

What's happening in the news this week?



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

6th - 12th July 2026



**What makes
something popular?**



Let's look at this week's story



Squishy dumpling toys have become popular with many children in recent months. Videos showing people squeezing, collecting, and opening the toys have helped them spread quickly online. As more people have bought these types of toys, Trading Standards officers have been called in to carry out safety checks on some of the products being sold in shops and online.

How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

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





Read the information below all about dumping squishies and ensuring that they are safe. Who do you think is responsible for ensuring that toys are safe?

Squishy Craze!

What are dumping squishies?

Dumping squishies are small, soft toys that can be squeezed and stretched. Many people enjoy playing with them because they feel satisfying to hold and squish.

Why are they so popular?

Squishy dumping toys have become popular with children and adults around the world.

Videos showing people squeezing, collecting, and opening the toy's boxes have been viewed by millions online. Some people enjoy collecting different colours and designs.



Why are they in the news?

Some squishy dumping toys were recently taken out of shops because they did not meet safety rules. People have also been reminded to use toys safely, check safety labels, and be careful when copying things they see online.



What other sensory toys are there?



Source: Chris Western

Sensory toys come in many different shapes and sizes. Some are designed to be squeezed, twisted, stretched, or popped.

People enjoy different sensory toys for a variety of reasons. Some children like the way they feel, while others enjoy keeping their hands busy.



Look at the resource below, which shows different reasons why a toy might become popular.

What makes lots of children want the same toy?



My friend has one and it's really cool!



I want to collect them.



Look at the resource below, which explores sensory toys in more detail.

Sensory toys are toys or objects that use one or more of our senses. They might be interesting to look at, listen to, touch, smell and some to safely chew. People may use them for fun, while others use them to feel calm, focus or explore different textures, sounds and movements.

Have you seen or used any of these toys or objects before?

Can you match the toys to the sense(s) they are most linked to?

Could some toys fit into more than one group? Be ready to explain your ideas.



Sight



Touch



Taste



Smell



Hearing

How might each toy be used?
Why might this be useful for someone?

Which senses do these toys use?





**What makes
something popular?**



Reflection



Popularity can help ideas and toys spread quickly, but it is our own experiences and preferences that help us decide what we enjoy.



Media Literacy

**I know that not everything
I see or hear is true.**



Explanation: Let's think about whether everything we see, hear or read is true, and how we can check if information is trustworthy before we believe it.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- Should we trust everything we see, hear or read in adverts? Why?
- Why might some adverts be misleading or not fully true?
- Why is it important to check information before we believe it?
- What clues can help us decide if information is trustworthy?

Activity

Read the news story about squishy dumpling toys.

One side of the room is labelled 'I trust this' and the other side is labelled 'I need more evidence'.

Read each statement and decide where you should stand:

- An advert says the toy is safe.
- A video online says the toy is genuine.
- Trading Standards have tested the toy and said it is safe.
- Lots of people are buying them.

Think about: Should we believe something just because we see it online or because lots of people are buying a product? Why? What can we do to check what we read, see or hear?



I Really Do Matter!



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



The story highlights **Rule of Law** because safety officers use official rules and laws to protect people and make sure shops are selling things that are safe.

People have the freedom to buy the toys they choose and the right to know the potential risks. This is part of our **Individual Liberty**.



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



UN Rights of the Child



Adults must always do what is best for children. Trading Standards officers are checking squishy dumpling toys to make sure they are safe, helping to protect children and support their right to be safe and healthy.



Useful Vocabulary



Craze

Something that is very popular, usually for a short time.

Discuss how toys can become a **craze** through friends, advertising, films, television, and social media.

Popular

Someone or something that is liked or known by a lot of people.

Squishy dumpling toys have become **popular** with many children in recent months.

Satisfying

The good, happy feeling you experience when you get what you needed or wanted.

Many people enjoy playing with them because they feel **satisfying** to hold and squish.

Sensory

Anything to do with our five main senses – sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell – and how our body uses them to understand the world around us.

Sensory toys come in many different shapes and sizes.

