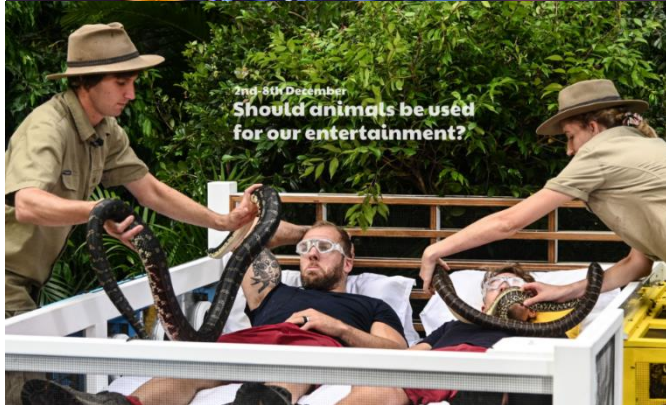
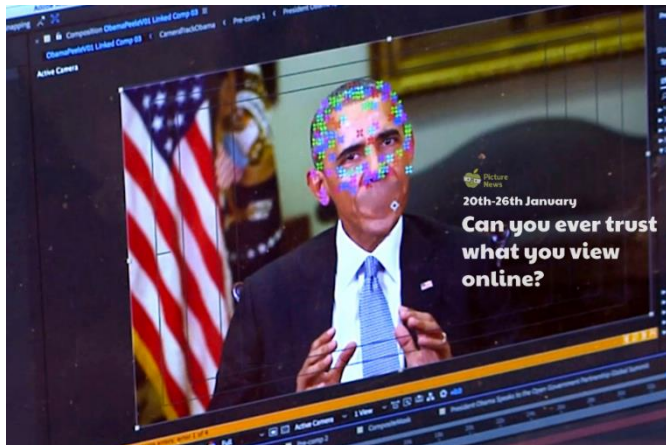


Brownlow Fold Current Affairs and British Values



News Story	Focus Question	British Value
More than 1,200 ex-offenders now work for the Timpson group, which includes the shoe-mending and key-cutting chain. After 15 years' recruiting prisoners, Timpson is now stepping up its plans, aiming to recruit another 150 this year. "It's a great way of finding amazing people," says James Timpson, the chief executive and great-great-grandson of the founder, "We look for staff everywhere, but a lot of people who have been in prison are desperate for an opportunity".	Should we always give people a second chance?	Rule of Law - People who break the law and have spent time in prison will often find it hard to get a job. A second chance at work can mean a fresh start for people who may otherwise find it difficult to be forgiven.
A huge fire engulfed the medieval cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, one of France's most famous landmarks. The 850-year-old Gothic building's spire and roof collapsed but the main structure, including the two bell towers, were saved. France's President, Emmanuel Macron, called it a terrible tragedy.	Is it always better to rebuild than to start again?	Respect - Buildings and places can hold huge importance for people. They can be part of who we are, hold special memories and be part of our shared culture.
The country of Ukraine has elected a comedian called Volodymyr Zelensky as its new president. Volodymyr who is originally an actor and comedian, once starred in a role as a teacher who accidentally becomes president!	Can anyone become a good leader?	Democracy - Like Ukraine, many countries will hold votes to allow people the choice to decide who will become their leader. Sometimes, the winner may not be what we expect, but in a democracy, the votes are what count!
McDonald's is being called on to stop its introduction of paper straws in the UK, amidst claims that they dissolve in drinks. The restaurant is switching from plastic to paper straws at all of their 1,361 restaurants after customer pressure.	Should McDonald's have banned plastic straws?	Respect - Plastic straws take an estimated 500 years to decompose! We should always ensure we are using plastics carefully and use reusable items whenever we can.
Whilst many schools have been busy preparing for summer testing, Flakefleet Primary School in Lancashire have been preparing for something just as nerve-racking but for completely different reasons! The choir at Flakefleet Primary School have been gearing up for the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent, which will be held next week.	Does it take more than talent to succeed?	Individual Liberty - It's good to have dreams and goals. Trying hard and aiming high can help us to achieve great things. There's also lots to be learnt from when things don't go to plan!
Technology is increasingly replacing stories at bedtime, with more than a quarter of parents trying to use home assistants, apps and voice notes to tell their child a story before bedtime research suggests.	Will technology replace bedtime stories?	Individual Liberty - Technology is constantly changing how we live our lives and how we learn. It's important to know the difference between when technology can help us and when it's best to learn and do things on our own.

