



News – Is it Important?

March 11th – 15th 2013

Britain's press can trace its history back more than 300 years. William Caxton had introduced the first English printing press in 1476 and, by the early 16th century, the first 'news papers' were seen in Britain. They were, however, slow to evolve, with the largely illiterate population relying on town criers for news. During the 17th century, there were many kinds of publications that told both news and rumours. Among these were pamphlets, posters, ballads etc.

On 11th March 1702 The Daily Courant – the first London newspaper was published for the first time. The impact can hardly be over-estimated. A world without news suddenly had access to daily news!

“If people in the media cannot decide whether they are in the business of reporting news or manufacturing propaganda, it is all the more important that the public understand that difference, and choose their news sources accordingly.” - Thomas Sowell

- What do you think this quote means?
- Many newspapers have a political bias, do you think that this should be allowed?

- Do you ever read a newspaper or watch the news on TV? How often?
- Why do you think that it is important to read or watch the news?
- What do you think the problems might be if we did not have the news?
- Why do you think there are laws about what journalists can say and write in the news?



"Remember Jones! It's not exaggeration if **you** believe it!"

Phone Hacking

Accusations of phone-hacking by journalists and private investigators on newspapers have shaken the media industry in the UK, and new details emerging almost every day during the months of scandal.

It all started when Reports emerged suggesting that investigators for the News of the World had hacked into the mobile phones of victims of crime and celebrities. They're accused of listening to - and possibly deleting - the messages.

- Do you think it is ok for journalists to hack into people's phones and listen to their messages? Are there any circumstances in which it would be ok?

Nuclear News

At the end of January the Cumbria County Council voted against the plans to look for a site for a £12bn underground nuclear waste store in Cumbria.

This decision had been controversial with people arguing both sides. Those who were for the nuclear waste store being built were concerned about the safety of the plans as well as the impact it might have on the tourism to the Lake District. Those who wanted the Nuclear waste site in Cumbria hoped that it would create much needed jobs in the area.

- Do you agree with the decision that was made?
- Nuclear waste is a problem that the UK has to deal with, but very few people want it near them. Where do you think it should be stored?