Trend

A gradual change or direction that shows what is becoming popular, common, or happening more often over time.

What is a **trend**?

Trading Standards

A service in the United Kingdom that protects shoppers, checks toys and products are safe, and makes sure businesses follow the rules.

Trading Standards officers have been called in to carry out safety checks on some of the products being sold in shops and online.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

A Clean Sweep!

Japanese football fans have been praised after cleaning up rubbish following a World Cup football match between Japan and the Netherlands. After the game, many fans stayed behind in the stadium to collect litter. They used bags to pick up empty cups, food wrappers, and other rubbish left in the seats and stands. Videos of the clean-up were shared online and watched by people all around the world.



Pictured: Japanese fans cheering!
Source: Canva.



Pictured: A football match. **Source:** Canva.

The Japanese football team also helped by leaving their changing room clean and tidy after the match. Chairs were stacked neatly, rubbish was collected, and equipment was put away before they left. Japanese football fans have been doing this for many years after matches. For them, helping to keep places clean is part of being a good visitor. **Do you think everyone should help to keep public places tidy? Why?**

The Reading Dugout

St Ann's Well Academy was given two dugout seats from the Nottingham Forest's football stadium after the club decided to replace them. The seats were once used by football players and coaches during matches. School staff had the idea to turn them into reading chairs to encourage more children to pick up a book. The chairs now have a special place in the classroom, where pupils can sit and read. The children were excited when the seats arrived. Some were surprised to learn that famous football players had sat in them. Teachers say the chairs have already helped to



Pictured: Children at a primary school in Nottingham enjoying a special new place to read! **Source:** Nottingham Forest Community Trust on Facebook.

encourage reading and have become a favourite part of the school.

Where do you like to read best?
What would your perfect reading seat or space look like?

How does every person count?



We need to include everyone in the census to make sure we have everything we need for everyone.

Raj

Keep Your Eyes on the Pies!

Teams gathered recently for the World Custard Pie Championships, in Maidstone, Kent, where the messy annual competition takes place. The World Custard Pie Championships were first held in 1967 to raise funds for Coxheath Village Hall. Teams of four people get dressed up and compete for the trophy. They stand opposite each other, behind a red line and throw custard pies with their left hands at



Pictured: World Custard Pie Championship.
Source: World Custard Pie Championship on Facebook.

each other. The pies are made of a special blend of flour and water, served on a paper plate, and are designed to fly through the air to cover your opponent! Varying amounts of points are scored by hitting your opponents with custard in different places. One point for an arm, three for the torso etc. Extra points are awarded for technique and costumes! The team with the most points wins. The event now attracts hundreds of visitors to the village recreation ground and has raised lots of money for good causes.

Would you like to be involved in this championship?

Would you prefer to be in the audience?



Pictured: World Custard Pie Trophy.
Source: World Custard Pie Championship on Facebook.

Shell-ebration Time!

Jonathan the Tortoise, the oldest known living terrestrial animal, has been recognised as a Guinness World Record Icon! The award is designed to honour those whose achievements go beyond a single record. Beloved resident of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic, Jonathan happily eats grass and sunbathes with three other tortoises in the gardens of the Governor's residence. He was granted an official birthday of 4th December, with officials saying that there is a 1/365 chance that it is the correct date! In 2022, local residents arranged three days of celebrations to mark his 190th birthday! As part of the celebrations, Jonathan was given a cake made entirely from his favourite foods! The Saint Helena five-pence coin also has Jonathan depicted on its reverse. The Seychelles giant tortoise



Pictured: Jonathan the Tortoise with his certificate to recognised him as a Guinness World Record ICON!
Source: Governor's Office St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha on Facebook.

was born around 1832, making him older than Tower Bridge in London and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. At an estimated 194 years old, he holds the Guinness World record for the oldest turtle/chelonian and oldest-known terrestrial animal!

Did you know that animals could live this long? Who do you think should be a Guinness World Record Icon?

How does every person count?



I think everyone is important because we are all unique.
Lulu

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



picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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