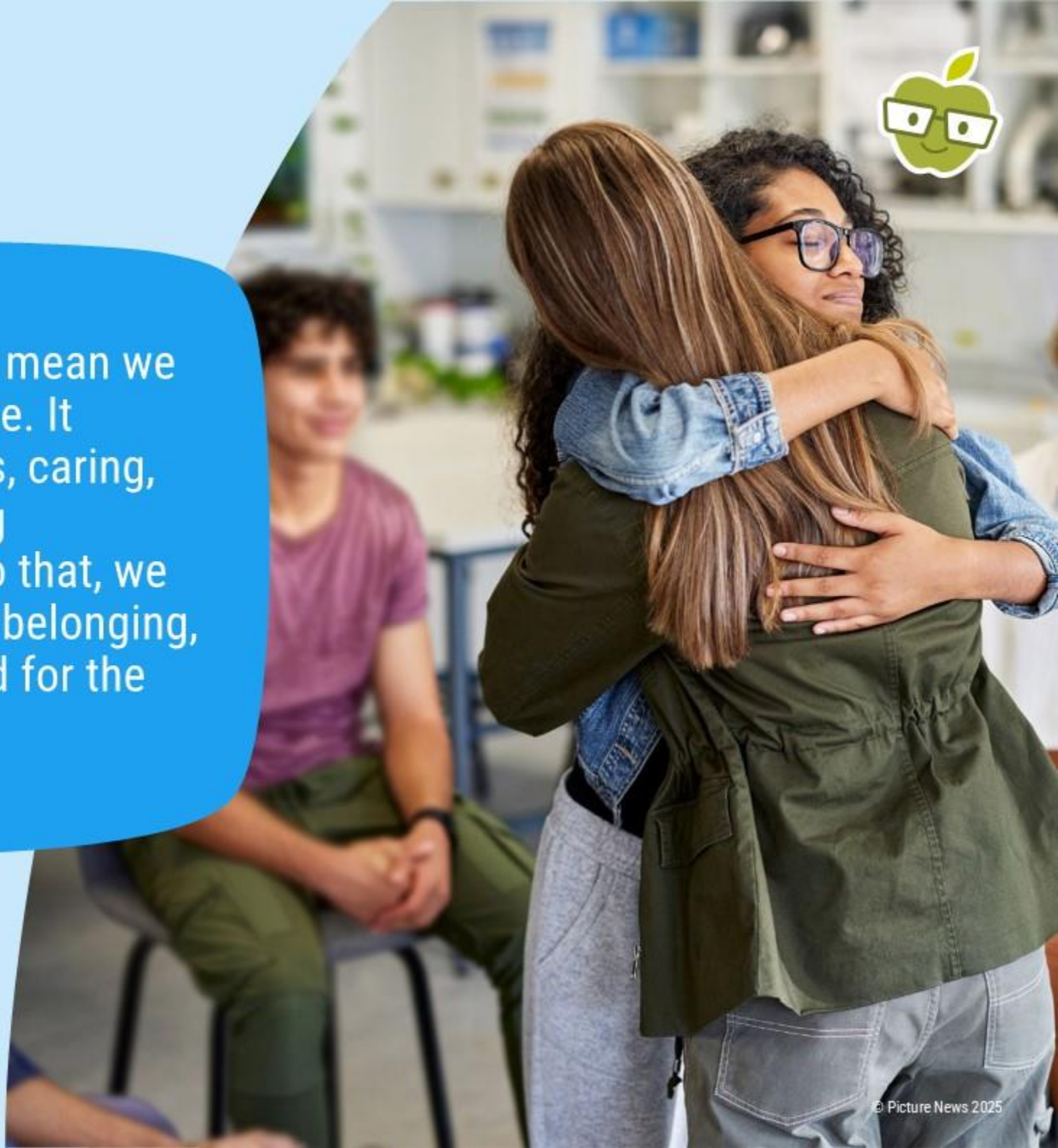


**How important is it to feel a
sense of togetherness?**

Reflection



Togetherness doesn't mean we all have to be the same. It means noticing others, caring, listening, and showing kindness. When we do that, we can create a sense of belonging, both for ourselves and for the people around us.





Mutual Respect and Tolerance

The Princess of Wales' carol service brings people together to share kindness and joy. When we show care, we help create togetherness.

Respecting people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs helps our communities feel welcoming and connected.

