



## What's going on this week?

A charity is seeking a review of the government guidance on care home visits. John's Campaign says many care homes in England are still refusing regular face-to-face visits, despite changes at the end of July that outlined new guidance for visitors.

### Main question: Should visits to care homes be allowed?

#### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what we can see. Explain that the picture was taken in a care home, where two family members were reunited in a safe way.
- Do we know what a care home is? Do we have any friends or family who live in a care home? Have we ever been to a care home? Can we talk about what it's like? Explain that people may live in a care home or in residential care for lots of different reasons. They may need help with things they can't do on their own such as eating, getting out of bed or getting dressed.
- Explain that, this week, care homes are in the news because there is a campaign to allow more care homes to open to visitors, so families and friends can see each other and spend time together again.
- Watch this week's useful video (found overleaf), which shows one care home's innovative idea of offering drive-through visits for family and friends to see their loved ones. Do you think this was a good idea?
- Look at the assembly resource and read through some of the alternative ways care homes have supported their residents with keeping in touch with their loved ones. Can you think of any other ideas that would allow care home residents to see their family?

#### Reflection

As we are still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, there will be many different rules in place that are there to keep us safe. There are alternative ways we can spend time with those we care about, whilst staying safe, including things like having online meetings or drive through visits!



## KS1 Focus

### Question: What is a care home?

#### Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'care' on the board. What do you think it means? What do you care about? Why? Is there anything you care for? Who or what?
- Explain that if you care about someone or something, you feel concern and affection and that they are or it is important. If you care for someone, you look after them and provide them with the things they need.
- Sometimes people need more help than others. This can be because they are older. Care homes can provide this help.
- Look at resource 1, which shares more information about care homes. Do you know anybody who lives in a care home? Have you ever visited one?
- Care homes help their residents to live their everyday lives, which includes any hobbies or activities they may enjoy doing. Some care homes provide art classes, quizzes or may invite a guest speaker. Do you think it is important for care homes to provide these activities?
- Think about any hobbies or activities you enjoy doing now. Create a list. Do you think people living in a care home would enjoy them?

#### Reflection

Care homes can provide help and support to the people living in them, meaning they can live their lives.



## KS2 Focus

### Question: What are the different ways that care homes can support their residents?

#### Listen, think, share

- Care homes provide accommodation and care for people who need help and support to live their everyday lives.
- Think about your life. Can you describe a typical day? E.g. get up, get dressed, have breakfast, go to school, play football, etc. Explain that some people cannot do all of these things and need some help. They may have a carer, who visits them in their home to help, or they may move to live in a care home.
- Discuss some of the ways care homes can support their residents such as helping someone dress and wash, providing meals, helping with any medicine needed etc. Can you think of any other ways they can help?
- Look at resource 2, which shows some of the different activities one care home has provided to support their residents. Do you think you would enjoy any of these activities?
- Explain that some care homes will also encourage their residents to take part in daily household jobs such as washing, dusting, cleaning, if they can. Do you think this is a good idea? Can you think of any other ways care homes can support their residents?

#### Reflection

Some people need to live in a care home. There are many different ways care homes can support their residents, meaning they get the help they need, are able to socialise and have fun and can maintain their independence, if they choose to.



## KS2 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Ask the children to plan an activity for the residents of a care home. Think about:

- What is the purpose of your activity e.g. to socialise, for entertainment, to be creative, to encourage movement and exercise or to remember the past?
- What will your activity be? A video, a story or poem you wrote, a quiz or game to play?
- What resources will you need to create your activity?

Provide opportunity for the children to create their activities. If possible, try them out on each other, give feedback and then send to a local care home (check they are happy to receive them first).

**Option 2:** One of the activities provided by Ideal Carehomes is 'Reminiscing'. Explain that this is where people remember and discuss the past. Ask the children to reminisce about their first day at school.

- What did you wear?
- How did you feel?
- Who was there?
- What did you do?

Encourage the children to share their memories. If possible, use the questions above and add to them to ask an adult. Perhaps a teacher in school, someone at home or a grandparent. Compare responses.

- Has school changed over time?



## KS1 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Write a letter or draw a picture to send to someone in a care home. You could ask the children if they know somebody they could send it to or, as a class, send them to a local care home (check they are happy to receive them first). Include:

- Introduce yourself and explain why you are writing
- Share any hobbies or interests you have
- Do you have any questions you would like to ask them?

Send your letters and pictures off. You may get a response!

**Option 2:** Some people live in a care home because they are getting older and might need some help. Think about age.

- How old are you?
- Do you know who the oldest person in your family is? How old are they? What about the youngest?
- Can you order people in your family from oldest to youngest?
- Who do you think is the oldest person in your class? Is it your teacher? How do you know they are the oldest?

Share examples of different families and their ages on the board and challenge children to order them.



## This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54007273](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54007273)



## This Week's Useful Videos

Drive-through care home visits

<https://youtu.be/NVjefuZtSg>



This week's Virtual Assembly

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

## This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Alternative** – available as another possibility or choice.

**Innovative** – something that is new and original.

**Refuse** – show you are not willing to do something or deliberately do not do it.

**Residential** – a residential institution is one where people live, whilst they are studying or being cared for.

**Reunited** – meet again after having being separated for some time.

**Seeking** – attempting to find something.