

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



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

**13th - 19th February 2023**



**What is the most important form of communication?**



# Let's look at this week's story



Humans can understand other apes' common methods of sign language, scientists have just discovered. Researchers at the University of St Andrews in Scotland have found that people can comprehend the meaning of signals apes, such as wild chimps and bonobos, use to communicate with each other. The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the gestures from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential translations.



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?



<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

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





Read the information below about the recent discovery that humans can understand some of the things that apes communicate.

### Humans translating apes! What did the research find?

Scientists showed volunteers videos of chimps and bonobos making actions, then they asked them to select what they thought the animal was communicating from a list.

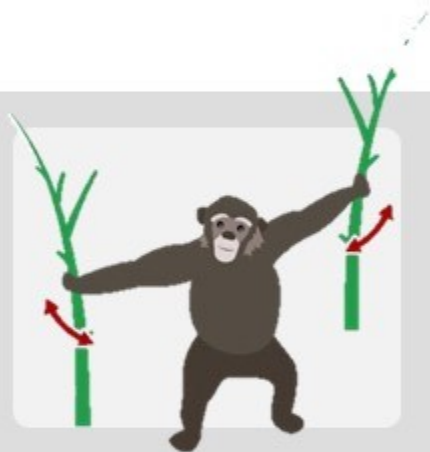
The participants performed a lot better than the scientists expected, correctly interpreting the meaning of the actions more than half the time!

### How apes use gestures



**"Groom me"**

Scratching their chest



**"Let's mate"**

Shaking a tree



**"Come here"**

Beckoning with  
fingers pointing down

Source: Towards a great ape dictionary, Graham and Hobaitea (2023)



Pictured: An Orangutan at Atlanta Zoo, Georgia. Source: Greg Goebel

**Does this news surprise you?**

## Resource one



Look at the resource below, which shares some different ways we might communicate with other people.

### Sign language

Sign language combines facial expressions, body language, hand gestures and movements to communicate visually. Sign language is mainly used by people who are deaf or have hearing impairments. British Sign Language (BSL) is the most common form of sign language in the UK.

### Body language

Our faces and bodies can be used to communicate with others. We can smile to tell someone we are happy, widen our eyes to say don't do that, shrug our shoulders to tell someone we're not sure or hold out our arms to tell someone we want a hug.

**What message do you think the people below are communicating?**



### Verbal communication

We can communicate by speaking and listening. There are many different languages we can learn to speak so we can communicate with people all around the world! This can be done face to face, by video or telephone calls.



### Arts

Pieces of art or music can be used to communicate. They may communicate an emotion to us or even send a special message.



### Written communication

There are many different ways we can communicate with someone through writing. We may write a letter, send an email or text a message.



### Morse code

Morse code uses long and short sound or light signals, often called dots and dashes to represent different letters of the alphabet. If you know the code, you could communicate with someone using a torch in the distance!

A	• —	N	— •	1	• — — —
B	— • • •	O	— — —	2	• • — —
C	• — • •	P	• — • •	3	• • • —
D	— • •	Q	— — • •	4	• • • •
E	•	R	• — •	5	• • • • •
F	• • • •	S	• • •	6	— • • • •
G	— • • •	T	—	7	— — • • •
H	• • • •	U	• • —	8	— — — • •
I	• •	V	• • • —	9	— — — • • •
J	• — — —	W	• — —	0	— — — —
K	• — •	X	• • • —		
L	• — • •	Y	• — • —		
M	— —	Z	— • • •		



**Have you ever communicated in any of these ways?**



Look at the resource below,  
which shares some communication skills.

### Active listening



Active listening is paying close attention to the person you are communicating with. You may ask them questions, watch their body language and facial expressions carefully and listen to their tone of voice. This can help you respond more effectively to them.

### Confidence



Being confident when you communicate can help ensure information is clear and ensure people are more likely to respond. Speaking clearly, maintaining eye contact and good body language (standing/sitting up straight, open shoulders) can show confident communication.

### Choosing how to communicate



Considering who you are communicating with (your audience) and why you need to communicate with them can help you decide which method of communication will be most effective. Communicating through email, text message, video call, phone call, letter or in person all have their benefits and drawbacks. Choosing the right method of communication is a skill.

