

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





EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

VIENNA 2026



**How can music
bring people
together?**

European Broadcasting Union



Let's look at this week's story

This week, countries from across Europe and beyond are taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest. Each country performs a song, and millions of people watch and vote for their favourites. The contest celebrates different styles of music, languages, and cultures from around the world.



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





Read the information found below all about the Eurovision Song Contest and share some reasons why you think it is so popular.

The Eurovision Song Contest

The Eurovision Song Contest is a huge music competition in which singers from different countries perform songs and compete to win. People and judges all over the world watch and vote for their favourites!



Source: Michael Leckie

Who takes part?

Countries from across Europe (and even some outside of Europe) take part.

Each country has one act, and the performers represent their country on a big stage.

How does it work?

1. Countries perform their songs live.
2. Each country gives points to their favourite acts.
3. The act with the most points wins!

Who is the UK's entry for 2026?

Pictured left: The musician, Look Mum No Computer, who is representing the UK in the contest with his song, 'Eins, Zwei, Drei' (1, 2, 3 in German). He says it's a song about escaping the boredom of daily work in an office into a world of dreams and endless possibilities.

Interesting facts...

- This year's theme is 'United by Music'.
- Eurovision started in 1956 (this year is its 70th birthday).
- It is one of the most-watched events in the world.
- Songs can be in any language.
- Some performances include amazing costumes, dancing, and special effects.
- Winners often become famous around the world.

If you were to enter, what type of song would you choose?





Look at the resource below, which shows the history of the Eurovision Song Contest.



The first Eurovision Song Contest takes place in 1956 in Switzerland. Seven countries take part. It is hoped the contest will bring countries together after World War II.



In 1974, the group ABBA wins for Sweden with the song *Waterloo*. Their win helps make them famous around the world.



From 1999, performers are allowed to sing in any language, not just their own.



In 2020, the contest is cancelled for the first time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the 70th Eurovision Song Contest is being held in Vienna, Austria.

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2020s

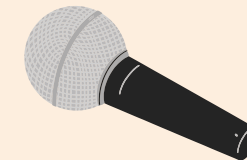
More countries begin to take part, and the contest becomes more competitive as nations try to win.



Eurovision becomes a popular event across Europe, with more people watching it on television each year.



Semi-finals are introduced in 2004 so more countries can take part. In 2008, a second semi-final is added before the final.



Which change do you think had the biggest impact on Eurovision? Why?

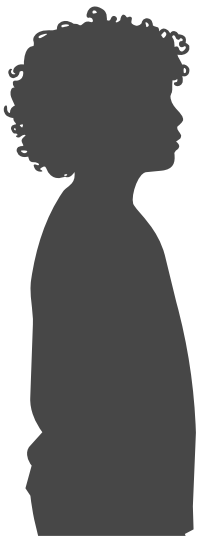
British Values



I Really Do Matter!



Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



I can see **Democracy** because everyone can use their right to vote to help decide the winner of the contest.

The contest celebrates lots of cultures and traditions showing **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

Protected Characteristics



Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



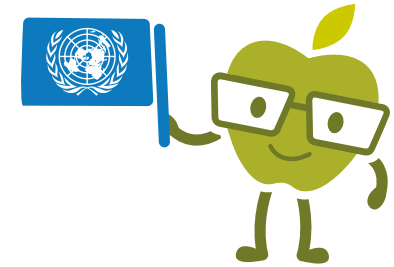
The Eurovision Song Contest celebrates the protected characteristic of **race**, because it brings people together from many different countries, cultures, and backgrounds to share their music.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?





UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the right to relax, play, and join in with fun activities like music and art. The Eurovision Song Contest lets children celebrate this right by sharing songs and dancing.



Reflection



Music can help people feel connected, even if they have different values or backgrounds, or live far apart.



Useful Vocabulary



Compete

To take part in a contest or game against others to see who can win or be the best at something.

The Eurovision Song Contest is a huge music competition in which countries perform songs and **compete** to win.

Europe

The world's second-smallest continent, made up of lots of different countries.

Countries from across **Europe** (and even some outside of Europe) take part.

Live

To play music or act in front of an audience as it happens, rather than using a recording.

Countries perform their songs **live**.

Represent

To act or speak for someone else, or to use a symbol or sign to stand for something.

Each country sends one act, and performers **represent** their country on a big stage.

Styles

The different ways that things like art, music or clothing are **unique or distinct from others**.

The contest celebrates different **styles** of music, languages, and cultures from around the world.

