

# What's happening in the news this week?



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

11th - 17th September 2023



**Should lifejackets be compulsory  
for all on open water?**



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

In Canada, the government in the province of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear lifejackets on boats. Parents, guardians, or other adults supervising children could be subject to a fine of up to \$200 (£130) if they do not comply. In the UK, currently, there is no legal requirement for anyone using rivers and seas for leisure purposes to wear a lifejacket/personal flotation device (PFD).



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 through the information found below about lifejackets and rules about wearing them in different countries.

The laws on wearing a lifejacket when on board a boat or vessel at sea vary around the world.

## USA



Federal law (laws covered in all 51 states) requires all passengers under 13 to wear a lifejacket while a boat or vessel is underway. The U.S. Coast Guard defines the rules for lifejackets.

## UK



There is no legal requirement in the UK for anyone on the water for leisure purposes to wear a lifejacket. Though guidance from the RNLi (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) says, 'Always wear an appropriate lifejacket or buoyancy aid unless it is safe not to do so. We believe that lifejackets save lives and are useless unless worn.'

## Australia



Several states have mandatory wear regulations including the State of Tasmania, where lifejackets are required to be worn on boats longer than 6m in length when under power. It's also compulsory for children under the age of 12 years to wear a lifejacket on any motorboat.

## Ireland



Lifejackets must be worn by anyone on board or on the deck of a boat or vessel that is less than 7m in length. Additionally, the owner is required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that anyone under the age of 16 wears a lifejacket.



**Did you think there would be so much difference between the laws in different countries?**



Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about lifejackets.

A lifejacket is something that you wear in case you enter the water when you are not expecting to. They are designed to keep you afloat. There are many different types of lifejacket but wearing one could save your life!



A lifejacket may have a whistle and a torch to help you attract attention and get help, should you fall into the water.



Look at the lifejackets these children are wearing. Discuss the similarities and differences between them. Is there one you think you would prefer to wear? Why?



Can you think of an example of when someone might wear a lifejacket?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about RNLI and what they do.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary, who wanted to save lives at sea. It is a charity, which relies on donations and thousands of volunteers to run its lifesaving service. RNLI is dedicated to making the waters around the UK and Ireland a safer place. As well as providing their lifeboats, lifeguard service and flood response, they also have research and education programmes.

### RNLI Statistics

Over **144,000 lives** have been saved since RNLI was founded.

**389 lives** were saved in 2022.

**97%** of RNLI operational crew are volunteers.

RNLI has a fleet of **449 lifeboats**.

### RNLI Purpose, Vision and Values

**Purpose** The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.

**Vision** To save everyone.

**Values** Their values reflect the way they work. As one crew, they strive for excellence and are:

- **Trustworthy** - to hold the trust of the public, volunteers, supporters, partners and staff.
- **Courageous** - to have the courage to take on the most demanding challenges.
- **Selfless** - to put the needs of others first.
- **Dependable** - to be reliable, consistent and authentic.



St Davids RNLI station on the south-west Wales coastline has been launching lifeboats since 1867.



**Pictured left** are inshore lifeboats, which are usually used in shallower water or near cliffs or rocks, as they are designed to be quick and manoeuvrable.

**Pictured right** is an all-weather lifeboat. These are fitted with navigation, location and communication equipment. They can be used in all weather conditions and are capable of high speed.

**Were you aware that RNLI was a charity run primarily by volunteers? How important do you think the service they provide is?**





**Should lifejackets be compulsory  
for all on open water?**

# Reflection



Time spent on water can be unpredictable and dangerous. It's important that we understand how we can keep ourselves and others safe.





## **Rule of Law**

The province of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear lifejackets on boats. Rules and laws are there to help protect us and keep us safe.

# Protected Characteristics



Sometimes there are rules in place that only apply to children, such as having to wear a lifejacket. These rules are put in place to help keep us safe and should never be unfair.





# UN Rights of a Child



All adults should do what is best for children. An adult may give us rules to follow to help protect us or ask us to wear equipment, such as a lifejacket, to help keep us safe.



# Useful vocabulary



## Comply

To follow or obey a set of rules, an order or request.

Parents, guardians, or other adults supervising children could be subject to a fine of up to \$200 (£130) if they do not **comply**.

## Compulsory

Required by law or a rule that must be followed.

The Water Safety (Curriculum) Bill requires water safety and training as a **compulsory** part of the curriculum for all schools in England.

## Mandatory

Required by law or an official order.

Several states have **mandatory** wear regulations.

## Province

One of the areas that a country is divided into, which often has some control over its own laws.

In Canada, the government in the **province** of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear lifejackets on boats.

## Unpredictable

Likely to change suddenly and without reason.

Time spent on water can be **unpredictable** and dangerous.

## Vessel

A large boat or ship.

The laws on wearing a lifejacket when on board a boat or **vessel** at sea vary around the world.