### Volume and tone



Being able to adapt your volume or tone depending on who you are communicating with and where is a skill. Speaking loudly in front of a large audience can be effective, as it ensures you are heard, but being too loud in some situations may be seen as rude or disrespectful. The tone of your voice can also help people interpret what you are saying or communicate an emotion to them.

Communication skills can be developed and improved.

#### How to Improve Nonverbal Communication Skills

- Maintain eye contact
- Nod your head to convey that you agree
- Smile and show interest
- Lean forward to show speaker your interest
- Sit with relaxed shoulders and open arms

Do you agree these would improve nonverbal communication skills?

**Can you think of any other communication skills? How can communicating well help us?**





**What is the most important form of communication?**



# Reflection



Communication is vital for us to work, live and play together. Through our words, actions and facial expressions, we can share both happy and sad times with those around us and help each other when needed.





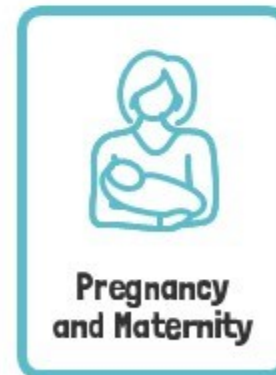
# Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We are all different, so communicate in different ways. Developing our communication skills can help us become more understanding of the world we live in and may even help someone else feel welcome and cared for.

# Protected Characteristics



Some people may have a disability, such as deafness, which means they communicate with others in a different way. This should never cause someone to be treated unfairly.

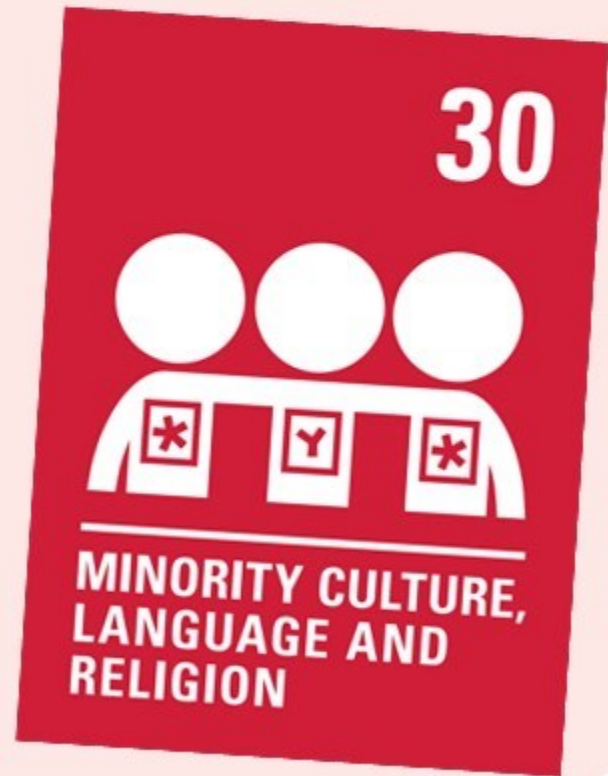




# UN Rights of a Child



There are many languages spoken across the world that people can use to communicate with one another. We all have the right to use our own language, even if this is not shared by most people in the country we live in.



# Useful vocabulary



## Beckoning

Moving your hand or head in a way that tells someone to come nearer or follow.

**Beckoning** with fingers pointing down.

## Comprehend

To understand.

Researchers at the University of St Andrews in Scotland have found that people can **comprehend** the meaning of signals apes, such as wild chimps and bonobos, use to communicate with each other.

## Gestures

Movements of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express emotion or information.

The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the **gestures** from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential translations.

## Interactions

Communication with or reaction to someone or something.

Thinking about our own **interactions** and relationships with people at home and at school, what are some of the ways that you communicate with each other?

## Translation

Converting one language into another.

The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the gestures from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential **translations**.

## Vital

Absolutely necessary; essential.

Communication is **vital** for us to work, live and play together.

