
THE HIGHLIGHTER NEWS

ACCESSIBLE NEWS FOR EVERYONE

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Former U.K. Prime Minister
Boris Johnson
Credit: Ben Shread

The
Highlighter
News

The Highlighter News aims to help make the news feel more accessible for people, including people with learning disabilities and autism.

You can join our mailing list and find out more about us by emailing: hello@thehighlighter.org or visiting our website: www.thehighlighter.org

It can be very upsetting to see and hear about violence around the world, like the war in Ukraine, or people getting hurt or sick. It can often be difficult to understand why it is happening, and sometimes we worry about people being harmed. The news might even make us feel unsafe ourselves.

Just remember you can always talk to a friend, carer, or family member you can trust. Sometimes it's good to take a break from the news. You can also avoid looking at very violent or upsetting images and video on social media. Remember, it's important to look after yourself!

DONALD TRUMP ARRESTED

Written by Abhinov Shyju



Former U.S. President, Donald Trump

Why is Donald Trump in the news again?

Donald Trump, who is the former president of the USA (United States of America), has been indicted (accused of crimes) and arrested.

What does 'indicted' mean?

You might have heard the words 'indicted' and 'indictment' in the news recently. When a person is given an indictment, it means they are accused of doing crimes. These crimes are written in a special document (file) called an indictment. After being given this document, the person accused of the crimes will have to go to court and tell a judge if they are guilty or not guilty. If they say they are not guilty, then there will be trial. A trial is where all of the evidence is looked at and discussed, and the court will decide whether or not the person committed the crimes they are accused of.

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DONALD TRUMP ARRESTED (CONTINUED)

What is he accused of?

When someone loses their job as President, they have to give back all the classified documents (important and secret files) they were using, because they belong to the government. In 2022, the FBI (American investigators) searched one of Donald Trump's houses and found government files hidden there. He is accused of hiding these from the government and trying to stop the police and the FBI from taking these files back. Trying to stop investigators and the police from doing their jobs is also against the law, and this is another crime he has been indicted for.

Are these crimes serious?

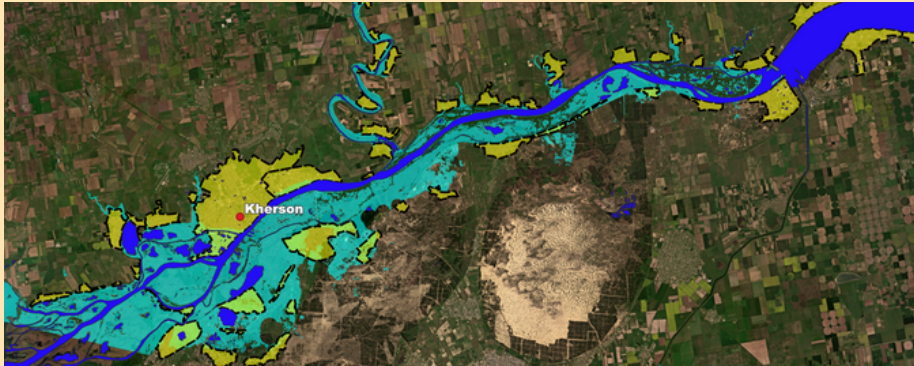
Keeping secret government files when you are not allowed to is a serious crime. The files found in Mr Trump's house had information in them about what America would do if it was invaded (attacked) by another country. Documents like that need to be kept safe because, if another country wanted to invade America, these files would help them do that. Putting your country at risk by keeping this kind of information where the government can't protect it is called treason. If the court says Mr Trump is guilty he might be sent to prison.

What happens next?

We don't know what will happen next, but Mr Trump will probably have to go to court in May 2024 to defend himself against the evidence - although this might be delayed. There will be more about this story in future issues of The Highlighter News.

ATTACK ON UKRAINE DAM

Written by Sally Foster



A map showing the flooded areas around the river in Ukraine

Source: ©Planet Labs PBC, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

You may have heard in the news about an attack on a dam in Ukraine. On the 6th of June the Kakhovka Hydroelectric dam in Ukraine was damaged, causing a large flood.

What is a dam? What caused the flood?

A dam is a wall built across a river to stop a large amount of water flowing freely. This story is about a special kind of dam that makes electricity from the moving water in the river. The flood was caused when the dam was damaged, letting a lot of water through into areas of land that should normally be dry, which can cause a lot of problems.

