

The Netherlands Turns Down the Bang!

Do you remember the Picture News pack from November 2025 which asked whether fireworks should be banned to help people and animals? The Netherlands has now decided to change its fireworks rules. From New Year's Eve at the end of 2026, most fireworks will no longer be sold or used by people at home there. Instead, big fireworks will be set off by trained professionals only at organised displays. Small items, such as sparklers, may still be allowed.

The government made this decision after talking about it for many years. Fireworks can be very loud and bright, which can be upsetting for some



Pictured: A firework display.
Source: Canva.

people, pets and wildlife. They can also cause injuries if they are not used safely. Some towns and cities in the Netherlands already have fireworks rules, but this new law will cover the whole country. 'I am happy about this change; it will be so much better for my dog!', said one person on social media. Leaders hope the change will make celebrations calmer and safer for everyone.

What is your opinion? Should fireworks have sound?

Say It Another Way!

There are so many different days for celebrations or things to remember on certain dates. Looking at the Picture News Calendar, we *saw*, *noticed* and *spotted* that on 18th January, it is World Thesaurus Day! A thesaurus is a book or tool that helps us find different words that mean nearly the

same thing. Instead of saying big, we might say large, huge or enormous! A thesaurus can help make our speaking and writing more interesting. World Thesaurus Day is held on this date because it's the birthday of Peter Mark Roget, who created the first Roget's Thesaurus many years ago. He loved words and wanted to help people use them in new ways. We can all use a thesaurus at school or at home. It can help when writing stories, letters or even jokes! 'A thesaurus is like a toolbox for words', said one teacher.

What new words could you discover, find or learn using a thesaurus?



Pictured: A page in a thesaurus.
Source: Canva.

What does kindness look like?



Kindness can be in the small actions as well as the big ones!
Shannon

Let us know what you think about this week's news



picture-news.co.uk/discuss



help@picture-news.co.uk



[@HelpPicture](https://twitter.com/HelpPicture)

'Sensational' Surfboards

Plant-based 3D-printed Swell Cycle surfboards have been described as 'sensational' to ride. Surfers attended a special event to try out a new line of the bespoke, more environmentally-friendly surfboards, and they were very impressed with them! 'They're really



Pictured: Swell Cycle Surfboards on a beach.
Source: Swell Cycle Surfboards on Facebook.

fast, they're really fun,' said surfer Keaton Mayo, 'They're not your traditional board. It was a blast.' The boards are made with almost no waste, compared with the regular surfboards that are cut out from blocks of petroleum-based foam, manufactured from fossil fuels. During production, 40% of the block's original weight ends up in landfill.

The demonstration and test day was held at a famous surf spot called Steamer Lane in Santa Cruz, California, USA. 'This is the future, I think, of surfing,' said big wave surfer and Swell Cycle ambassador, Tyler James. 'It's so important for surfers to understand that if we want to keep surfing, that we've got to care about our oceans, we've got to care about the process that's making our boards.' ***Have you ever surfed? Would you like to?***



Pictured: Tyler James with Swell Cycle Surfboards. **Source:** Swell Cycle Surfboards on Facebook.

British Berries

The Summer Berry Company, in West Sussex, UK, is growing fresh British strawberries all year round. The company says that cutting-edge LED technology and climate-controlled glasshouses mean that people in the UK can enjoy strawberries without the carbon cost of flying them across the world. 'The LED lighting is the prime reason for successful growing,' said Bartosz Pinkosz, operations director of The Summer Berry. 'If it was not a sunny day, the LED lighting would create enough energy for leaves to absorb that energy, take it in and deliver the energy to the berries. We are able to have the right sweetness in the berries and the right shape, right size.' They expect to produce 1.5 million punnets of strawberries this



Pictured: Strawberries growing in The Summer Berry Company glasshouse.
Source: The Summer Berry Company on Facebook.

winter! The glasshouses are partially powered by renewable energy, and bees are present as pollinators in the 36,000 square metres of the greenhouses at the Chichester site. Growing berries this way may massively reduce food miles, but experts warn that there can be an environmental impact of heating such a large area.

Do you enjoy eating strawberries? Do you know where your strawberries are grown?

What does kindness look like?



You can be kind by noticing when someone needs help and asking them what you can do.

Freddy

Let us know what you think about this week's news



picture-news.co.uk/discuss



help@picture-news.co.uk



[@HelpPicture](https://twitter.com/HelpPicture)