



Why it's important for children to read the news?

The main aim of every parent and carer is try to prepare their children for the world, as they grow in understanding and independence. Unfortunately, we cannot protect them forever. But we can give them tools and information to navigate their way safely. Although it is important for children to become aware of some of the events happening in the world around them, for their own learning and development as a citizen in our society, it is vital that they get their information from a reliable source. In today's polarised atmosphere and with social media increasingly changing the way in which news is communicated, often allowing misinformation to seep into the public discourse, children need the skills to identify reliable news sources and to question the source of a story.

First News iHub brings news literacy into the classrooms, enabling students to understand and accurately question and discuss the news they digest, helping transform those children into positive, but critical, newspaper readers. A fully independent newspaper, First News allows children to read the news using language they can understand and providing all the background they need to learn about the world around them. This can help them to form their own opinions and ideas, which will be important to all of us when they become the adults of the future.

Engaging children through Non-Fiction

Many children struggle to engage with reading as they are simply not motivated to dive into the latest story books. For these children, non-fiction could be the answer to inciting reading for pleasure. Ensuring all children have access to materials they respond to positively, enables them to maximise the progression of their vital reading comprehension skills. Providing children with a reliable and consistent source of news can inspire a position for regular reading and create an avenue to develop critical reading and comprehension skills.

Growing children's Global Awareness

There's never been a more important time for children to have a rich understanding of the world around them. Newspapers are unique forms of non-fiction reading, telling the stories of our local, national and global communities.

They cover serious world issues and debates, fascinating technological and scientific discoveries, entertainment and sport as well as the silly oddities of everyday life, and act as a stepping stone to further non-fiction reading. The benefits go far beyond English and literacy, as children will apply their reading skills across the curriculum, using their increased knowledge and greater inference and deduction skills to accurately access, understand and respond to information.

Regularly reading news not only nurtures children's understanding of the world, but creates a news reading community at school in which children are motivated to learn more, share their opinions and feel empowered with their richer, deeper understanding of global news.