Where is the Kakhovka dam?

The Kakhovka dam is in Ukraine, in the city of Nova Kakhovka, and was built in 1956. Russia has taken control of the area of land where the dam is. This is because they are at war with Ukraine and want to take over as many areas as possible to control land and have more power. The war between Russia and Ukraine is still happening today. If you would like to read more information on why Russia and Ukraine are at war, please read the 'special report on the war in Ukraine' in our February 2023 issue.

This news story continues on the next page.

ATTACK ON UKRAINE DAM (CONTINUED)

What is the Kakhovka dam used for?

The Kakhovka dam is used to provide water for the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Station. This is where electricity is produced using a wall that can be opened or closed to control water flow and a tank where the water is stored.

How was the Kakhovka dam damaged?

It is not clear what happened. News and media have reported that a small explosion in the power station might have caused the entrance to the Kakhovka dam to become damaged, letting the water break through and flow into nearby areas of dry land. Russia and Ukraine have both blamed each other for causing the explosion. Another reason this may have happened is that the dam might have been damaged years ago, making the walls of the dam weak.

What about the environment and people who live nearby?

The flood has resulted in areas of dry land becoming flooded with a lot of water and causing many farmland animals to die. People have been moved out of their houses to a safer place, away from the water. People's homes and villages close to the Kakhovka dam have had a lot of damage caused by the water. There are also concerns that the river has become contaminated by oil from the damaged power station spilling into the water.

The problems caused by the flood will take many years to fix. In August's issue of The Highlighter News, we will bring you more updates about the war in Ukraine and Russia.

NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL NEWS

Written by Olivia Gallagher and Lynsey Burrows



Photo: the Parliament Building at Stormont

Funding cuts

There have been many funding cuts for government departments, such as the department of health, the department of justice, and the department of education. These departments are sections of the government that each deal with specific areas of government work. For example, services provided by the NHS like hospitals and GPs (doctors) is overseen by the Department of Health. Cuts to their funding could mean possible increases in waiting times for A&E and increased difficulty accessing GP services. This may also mean there are issues in giving people who work in health care any pay increases.

For the Department of Education, the cuts have meant there is less money for schemes, like after school programmes and free meals for pupils during school holidays. These were in place to assist the most disadvantaged people in our society. This may mean there are more strikes and protests by teachers and other school staff, especially as there is now less chance of teachers getting a pay increase.

In every issue, The Highlighter News will have a section on Northern Ireland political news so we will keep you updated about budgets and strikes in future issues.

This news story continues on the next page.

NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Windsor Framework Update

In our May 2023 issue of The Highlighter News, we wrote about the Windsor Framework. The Windsor Framework is the name of the agreement that was made about how things will be traded (sold, bought, and moved) between the UK and the European Union. You can read that issue on our website www.thehighlighter.org to learn more.

The government has recently published more information about the Windsor Framework. The red and green lanes for vehicles bringing goods like food into Northern Ireland will start this October 2023. There will also be new rules about how plants are sold. For example, we will now be allowed to order (buy) seed potatoes from Great Britain again!

BORIS JOHNSON RESIGNS AS MP



Photo: Former U.K. Prime Minister
Boris Johnson

Who is Boris Johnson?

Boris Johnson is a member of a political group called The Conservative Party, also sometimes called “The Tory Party”. He was The Prime Minister during “Brexit” which was when the United Kingdom left the European Union, and during the time of lockdowns for Covid-19. He was also The Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016.

This news story continues on the next page.

BORIS JOHNSON RESIGNS AS MP (CONTINUED)

Why did he stop being The Prime Minister in 2022?

Many people blame Boris Johnson for problems that happened during the lockdowns, because he was in charge as Prime Minister. During Covid 19, Mr Johnson told us to obey new rules that would protect lots of people from getting sick. Most people were not allowed to visit their relatives in nursing homes or in hospital. If someone died, their funeral had to be very small, so lots of people couldn't go to them. The rules made a lot of people very sad, but most people followed them because they didn't want more people to get sick. We found out later that Boris Johnson, and people he worked with, had parties in 10 Downing Street, which was against the new rules. Lots of people were upset because the people in charge didn't obey the rules that they told everyone else to. When everyone found out, he left his job as Prime Minister, but kept his job in the government as an MP.

