

The Highlighter

1ST OF NOVEMBER, 2022 | PAGE ONE

Welcome to Issue One of The Highlighter!

In this issue you will find articles about:

- The new Prime Minister
- The Northern Ireland Assembly
- The cost of living crisis
- Fake news

INTRODUCTION TO THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Highlighter is a new newspaper that is designed and written for people who have learning disabilities, autism or dyslexia.

A new edition of The Highlighter will be released during the first week of every month. In each issue, there will be short articles about some of the most popular news stories of the previous month.

The colours and the font used, and the way in which the articles are written are all specially designed to make it easier to read and understand.

We know the news can be confusing, complicated and hard to keep up with. The news can also be overwhelming at times and make us feel scared, stressed and worried. The Highlighter aims to help make the news feel more accessible for you.



Northern Ireland Election



Image shows a photograph of Stormont

There is due to be an election to choose the next politicians in the Northern Ireland government. The election will take place within the next 12 weeks. The reason for an election is because the current Northern Ireland government (called The Assembly) did not reach an agreement on who would be the speaker. The Assembly has to have a speaker. They cannot meet and make decisions without a speaker.

WHAT IS THE ASSEMBLY?

This is the name given to the group of politicians in Northern Ireland who have been elected to be in charge. It is often called the 'Assembly' instead because this is quicker to say and write.

WHAT DOES THE SPEAKER DO?

The speaker is the 'chair' of meetings of the Assembly. It is like being the manager of the meetings. When politicians are meeting, the speaker is in charge of making sure things are done fairly and that everyone follows the rules.

WHY COULD THEY NOT AGREE ON A SPEAKER?

Everyone must agree on who is going to work as the speaker. Some politicians (called the DUP) refused to take part in the vote for a speaker because they are protesting new rules about how we transport products (like food) between here and Great Britain. The DUP want these rules changed and have said they won't take part in the Assembly until they are.

The Northern Ireland Assembly had to choose someone by Friday 28th October 2022 but didn't. As they didn't, a government rule means that now there has to be an election. This means we will be asked to vote on which politicians we want to be in the Assembly. This has to happen in the next 12 weeks. There will be another article about the election in next month's issue of The Highlighter.

New Prime Minister



On the 25th of October 2022, Rishi Sunak became the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He replaced Liz Truss who resigned (quit) after only 44 days of being Prime Minister.

WHY DID LIZZ TRUSS RESIGN?

There are a few reasons why Lizz Truss resigned. She had become unpopular with people and other politicians she worked with because of some decisions she made. For example, people were very upset over ideas on how to tax people. Tax is the money taken off people's pay cheque that goes to the government who then spend it on things like the NHS and fixing roads. Many people felt that the new tax would be unfair, and this made people dislike Lizz Truss.

Image shows a photograph of Rishi Sunak

The Cost of Living Crisis

You might have heard people talking about the 'cost of living crisis'. You might also have heard people talking about money and the price of things like electricity, heating and food or you might have noticed changes in your own bills and weekly shopping costs.

The rising costs can be very stressful. You or your family may have less money now than you used to because you're spending more on bills.

If you're worried about money or are finding it difficult to pay your bills, it's important to talk to someone about that. Find a friend, family member, support worker or another adult you trust, and ask them for help and support.

If you're worried about money or are finding it difficult to pay your bills, it's important to talk to someone about that. Find a friend, family member, support worker or another adult you trust, and ask them for help and support. Sometimes we just need to talk about problems and we'll feel better.

Other times, we might need support in finding practical help. Remember that you are not alone. It's best to talk to someone as soon as possible because it's important that you have money for electricity, heating and food.

Fake News

In every issue, The Highlighter will have a feature article on 'fake news'. In this issue, the article is about what fake news is.

What is fake news?

Fake news refers to news stories that have been made-up. Sometimes the story will have been made up from nothing and sometimes the story will be based on something true but the facts have been changed a lot.

For example, someone might exaggerate the numbers in a fact. If there was 100 people at an event, someone might say there was a 1,000 people at the event. The event did happen and there were people there, it's just the numbers that are wrong. In this example, the person may have exaggerated the numbers to make the event seem more popular.

It's important to realise that sometimes journalists and publications make mistakes. This isn't usually referred to as 'fake news' - it's just an accident.

In the next issue of The Highlighter, we will write about why people make-up news and why people might tell others fake news.

All the articles in this issue were correct at the time of writing but remember that news can change fast!

Our next issue of The Highlighter will be available in early November.

You will be able to read it on our website:
thehighlighter.org

Or you can email hello@thehighlighter.org to ask us to email it to you directly when it's ready.