

Primary Competition Rules



There are specific rules that Primary students (Foundation-Year 6) must follow when creating their entries for the four challenges in the 2026 News In My Neighbourhood Competition.

Term 1 Challenge | 2 FEB - 10 APR 2026

Write a letter to an individual or group who you think can make a difference on an issue that's important to you. You can also create a drawing or an artwork.

- Primary students' letter should be 150 to 250 words.
- Students should think about language, structure, style and tone when writing their letter (and other text-based entries). They should use descriptive language to explain the issue or problem and make it clear why the issue matters to them.
- Students can take any approach they like in their drawings or artworks, like collage, painting, colouring, illustration or digital art.
- Students' entries must be in English but can include words in other languages, so long as an English translation is provided.
- Students' work must be their own and must be original. It can't contain copyright material or branding, or have been generated by artificial intelligence, plagiarised or produced by someone else (see the Terms & Conditions).
- Students must follow safe media practices. They should avoid including personal or identifying details (like addresses or full names) about themselves or others (without consent) in their work.
- The letter must be in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format. For drawings/artwork, teachers should take a photograph or scan the work and submit it in a .pdf, .jpg or .png format.
- Students can't work with a partner or in groups for this challenge.
- Only one entry per student. Entries must be submitted to the specified deadline by a teacher. Parents or guardians must give their consent for the student to enter (see Terms and Conditions).

Primary Competition Rules



Term 2 Challenge | 20 APR - 3 JUL 2026

Create a podcast or radio news story, a written entry, or a drawing/artwork to tell us how different media and digital technologies are impacting your life at school, at home or in the community.

- Primary students' audio piece should be between 2 - 3 minutes, while a written piece should be 150-250 words.
- For their written pieces, Primary students should follow the advice given for the Term 1 Challenge. They can take any approach (imaginative, informative, persuasive) and should be supported to use the correct vocabulary, grammar and punctuation.
- For their audio piece, students can use different styles or ways of storytelling. They should be supported to think about how audio can be used to build connection or help build story worlds for listeners.
- Students should follow safe media practices when creating their audio entries. Whilst it's not a requirement, they might like to **interview and include comments from one source for their entry**. Students should make sure they have contact details for the person they interview, so we can get in touch if we need to confirm their statements.
- Students' audio pieces must be in English but can include words in other languages, so long as an English translation is provided.
- Students' work must be their own. They **can't** use copyright audio material (like music and sound effects) or use artificial intelligence.
- The audio entry must be submitted in a .mp3 or .wav file format. Students must also submit a transcript of their audio entry, in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format (all written entries should be in these formats).
- Students can work individually or in groups of up to four for their audio entries.
- Only one entry per student (can't be named on multiple entries). Entries must be submitted to the specified deadline by a teacher. Parents/guardians must give consent for the student to enter (see Terms and Conditions).

Primary Competition Rules



Term 3 Challenge | 13 JUL - 25 SEPT 2026

Produce a short video, write 150-250 words or do a drawing/artwork to tell us about a community or culture you're a part of and something newsworthy about it that you think other people should know.

- **Primary** students' **drawings/artwork** should follow the specifications of the Term 1 challenge and must be done individually. **Written** entries should follow the advice given in the Term 1 and Term 2 Challenge rules.
- Primary students' video entry should be around 2 minutes. They can use different styles or ways of storytelling in their videos. They should be supported to think about how video can communicate emotion and show details, large and small.
- Students should follow safe media practices when creating their videos. Whilst it's not a requirement, they might like to **interview and include comments from one source for their entry**. Students should make sure they have contact details for the person they interview, so we can get in touch if we need to confirm their statements.
- Students must record their own footage, and must make sure they have the appropriate permissions and consent for what they film.
- Students' videos must be in English but can include words in other languages, so long as an English translation is provided.
- Students' work must be their own. They **can't** use copyright material (like footage, graphics, images, music and sound effects) or use artificial intelligence to create their entries.
- The video must be submitted as a .mp4 or .mov file and be 16x9 (1920x1080). Students must submit a transcript of their video, in a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.
- Students can work individually or in groups of up to four on the video.
- Only one entry per student (can't be named on multiple entries). Entries must be submitted to the specified deadline by a teacher. Parents or guardians must give their consent for the student to enter (see T&Cs).

Primary Competition Rules



Term 4 Challenge | 5 OCT - 11 DEC 2026

Produce a creative response in any media format to reflect on a news story or event that has had a big impact on you and your local community this year.

- **Primary** students can use any media format (video, audio, illustration, text, photography) to create their entry. Students must use the appropriate language, structure, tone and technique for the media format they choose.
- Students must follow the **entry limits**: 2 minutes for video, 2-3 minutes for audio, 150-250 words for text, 2-3 photographs.
- Photographic entries should centre around a clear topic or story and students should play with different techniques, like light, angles, colour, to communicate this.
- Each photograph must have a short caption (up to 20 words each) that describes what's in the image and how the images tie together.
- Students must take their own photographs and must make sure they have the appropriate permissions, consent and contact details for any individuals featured in any of the images. They should also avoid including identifying details, like school uniforms or addresses. **Students must follow safe media practices for all entries.**
- Students' work must be their own and must be original. It **cannot** have been generated by artificial intelligence, plagiarised or produced by someone else (see the Terms & Conditions). Students also can't use copyright material, like footage, graphics, images, music and sound effects, in their entries.
- Students' work must be in English but can include words in other languages, so long as an English translation is provided.
- Entries must be submitted in the specified file formats (see previous challenges). Photographs must be submitted in a .png, .jpeg or .jpg file format. They should be high quality (ideally 16x9, 1920x1080px up to 300dpi).

Primary Competition Rules



- Students can work individually, or in groups of up to four for video, audio or photography submissions.
- Only one entry per student (can't be named on multiple entries). Entries must be submitted to the specified deadline by a teacher. Parents or guardians must give their consent for the student to enter (see Terms and Conditions).