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

# Picture News



## What is the most important form of communication?

Humans can understand other apes' common methods of sign language, scientists have just discovered. Researchers at the University of St Andrews in Scotland have found that people can comprehend the meaning of signals apes, such as wild chimps and bonobos, use to communicate with each other. The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the gestures from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential translations.



- Look at this week's poster image, showing a Western Lowland Gorilla and her infant. What do you think this week's story could be about?
- Scientists have discovered that humans can understand some of the things that apes communicate! Read the information found on the assembly resource about this recent discovery. Does this news surprise you?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows signals great apes use to communicate. Can you understand some of the signals that they gave?
- Thinking about our own interactions and relationships with people at home and at school, what are some of the ways that we communicate with each other? E.g., talking, smiling, head movements.
- Does anyone have any experience with babies or toddlers? How do they communicate before they are able to talk?
- What about our relationships and interactions with animals? How do we communicate, and do they understand us?
- What are some of the benefits of being able to communicate with those around us?

## Reflection

Communication is vital for us to work, live and play together. Through our words, actions and facial expressions, we can share both happy and sad times with those around us and help each other when needed.

# Picture News



## KS1 focus

### What are some ways we can communicate with others?



- Write 'communicate' on the board. Can you describe what it means? Can you give an example of when you might communicate?
- Look up the definition of communicate in a dictionary or share the following: share or exchange information, news, or ideas. How often do you think you share information, news or ideas with other people each day? How do you do this?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some different ways we might communicate with other people. Have you ever communicated in any of these ways? Which of these ways do you prefer to use? Why?
- Discuss some of the different languages people may use to communicate with one another. Can you say 'hello' to someone in a different language? Can you use British Sign Language to say hello? How could you say hello using your face?
- Focus on Morse code. Explain it was invented before telephones existed to communicate over long distances via telegraph. Can you tap your initials to someone in Morse code? Have you ever used a code to communicate with anyone? Have you ever created a secret code with a friend?
- Explore using facial expressions to communicate. Show someone you are happy, sad, angry. Think about some of the messages your teachers or adults at home may communicate with you through their faces!

## Reflection

We communicate with each other every day! Learning different ways to communicate can help connect us to more people and learn more about the world we live in.

# Picture News



## KS2 focus

### Is it important to learn how to communicate well?



- Discuss all of the different ways we communicate with people each day. How do you communicate with them? Who do you communicate with? What do you communicate?
- Do you find some people are easier to communicate with than others? Do you find it easier to communicate with your friends rather than adults you do not know very well? Can you think of a time when you found it difficult to communicate? Is there a method of communication you find easier e.g., you prefer to communicate through writing rather than speaking?
- Being able to communicate effectively is something we can improve by developing communication skills. Look at resource 2, which shares some communication skills. Can you think of any other communication skills? How can communicating well help us?
- We can develop communication skills by practising them. We may not feel comfortable speaking in front of an audience but the more we do it, the easier it becomes! We can practise communicating in a variety of different ways e.g., writing, using technology, learning a different language to help us communicate with a wider range of people. Would you like to improve your communication skills? Why?

## Reflection

There are many different skills required to become an effective communicator. Our ability to communicate well with others is something we can all improve and it has many benefits that can help us now and in the future!

# Picture News



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Think about your own communication skills.

- Do you think you are good at communicating?
- Do you prefer communicating in some situations more than others?
- How could you improve your ability to communicate with others?

Use this opportunity to brush up on your communication skills by completing one or more of the following:

- Learn how to introduce yourself in another language.
- Talk to an audience (a group or the class) about your favourite hobby.
- Practise body language and facial expressions that could be used to show confidence.
- Explore using technology to communicate with someone.

### Option 2

Create a piece of art to communicate an emotion. Think about:

- What emotion do you want to communicate? Happiness, anger, sadness or a mixture?
- What lines, shapes, colours and tones will communicate your emotion?
- What will you use to create your artwork? Materials, paint, pencil, chalk, pastels, a mixture?

Once you have produced your art, share it with someone else to see if it communicates the emotion you had intended!

# Picture News



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Explore the history of communication. Make a list of all the ways you can keep in touch with someone (email, letter, telephone, video call, text messaging).

