



Each week classes look at a 'Weekly Picture News' story. Let's have a look at this week's story...

How important are guide dogs for those in need?



Let's look at this week's story

Sight loss charity, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, has launched an appeal for volunteers to help raise and foster guide dogs. Guide dog users rely on their companions for help inside and outside the home, and for many, for their independence. In a recent documentary shown on the BBC, journalist Sean Dillely told of his relationship with his guide dog, Sammy, who recently retired. After the programme aired, the charity had close to 5,000 people stepping forward to volunteer. Before the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, there were over 4,800 guide dog partnerships and now there are 3,695. More than one in five people who had a guide dog before then now do not.

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



Reflection

Guide dogs can revolutionise the lives of those who are blind or partially sighted, giving them freedom to do things they may otherwise be unable to do. Volunteers make all this possible!



Mutual Respect and Tolerance

My behaviour, actions and words can affect others. Volunteering is an action that can affect others in a positive way and help make a difference to their lives.

Protected Characteristics

A guide dog can help someone who is blind or partially sighted to live their life to the full.



UN Rights of a Child

Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Guide dogs can help people who are blind or partially sighted become more independent and to participate actively in the community.



Useful vocabulary

Appeal

A request to the public for money, information, or help. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has launched an appeal for volunteers to help raise and foster guide dogs.

Companion

A person or animal that someone spends a lot of time with. Guide dog users rely on their companions for help inside and outside the home, and for many, for their independence.

Demand

A need for something. Read the information found on the assembly resource about the guide dog shortage and recent demand for volunteers.

Retired

To stop working permanently. Journalist Sean Dillely told of his relationship with his guide dog, Sammy, who recently retired.

Revolutionise

To radically change. Guide dogs can revolutionise the lives of those who are blind or partially sighted.

Volunteers

A person who does something, often to help others, without being paid. Volunteers make all this possible!