Children as young as four are now getting even shorter break times at school, because of a push to increase lesson time. A long-term study revealed primary school pupils today have 45 minutes less break time a week than they did nearly 25 years ago.	Should break times be reduced to improve learning?	Rule of Law - Our teachers and schools think carefully about when we have breaks and how long we have between lessons, making sure that we have enough time to learn and enough to rest!
Last week, the US President Donald Trump visited the UK for an official state visit. He spent time with Prime Minister, Theresa May and the Queen and other members of the Royal family. Theresa May has said it was a chance for the US and UK "to strengthen our already close relationship". But others don't think that he should be given such a formal and important welcome.	Should we always make everyone feel welcome?	Democracy - All countries have their own rules to decide how their country is run and who their leader will be. In a democracy, a voting public allows everyone to have a say. In the USA, Donald Trump was voted in as their President.
The 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup is now well underway in France with the final less than 2 weeks away! The competition is being held across nine cities, with the semi-final and final being played in Lyon.	Should women footballers be paid the same as men?	Mutual Respect - Lots of people enjoy playing and watching football! The FIFA Women's World Cup is currently underway and over 1 million tickets have been sold. Women's football is thought to be one of the fastest growing sports across the world!
A Norwegian island is campaigning to get rid of the concept of time, allowing the people who live there to do "what we want, when we want".	Is it important for us to measure time?	
Heathrow Airport has unveiled its £30 billion expansion plans with a third runway set to open by 2026. Many campaigners have warned the project will cause 30 years of misery and long-term damage.	How important is it to travel?	Individual Liberty - People travel for different reasons. Some may want to learn about life in other places, others may be visiting loved ones or travelling for work. For some, travelling may be essential but for others it might be a lifestyle choice.
It has been 50 years since humankind first stepped foot on the moon as part of the Apollo 11 moon landing mission. The Apollo Program took eight years and cost around £20 billion!	Is space exploration important to the world?	Respect - It took billions of pounds and thousands of people many years to put people on the moon. When we find out more about the universe, we also learn more about ourselves and our place on planet Earth!
An eight-year-old boy who reviews toys and shares the videos online has topped a list of the highest-earning YouTube stars after making £19.8 million! Ryan Kaji, from Ryan Toys Review, made the money between June 2018 and June 2019.	Should children be allowed to make money from creating and sharing videos?	Rule of Law - There are rules to follow to keep us safe online and to make sure we are responsible with the information we share with others. It's important to take time to understand and make sure we follow these rules.

Over the past 9 years, millions of people have fled their homes in Syria because of the ongoing war and conflict happening there. Many people left their homes and belongings behind, including their pets. Mohammad Aljaleel from the city of Aleppo is one of the few who have remained and looks after thousands of abandoned cats.	Can animals provide the same support to us as our friends?	Respect - Some people choose to dedicate their lives to helping others. In Syria, a few people have remained in difficult conditions to help look after cats that have been left behind.
Facebook has announced a new policy banning all artificial intelligence (AI) created videos that are likely to mislead viewers into thinking someone said words that they didn't actually say.	Can you ever trust what you view online?	Individual Liberty - When online, we may watch or read different information. It's important for us to be aware that not everything we see is true. We must be sure to think carefully and check where the information has come from.
The date that the UK are scheduled to leave the EU is the 31st January 2020. A group of MPs hoped to signify the historic occasion with the ringing of Big Ben at 11pm. As the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben is currently under refurbishment, the estimated cost of ensuring the bells work, is £500,000. Should we celebrate the things that divide us?	Should we celebrate the things that divide us?	Democracy - When important decisions need to be reached, sometimes a big vote or referendum takes place, this gives everyone an opportunity to have a voice and share their opinion.
A virus named the coronavirus has started to spread from China. Previously, it had never been seen in humans before and it is spreading more widely to different parts of the world.	Who should decide what's best for our health?	Rule of Law - There will be times when governments or other organisations will put restrictions or things in place to protect us from the spreading of disease
Nike Vaporfly trainers, which have revolutionised running allowing runners to break world marathon records, have been given the green light by World Athletics.	Should sportswear be banned if it gives an unfair advantage?	Rule of Law - In sporting competitions, it's important that things are fair for all competitors. The people in charge will check things like the clothes and shoes people wear, to make sure the event is equal for all.
The government have brought forward a ban on the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars to try to help the UK meet its target of emitting almost zero carbon by 2050.	Should petrol and diesel cars be banned?.	Rule of Law - The government introduce laws not just to protect us but also to help the world. Cars powered by petrol and diesel contribute towards air pollution. Banning these will help make the air cleaner.