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



## Should lifejackets be compulsory for all on open water?

In Canada, the government in the province of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear lifejackets on boats. Parents, guardians, or other adults supervising children could be subject to a fine of up to \$200 (£130) if they do not comply. In the UK, currently, there is no legal requirement for anyone using rivers and seas for leisure purposes to wear a lifejacket/personal flotation device (PFD).



- Look at this week's poster image and share your own experience of using lifejackets. Can you recall a time when you have used one? Where were you and what was it for?
- Share any prior knowledge you have about water safety. Talk about when you think young people should learn about staying safe in water.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource about lifejackets and the rules about wearing them in different countries. Did you think that there would be so much difference between the laws in different countries?
- The Royal Life Saving Society UK is campaigning to ensure that all children have access to water safety education. The Water Safety (Curriculum) Bill requires water safety and training as a compulsory part of the curriculum for all schools in England. Do you think this is something that should be taught in school?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows 23 facts about the RNLI. From all the different facts, which did you find most interesting and why?

### Reflection

Time spent on water can be unpredictable and dangerous. It's important that we understand how we can keep ourselves and others safe.



## KS1 focus

### When are some of the times you might need to wear a lifejacket?



- Write 'lifejacket' on the board. Do you know what a lifejacket is? Can you describe it? Why do people wear one? Have you ever worn one before?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some more information about lifejackets. Focus on the lifejackets the children are wearing. Discuss the similarities and differences between them. Is there one you think you would prefer to wear? Why?
- A lifejacket is worn by someone who might fall into the water but isn't expecting to. Can you think of a time when someone might wear a lifejacket? Do you think someone should wear one when they are on a boat, fishing, walking around a lake?
- There may be times when some people are asked to wear a lifejacket and others are not, such as children or non-swimmers. Do you think this is fair?
- If you are not expecting to fall in the water, it can be a shock. Wearing a lifejacket will keep someone afloat if they do fall in. Do you think everyone should wear a lifejacket? Why?
- Sometimes we might take part in water activities when we are expecting to fall in. Can you think of any examples of this e.g., raft building? Have you ever taken part in an activity like this? What safety equipment did you wear? Can you find out the difference between a lifejacket and a buoyancy aid?

### Reflection

A lifejacket is worn when someone might enter the water when they were not planning to. It keeps you afloat and can save your life.



## KS2 focus

### Who are the RNLI and what do they do?



- Write 'RNLI' on the board. Have you heard of this before? Do you know what RNLI stands for? Share anything you know.
- RNLI stands for Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Look at resource 2, which shares some information about RNLI and what they do. Were you aware that RNLI was a charity run primarily by volunteers? How important do you think the service they provide is?
- Look at the image of St Davids lifeboat station on resource 2. Have you ever seen a lifeboat station? Where were you? Did it look similar to or different from the one at St Davids?
- RNLI has 238 lifeboat stations. Each is unique but all are designed to provide the quickest response. Do you know where the nearest station to you is? If not, can you find out?
- In 2022, it cost RNLI £188m to run its lifesaving service. 94% of RNLI's total income comes from donations. Does this surprise you?
- Some people choose to become members and donate regularly; others organise fundraising activities to help make a contribution. Have you ever fundraised for something? What was it? Describe what you did and why you did it.
- As well as making the waters around the UK and Ireland a safer place, RNLI is dedicated to saving lives globally. Drowning is a huge problem internationally and RNLI is working to tackle this. Were you aware that drowning was such a problem globally?

### Reflection

RNLI was founded almost 200 years ago and since then its philosophy has remained the same. It is the charity that saves lives at sea with a vision of saving everyone.



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Write a letter or email to RNLI. Use the following to help you plan your ideas:

- Why are you writing? To thank them, to find out more information?
- Can you share an experience you may have had with RNLI?
- Can you share how you feel about RNLI's purpose, vision and values and how you relate to them?
- Do you have any questions?
- Is RNLI a charity you would like to support?  
You could find out more about how you could do this.

Write your formal letter or email making sure you organise your ideas in paragraphs. Send your letters/emails!

### Option 2

RNLI statistics!

- Over 144,000 lives have been saved since RNLI was founded. Write 144,000 in words.
- 389 lives were saved in 2022. What is 144,000 minus 389?
- 97% of RNLI operational crew are volunteers. What is 97% as a fraction? Decimal fraction? What percentage of RNLI operational crew are not volunteers?
- RNLI has a fleet of 449 lifeboats. Can you round this to the nearest 10? 100?
- RNLI has 238 lifeboat stations. Would it be possible for there to be at least 2 lifeboats at every station? Explain your answer.



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Lif jackets are designed to help people float. If something floats, it stays on top of the surface of the water. If something sinks, it drops below the surface of the water and falls to the bottom.

- Can you think of anything that floats?
- Can you think of anything that sinks?

Collect some objects from around the classroom that can be safely put in water e.g., an empty water bottle, a pebble, a 2D shape, a ball.

- Which of these objects do you think will float when you put them in water and which do you think will sink?
- Can you explain why you think this?