- Do you think the grown-ups you know used these ways to keep in touch with each other when they were children?
- How could we find out how they kept in touch with each other?
- How do you think people kept in touch with each other before telephones were invented e.g., carrier pigeons, messengers who rode horses?

If possible, ask grown-ups from home what they used to communicate with each other when they were younger and share your findings.

### Option 2

Work in groups to practise your communication skills. Each person takes it in turns to communicate a message or emotion to the group without using any words. You could choose from the following messages/emotions or create your own:

- I am hungry.
- Could you give me some directions?
- What time do we go for lunch?
- I have lost my jumper.
- I am confused.
- Would you like to sit next to me?
- Stay back.

Once you have completed the challenge, discuss how easy or hard you found it.

# Picture News



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

[www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-64387401](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-64387401)

### This week's useful video

The signals great apes use to communicate  
[www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-64396575](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-64396575)

### This week's Virtual Picture News

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

## This week's vocabulary

### Beckoning

Moving your hand or head in a way that tells someone to come nearer or follow.

**Beckoning** with fingers pointing down.

### Comprehend

To understand.

Researchers at the University of St Andrews in Scotland have found that people can **comprehend** the meaning of signals apes, such as wild chimps and bonobos, use to communicate with each other.

### Gestures

Movements of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express emotion or information.

The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the **gestures** from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential translations.

### Interactions

Communications with or reactions to someone or something.

Thinking about our own **interactions** and relationships with people at home and at school, what are some of the ways that you communicate with each other?

### Translation

Converting one language into another.

The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the gestures from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential **translations**.

### Vital

Absolutely necessary; essential.

Communication is **vital** for us to work, live and play together.



## Froggy friend



Pictured: White's tree frog. Source: Canva

A 2-year-old girl from Florida, USA, has made best friends with a frog. Juliana Allon begged her mum to adopt the White's tree frog, after meeting him in a local pet store, where he was living after being abandoned by his previous owner. The toddler's mother, Brandie, said that the two had immediately fallen in love with each other, after Juliana was allowed to hold the frog in the shop and have become best friends since. The amphibian, named George, sits on her shoulder whilst she

eats breakfast and watches TV. She also pushes him around her home in a stroller. White's tree frogs (also known as dumpy tree frogs) can grow up to 13cm, often live between 7 and 10 years and are great at climbing, thanks to their suctioning footpads. On being a pet frog owner, Brandie says, 'I never thought we would get a frog, but if you find an old soul like George, I'd definitely recommend getting a pet frog. He's just a happy little fellow.'

**Do you think a frog would be a good pet?**

## Delicious dress

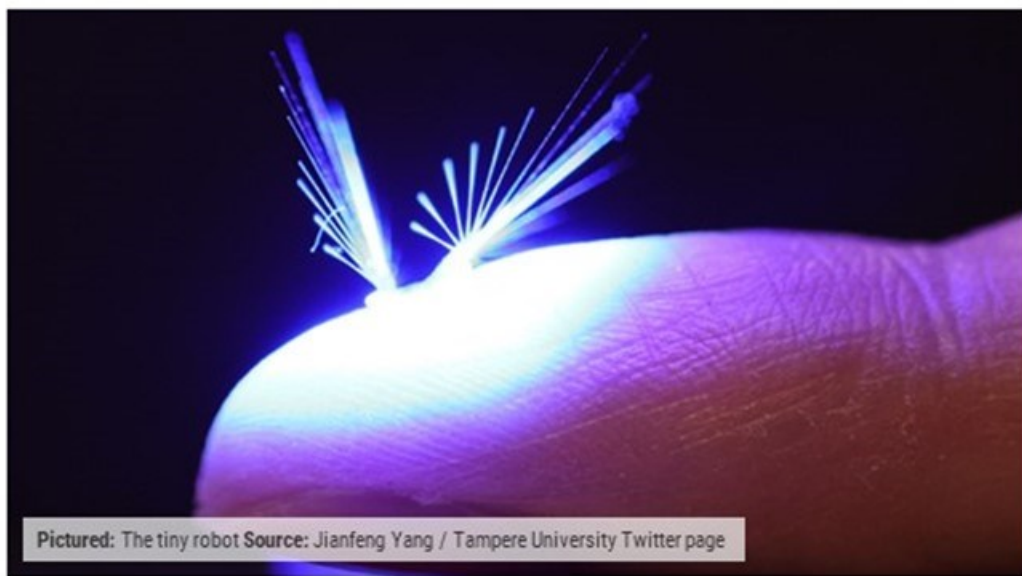
Natasha Coline Kim Fah Lee Fokas of SweetYCakes has broken a world record by creating the largest wearable supported cake dress ever. The amazing wedding style dress weighed an extraordinary 131.15 kg! Natasha's bakery specialises in custom cakes and is in Thun, Switzerland. The record-breaking edible dress was brought out during the finale of the fashion show at the Swiss World Wedding fair. Guinness World Records' rules state that the food involved in record breaking attempts cannot go to waste, so the cake was shared with guests of the fair at the cakemaker's booth and given away for free at their shop the next day. Describing her