Why has he stood down as Member of Parliament (MP)?

A group of MPs called a committee tried to find out if he had told lies about the parties in Downing Street during the Covid pandemic. Telling lies to other MPs is against the strict rules that MPs have to stick to. The parties were investigated by the police as well, who decided they were against the law. Sometimes when someone is found to have done something against the rules, they decide to leave their job so they don't get in as much trouble. Boris Johnson has now left his job as an MP as well as Prime Minister, and no longer works for the government at all.

What did the committee decide to do?

The committee could only ask that Boris Johnson got some kind of punishment. Other MPs discussed what they thought should happen to Mr Johnson. Then they all voted, to see how many people agreed with the committee's decision. In the end, 354 MPs decided that they agreed with the committee, and only seven didn't. Because so many of them agreed, the committee's decision was approved. Boris Johnson will probably not work again as an MP, and is already doing other jobs like writing for a newspaper.

ACCESSIBILITY NEWS

A selection of good news stories about disability, autism, and learning disability accessibility

Learning Disability Pride

Learning Disability Pride was held on Saturday the 24th of June and was attended by thousands of people, including The Highlighter News! The parade was led by James Martin, who we interviewed in last month's issue. We had a great day and would like to thank Learning Disability Pride for putting on such a great event to raise awareness and change attitudes towards learning disability.



Crowds of people celebrating at Learning Disability Pride. Photo by Learning Disability Pride

NOW Group and Lidl Northern Ireland launch new scheme



The new programme will support people with learning difficulties and autism into a career in retail. The new qualification is called The Open College Network NI Level 1 Award in Retail Business. There will be classroom lessons as well as work experience in Lidl stores in Northern Ireland.

Students will learn about:

- how to serve customers
- health and safety
- sales and merchandising.

They will also have a mentor to support them during their training. You can contact NOW Group through their website www.nowgroup.org.

NATURE NOTES

Tadpole News from our volunteer Lisa!

I have a wildlife pond in my garden, it is just an old Belfast sink filled with rainwater. We put some special plants in it to keep the water fresh and made a staircase out of old tiles. The staircase is very special, it's for when the tadpoles turn into frogs, they can climb out of the pond and start their adventures.

The news from the pond is that we found some frogs! We had put some tadpoles in the pond in Spring and waited to see what happened. We only found them as they were hiding in the bug hotel that we had built out of old bits of wood. We had to move the bug hotel as my next door neighbours are doing some building work, and that meant we had to move the hotel to try and keep all the bugs and insects safe. When we carefully lifted the wood we saw two tiny frogs! We managed to catch them and move them to safety in another part of the garden. It was very exciting to see that the tadpoles had grown in our pond and had used the special stairs to climb out into the garden.

What to watch for in July



Knapweed



Peacock Butterfly

You can watch nature from home too! There are lots of live camera feeds to watch birds and animals live around the world. For example, you can watch birds like ospreys and goshawks on the RSPB's YouTube channel at:

[www.youtube.com / @RSPBVideo](https://www.youtube.com/@RSPBVideo)

SPORTS NEWS

Football transfer window

The transfer window is a special time for football clubs around the world. They can buy or sell players from other teams. This helps to make their team stronger for the new season. There are two times of the year when clubs can do this and they are called 'windows'. The first one is in January and the second in July and August. The teams have to agree on the price of a player and the player has to agree to move. Once they all say yes, the player can play for the new team. It is an exciting time for fans who hope their team will get good players and sell bad ones.

Sporting events in July

The biggest competition in cycling, known as the Tour de France, will take place between the 1st of July and the 23rd of July.

Wimbledon, the UK's largest tennis competition, will take place between the 3rd of July and the 16th of July in London.

The football Women's World Cup, which features countries from around the world, will take place between the 10th of July and the 10th of August in Australia and New Zealand. You can read more about this competition in June's issue of The Highlighter.

Manchester City win three trophies

Manchester City won the Champions League in June. They had already won The Premier League and FA Cup. Winning all three of these trophies in the same year is a very hard thing to do and is known as winning a 'treble'. It has only happened once before when Manchester United also won a 'treble' in 1999.

Have you enjoyed reading this month's issue of The Highlighter News?

Is there a topic or news story you'd like us to write about in next month's issue?

Let us know by emailing hello@thehighlighter.org or send us a message or comment on social media:



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