Test your objects using your water tray, a bowl or a sink. Discuss anything you notice about the objects that float and the ones that sink. Think about how heavy/light the objects are and their shape.

### Option 2

Use this opportunity to teach/recap water safety.

- What do you already know about water safety?
- Are there any rules adults ask you to follow when you are near or in the water?
- Have you ever used any equipment that helps to keep you safe when in the water?

Once you have shared what you know, find out some more! You can book a free visit from RNLI to give a water safety presentation or use the resources found [here](#).



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/mobile/ontario-set-to-pass-bill-mandating-lif jackets-on-boats-for-children-1.6476183>

### This week's useful video

23 Facts about the RNLI  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlczBv8VIYU>

### This week's Virtual Picture News

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

## This week's vocabulary

### Comply

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One of the areas that a country is divided into, which often has some control over its own laws. In Canada, the government in the **province** of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear life jackets on boats.

### Unpredictable

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### Vessel

A large boat or ship. The laws on wearing a life jacket when on board a boat or **vessel** at sea vary around the world.



## The World's Happiest Country - Again!

Finland has been declared the world's happiest country for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row! The 2023 World Happiness Report, which states it is the first report to rank countries by how their populations feel, compiled a list of 146 countries. To do this, data was used that had been gathered by the Gallup World Poll, which asked about 1,000 people from each country to evaluate various areas of their lives and grade them between 0 and 10 in terms of their happiness. A 0 score is the worst and a score of 10 is the best. Once all the results were in, Finland topped the table with an impressive score of 7.804!

'Happiness can change, and does change, according to the quality of the society in which people live,' said John F. Helliwell one of the chief editors of the World Happiness Report.

**Do you think this is a good way to work out how happy nations are?**



Pictured: Northern lights between pine trees in Finland. Source: Canva.



Pictured: Person with the Finnish flag. Source: Canva.

## Spotless Giraffe

Brights Zoo in Tennessee, USA, has welcomed a very special rare spotless baby giraffe! The baby giraffe was born at the zoo on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Experts believe that she is the only solid-coloured reticulated giraffe on the planet today and the first to be born in more than 50 years.

Tony Bright, the founder of Brights Zoo, talked about the media interest said,

'The international coverage of our patternless baby giraffe has created a much-needed spotlight on giraffe conservation. Wild populations are silently slipping into extinction, with 40% of the wild giraffe population lost in just the last three decades.' Dr Fred Bercovitch, a giraffe expert, referred to her lack of spots saying, 'In biology there are always exceptions to the rule and when exceptions pop up it is really cool.'

The zoo launched a public vote to choose a meaningful name for the new baby giraffe.

The names (and definitions) that people could choose from were, Kipekee (unique), Firyali (unusual or extraordinary), Shakiri (she is most beautiful) and Jamella (one of great beauty).



Pictured: The rare spotless giraffe born at Brights Zoo. Source: Brights Zoo Facebook page.

**Which name would you have voted for?**

**Why do you think this would be the best name for the spotless giraffe?**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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



# Wind Powered Cargo Ship

Pyxis Ocean is the world's first wind-powered cargo ship and it has just embarked on its maiden voyage. The freighter, which has been retrofitted with two sails (built from the same material as wind turbines) to help cut down emissions, is travelling from China to Brazil. The WindWings sails, developed by British company BAR Technologies, are designed to reduce fuel consumption and therefore the carbon footprint of shipping. The 37.5m tall wings (folded down when in port) are opened out when the ship is in open water. Experts say having the ability to power ships with wind, instead of relying entirely on engines, could reduce the lifetime emissions of a cargo ship by 30%.

Researchers believe that the six-week journey will help them work out how much of a reduction the large metal sails can have on the industry's estimated production of 837 million tonnes of CO2 each year. 'Wind power can make a big difference,' says Dr Simon Bullock, shipping researcher at the Tyndall Centre, at the University of Manchester. 'Ultimately, we do need zero-carbon fuels on all ships, but in the meantime, it is imperative to make every journey as efficient as possible. Slower speeds are also a critical part of the solution.'

**What do you think of using this technology to help reduce the shipping industry's emissions?**



Pictured: Pyxis Ocean. Source: Cargill Facebook page.

Last week's topic:

## Can pets make good companions in schools?



I think it would be good because if someone gets stressed and you had a dog it could calm you down or cheer you up. You could play with it at break and lunch but I would only like it if you could bring your own pets.

Isla

Yes, they can but also sometimes people are allergic or scared of them, so we need to be careful and consider everyone before getting one.

Alexandra

I think that is a great idea for schools to have pets, as long as they are well looked after. A lady who works in our school office brings in her dog so we know that he is well cared for and happy.

Mario

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



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# TAKEHOME



## Should lifejackets be compulsory for all on open water?



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

- Share your experience of lifejackets. Have you ever been required to wear one? Where were you? Did everyone wear them?
- Can you make a list of all the times you think lifejackets should be worn?
- Do you feel there should be laws in place to ensure people wear lifejackets on boats at sea? If so, do you believe they should apply to everyone?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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