Vote

To make a formal choice to help make a group decision.

People and judges all over the world watch and **vote** for their favourites!

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



How can music bring people together?

This week, countries from across Europe and beyond are taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest. Each country performs a song, and millions of people watch and vote for their favourites. The contest celebrates different styles of music, languages, and cultures from around the world.



- Look at this week's image and share any prior knowledge you have about the Eurovision Song Contest. Is it something you have watched before?
- Can you share your favourite song? What is it that you like about it?
- How does listening to music make you feel? How about making music or singing? Do you enjoy those?
- Read the information found on the **assembly resource** all about the Eurovision Song Contest, and discuss some reasons why you think it is so popular.
- Lots of the songs at Eurovision are sung in different languages. Talk about how many people still enjoy music without understanding the words. Do you?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows some of this year's song entries. Share which you enjoy and why – talk about how we all have our own music preferences.
- Often, music is seen to bring people together. Do you agree? Why do you think it might have this effect?
- When or at what occasions might we play music? E.g., at parties or celebrations, to help us relax, to create a special memory with others.
- Can you think of a special time when you have connected with others through music?

Reflection

Music can help people feel connected, even if they have different values or backgrounds, or live far apart.

Picture News



KS1 focus

Which countries take part in the Eurovision Song Contest?



- We all live in a country. What country do you live in? Do you know the names of any other countries? Can you share one with the class?
- People in different countries might speak different languages. Have you ever heard someone speaking a different language? What did it sound like?
- There are 35 countries participating in the contest. Look at **resource 1**, which shows some countries that are taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest this year. Which countries have you heard of before? Do you know any other countries that will take part this year?
- Can you spot the United Kingdom? What do you know about this country?
- Can you spot Austria? This is the country hosting Eurovision this year. What do you think it might be like for people in Austria to welcome singers and visitors from lots of different places?
- Look carefully at the flags. What colours, shapes or patterns can you see? Are any flags similar? Are any very different?
- Some Eurovision songs are sung in different languages. How many languages can you name? Do you know any songs in a language different from your own?

Reflection

Eurovision helps people from many different countries share music and enjoy the same special event together.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What is the history of the Eurovision Song Contest?



- Music is something people all over the world enjoy. What kind of music do you like to listen to? Is it the same as your friends or different?
- What do you already know about the Eurovision Song Contest? Have you ever watched it or heard about it before?
- Eurovision began after World War II as a way to bring countries together through music and broadcasting. Why do you think people might have wanted to create a shared event after a difficult time?
- How do you think people across different countries feel when they watch the same event at the same time?
- As the years go on, more countries take part in the contest. Why do you think music can spread so easily across different countries?
- This year, Eurovision is turning 70 years old. Look at **resource 2**, which shows the history of the Eurovision Song Contest. What changes do you notice in how the contest has developed over time? Which moment on the timeline do you think had the biggest impact on Eurovision? Why?
- Do you think music is a good way to represent a country? Why? Besides music, what other things do you think can bring countries together?

Reflection

Eurovision shows that even when people speak different languages or live in different places, music can connect people. Events like Eurovision help us learn about each other and feel part of something shared.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Ask the children to close their eyes and listen to a short piece of classical music, e.g., Vivaldi's Spring.

Think about: How did the music make you feel? Was it happy, sad or scary? Why? Did any colours or images come into your head while you were listening to the music? What were they?

Write a short story inspired by what you heard. You may wish to use the sentence starter:

"The music began, and suddenly I wasn't in the classroom anymore. I opened my eyes and found myself in..."

Option 2

Draw a sound key on the whiteboard to bridge the gap between symbols and actions. You may wish to use a dot (•) for a short clap and a dash (–) for a long, three-second 'shhh' sound.

Model the rhythm by drawing a sequence on the board e.g., •• – • and ask the class to perform it in unison to establish a steady beat.

Ask the children to suggest new sounds, like a foot stomp or a finger click and decide on a simple shape to represent them.

Once these are added to the board, ask the children to write their own rhythmic code on a piece of paper. Invite the children to swap their work with a partner and perform their partner's rhythm accurately, turning the symbols on the page into a live musical performance!

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Take the children outside to go on a sound safari. Have everyone sit still with their eyes closed and challenge the children to find:

- 3 sounds from nature
- 2 manmade sounds
- 1 really quiet sound.

Think about: Which of your sounds do you think came from furthest away? How can you tell? Is there a sound you expected to hear but didn't? Do you think it would sound the same here at nighttime? Why?