journey to breaking the record, Natasha said, 'A few years ago, I was in the middle of my work as a cake designer, in my then tiny "shop", at the back of my mini studio and busy decorating a wedding cake, I had a crazy idea: How great would it be if a whole wedding dress was made of cake...? A few days later, my youngest daughter Elli was already the model for the first attempt. The most difficult part: how is it possible to construct the part of the dress that has to be worn on the skin in such a way that it holds up...? It wasn't perfect, but perfect for the first time. The attempt was a challenge to myself and it's nice to have it officially confirmed.'



Pictured: The world's largest wearable cake dress created by Natasha Coline Kim Fah Lee Fokas and the SweetYCakes team being awarded the Guinness World Record certificate. Source: Guinness World Records @GWR Twitter page

# Tiny 'fairy' robots



Pictured: The tiny robot Source: Jianfeng Yang / Tampere University Twitter page

Scientists, at Tampere University in Finland, have developed tiny fairy-like robots. The miniature robots, inspired by dandelion seeds, are so light they can be carried along by the wind. The flying robot, equipped with artificial muscles, could help to pollinate plants such as strawberries, apples, raspberries as well as broad beans, peas and courgettes. As pollinators such as bees are declining in numbers, researchers are looking into technology that may assist plants in reproducing and growing food. Hao Zeng and Jianfeng Yang, members of the 'Light Robots' team at the university, have come up with a new design for their project called FAIRY – Flying Aero-robots based on Light

Responsive Materials Assembly. Their small robots sit like a winged insect until they, in response to light, spread their wings to fly, using the wind. 'This would have a huge impact on agriculture globally since the loss of pollinators due to global warming has become a serious threat to biodiversity and food production,' explains Hao Zeng. 'The fairy can be powered and controlled by a light source, such as a laser beam or LED. This means that light can be used to change the shape of the tiny dandelion seed-like structure.' Researchers say they are still working on how to make landing more precise and how to make the robots reusable.

Last week's topic:

## Does the natural world have rights?

The natural world should be respected and have rights because the trees and plants give us and the world many important things such as oxygen. It also has not done anything to us so we should do nothing to it. If necessary plant a tree once you have cut one this will help a lot!

Zoya




No, so it is up to us to make sure we take care of it because otherwise it could be damaged or disappear.

Jeffery

Yes because natural things live and they have the right to be protected.

Kenza

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

 [www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

 [help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)

 @HelpPicture

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

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



# TAKEHOME



**What is the most important form of communication?**



## In the news this week

Humans can understand other apes' common methods of sign language, scientists have just discovered. Researchers at the University of St Andrews in Scotland have found that people can comprehend the meaning of signals apes, such as wild chimps and bonobos, use to communicate with each other. The scientists' video-based study asked volunteers to interpret the gestures from clips of various apes and choose from a list of potential translations.

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

- > Can you make a list of all of the different ways that you communicate with others at home?
- > Were you surprised to learn humans can understand apes? Do you feel that you can communicate with animals, e.g., pets at home?

**Please note any interesting thoughts or comments**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