Protected Characteristics



The carol service celebrates how everyone can connect through kindness and community. Whoever we are, we should always feel welcome, valued, and never excluded because of any protected characteristic.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



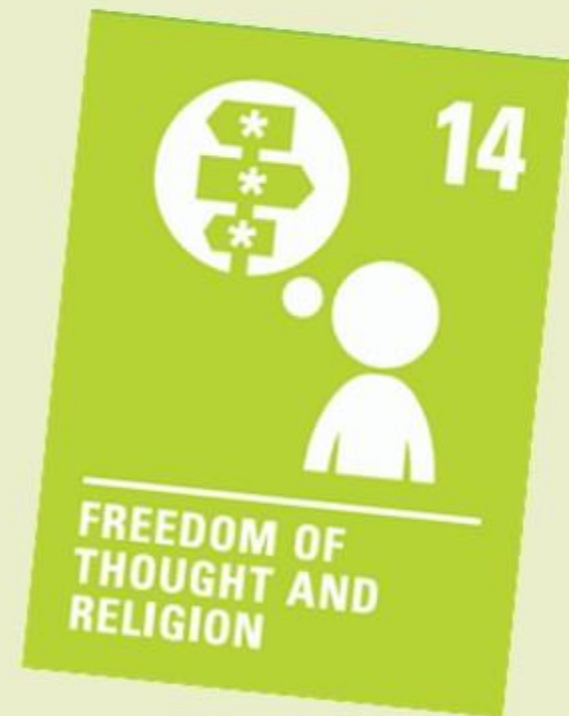
Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



As children grow and experience different celebrations and traditions, they begin to understand what feels meaningful to them. Adults should make sure children's beliefs and ways of expressing them are listened to and respected



Cross Curricular Links



The story this week looks at the importance of togetherness and belonging.



Who Does This Work?



Job of the Week

Events Manager

Event managers are responsible for organising and executing a wide range of gatherings, including conferences, exhibitions, promotions, and both business and social events.

Did you know?

In the UK, the events and experience industry is worth over £40 billion, and the top 10 event management companies' combined turnover is around £3.5 billion.



Pathways Into This Career

- University Degree: Undergraduate degree in Events Management, Marketing, or Communications.
- College/Vocational Courses: College course in event planning/management, or a T Level in Marketing.
- Apprenticeships: Event Assistant (Level 3), Advanced Apprenticeship Hospitality Manager (Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship)



Skills Needed

- Customer-focused and detail-oriented.
- Resilient under pressure, accepts criticism, and flexibility.
- Collaborative with strong leadership.
- Excellent verbal communication, numeracy, and IT proficiency.



Discussion Prompt

How do you plan a truly inclusive event, making sure differences bring people together instead of separating them?



LET'S DISCUSS

1st - 7th
December



This week's news story

<http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy1lg9kgkno>

This week's useful video

<https://youtu.be/j433xFX3wl4?si=qMMMZb1pgFm2Kn7G>



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Notes

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?

Questions

- > What does togetherness mean to you?
- > Can you recall a time when you felt truly connected to a group or community? What details of that experience made it feel like a genuine sense of togetherness?
- > What is the most important thing we get from being part of a group – is it feeling safe, knowing who you are, or is it something bigger?
- > What helps people feel connection and belonging? What do you think stops people from feeling like they belong?
- > If a group of people, such as a form group or sports team, feel a strong sense of togetherness and unity, what advantages might this bring?
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What others think

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Further questions for discussion

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 **Listen**

 **Think**

 **Share**

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Additional Activities



Activity 1

Kindness Bingo

This activity encourages pupils to reflect on and perform a variety of specific, kind, and helpful actions.

- Pupils should create a 3×3 grid and fill the squares with simple, observable acts of kindness and helpful behaviours, e.g., gave a compliment, smiled at someone, held a door open.
- Explain they are to play their game over a set period of time (e.g., a day or a week). They should mark off a square when they perform an act of kindness on their grid. The goal is to get 'bingo' (three in a row—horizontal, vertical, or diagonal).

Follow up the activity by asking the class: How did it feel to perform that act of kindness (or to receive it)? Was the feeling different than you expected? Did you notice an act of kindness that was small but had a big impact? What was it?



Activity 2

The Classroom Kindness Constitution

This activity empowers pupils to define kindness and togetherness, thereby fostering ownership of their community.

The class should work together to draft a short, formal document or 'constitution', defining how members of the community should treat one another.

Encourage the pupils to work together, make notes and decide on:

- The Core Values: What does kindness look like to this class (e.g., active listening, celebrating the achievements of others)?
- The Expectations: What are the specific behaviours that support togetherness (e.g., ensuring everyone is involved)?
- Restorative Practices: What happens when the constitution is broken (e.g., focus on reparation)?
- Togetherness Outcome: The final document is formally signed by every pupil in the class. It can become the authoritative, pupil-created reference point for classroom social interaction.

Ask the class: Which is more powerful one huge, visible act of kindness, or lots of small, quiet acts of daily inclusion? Does kindness only count if people see it? How so?