Challenge the children to recreate one of the nature sounds they found using only their voices or their bodies (clapping, stomping, whistling).

Option 2

Discuss how adding music to a story can add to the overall message and experience.

Play a selection of musical instruments.

Think about: Which instrument made you feel happy/sad? Did any of the instruments sound like something in nature? What?

Read the class a short story, for example, Michael Rosen's 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Divide the class into groups and give each group a section of the book. Using musical instruments, ask them to work together to perform their section of the book.

As a class, read through the book with the groups performing their part.

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/eurovision-2026-when-where-how-to-watch-bbc-b2966538.html>

This week's useful video

Eurovision – a selection of songs
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh1kg5CB5pQ

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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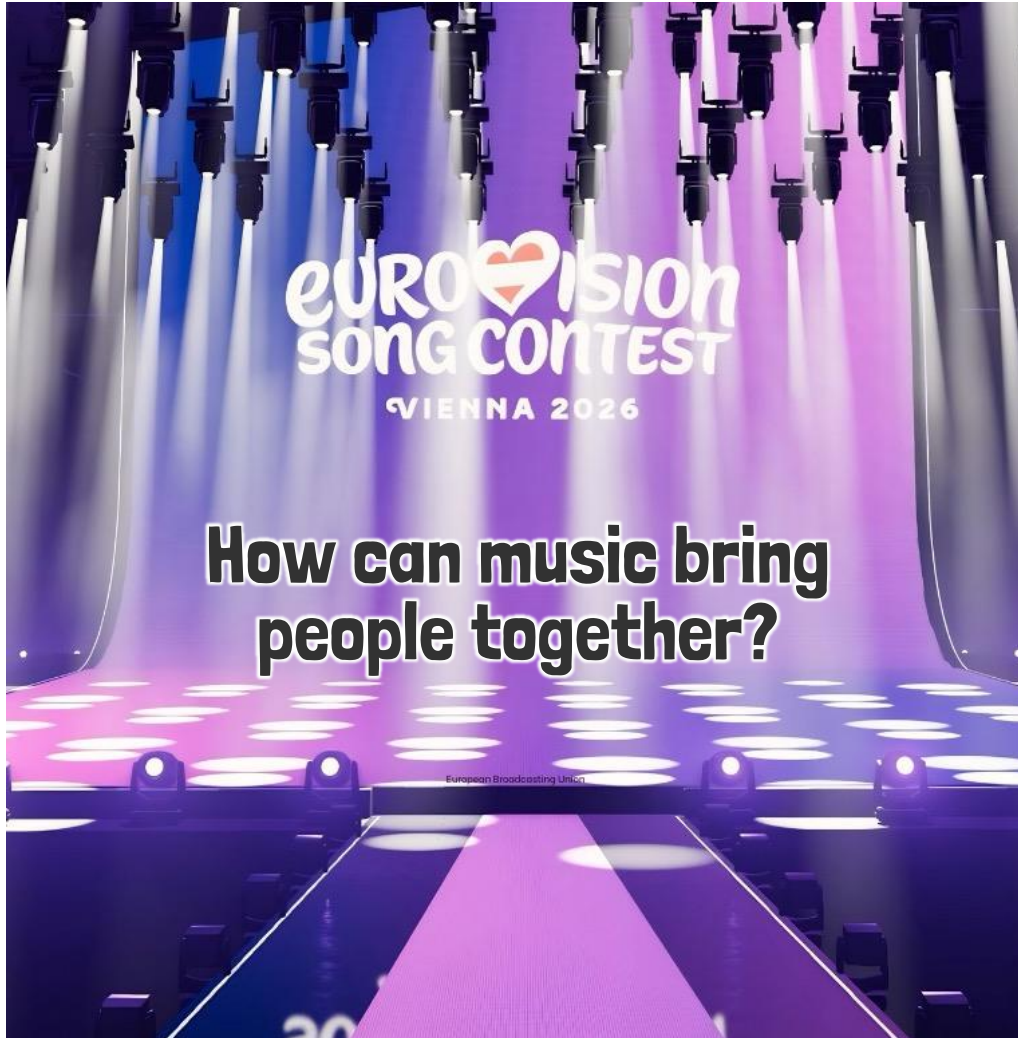
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TAKEHOME

11th -
17th May



In the news this week

This week, countries from across Europe and beyond are taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest. Each country performs a song, and millions of people watch and vote for their favourites. The contest celebrates different styles of music, languages, and cultures from around the world.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What kind of music do you enjoy most, and why? Does everyone in your house enjoy the same music?
- > Why do you think people from different countries enjoy listening to music together?
- > Do you believe competitions like Eurovision are fair? Why?
- > In your view, does music bring people together, or can it sometimes divide opinions?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Seagull Squawk Showdown!

There are so many different sounds that birds can make – ducks quack, owls hoot and magpies chatter. But one bird’s call has inspired a very unusual competition!

At this year’s European Seagull Screeching Championship, people showed just how impressive a seagull’s squawk can be! Many dressed up as seagulls and tried their best to copy the sound of the birds. A panel of judges listened carefully to decide who had the most realistic squawk. The organiser, Claude Willaert, said the event hopes to help people think kindly about seagulls, which are sometimes seen as noisy or cheeky birds. The event took place in the seaside town



Pictured: A seagull squawking! **Source:** Canva.

of De Panne in Belgium, where around 70 people of all ages took part. People travelled from more than 15 countries to join in. There were plenty of laughs and cheers from the crowd, with no prize for winning – just the joy of taking part! Claude said, “When you are on holiday, you always remember the waves of the sea and the calls of the seagulls.” ***Did you know that seagulls have excellent memories and can remember places where they have found food before?***

School Bus Solution

Have you ever been on a school bus? Well, some football fans are planning some bus journeys in a very different way this summer – and they’re not going to school! A group of Scotland football fans are getting ready for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the United States in June.



Pictured: The Scotland fans will travel to matches on a yellow school bus!
Source: Canva.

They will need to travel to stadiums in the US to watch the matches. But there is a problem... getting to the stadiums is very expensive using public transport. So, the fans came up with an idea – they decided to hire school buses instead! They thought that when schools are closed, the buses might not be in use. The plan worked, and they have been able to hire a number of buses, so lots of fans can travel together. One fan, Davy Hood, said, “We came up with the idea of ... these school buses”, although as the buses are made for children, there won’t be much leg room for the adults! Davy joked taller fans might end up a little squashed!
What do you think of their idea?

What is the best way to support people who need extra help?



We should be inclusive. Also, improved technology can be used to people's advantage.

St. Michael's Amazing Ants

Let us know what you think about this week’s news



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help@picture-news.co.uk



[/picturenewsprimary/](https://www.instagram.com/picturenewsprimary/)

Wear It Green Day

It's 'Wear It Green Day' on Thursday 14th May! It's an awareness day, run by the Mental Health Foundation to promote ways to boost mental health. People are encouraged to wear green and raise funds and awareness for good mental health. By going green, schools, workplaces and communities can help raise vital funds for research, awareness for mental health, and help deliver programmes to support good mental



Pictured: Pixie Lott on wear It Green Day 2025. **Source:** Mental Health Foundation on Facebook.

health in every community. Singer-songwriter Pixie Lott wore green to support Mental Health Awareness Week last year, saying, "Wear It Green Day is such a simple but powerful way to show solidarity and make a difference. I hope people across the UK will come together, wear green in whatever way they like with pride, and help raise funds for the incredible work the Mental Health Foundation does to prevent poor mental health and achieve the goal of good mental health for all."
Is your school taking part in 'Wear It Green Day'? Do you think awareness days are useful?



Pictured: Nature-inspired ways to boost your mental health. **Source:** Mental Health Foundation on Facebook.

Roar of Approval

To celebrate 200 years of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) the Royal Mint has released a new £2 coin! The coin is designed to highlight and raise funds for the zoo's extensive conservation work. It features three animals from the ZSL's most significant conservation programmes: the Sumatran tiger, the Socorro dove, and the Partula snail.



Pictured: A Partula snail on The Royal Mint's commemorative ZSL £2 coin. **Source:** The Royal Mint on Facebook.



Pictured: A Sumatran tiger in Tiger territory at the zoo with a two-metre wooden replica of The Royal Mint's commemorative ZSL £2 coin. **Source:** The Royal Mint on Facebook.

The Royal Mint posted, "The coin was officially launched at ZSL London Zoo, where a giant two-metre wooden replica was presented to the Zoo's Sumatran tigers to give their roar of approval. The replica formed part of the tigers' daily enrichment programme, activities designed to stimulate natural instincts such as stalking and hunting. A portion of net proceeds from the coin will be donated to ZSL, supporting the charity's global conservation work across more than 70 countries."

Who or what would you design a coin to celebrate?

What is the best way to support people who need extra help?



We should ask people how we can help them. So, we can provide the support they actually want.

Czarek

