

**What's happening
in the news this week?**



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

15th - 21st May 2023



**Should all animals
be treated equally?**



Let's look at this week's story

Blackpool Zoo is looking to hire a team of people in an attempt to scare away nuisance seagulls - by dressing them in bird costumes. Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been persistently stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures. The role, which would be housed within the Zoo's Visitor Services team, will involve someone dressing up as an eagle and keeping seagulls away from the main visitor dining areas.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).

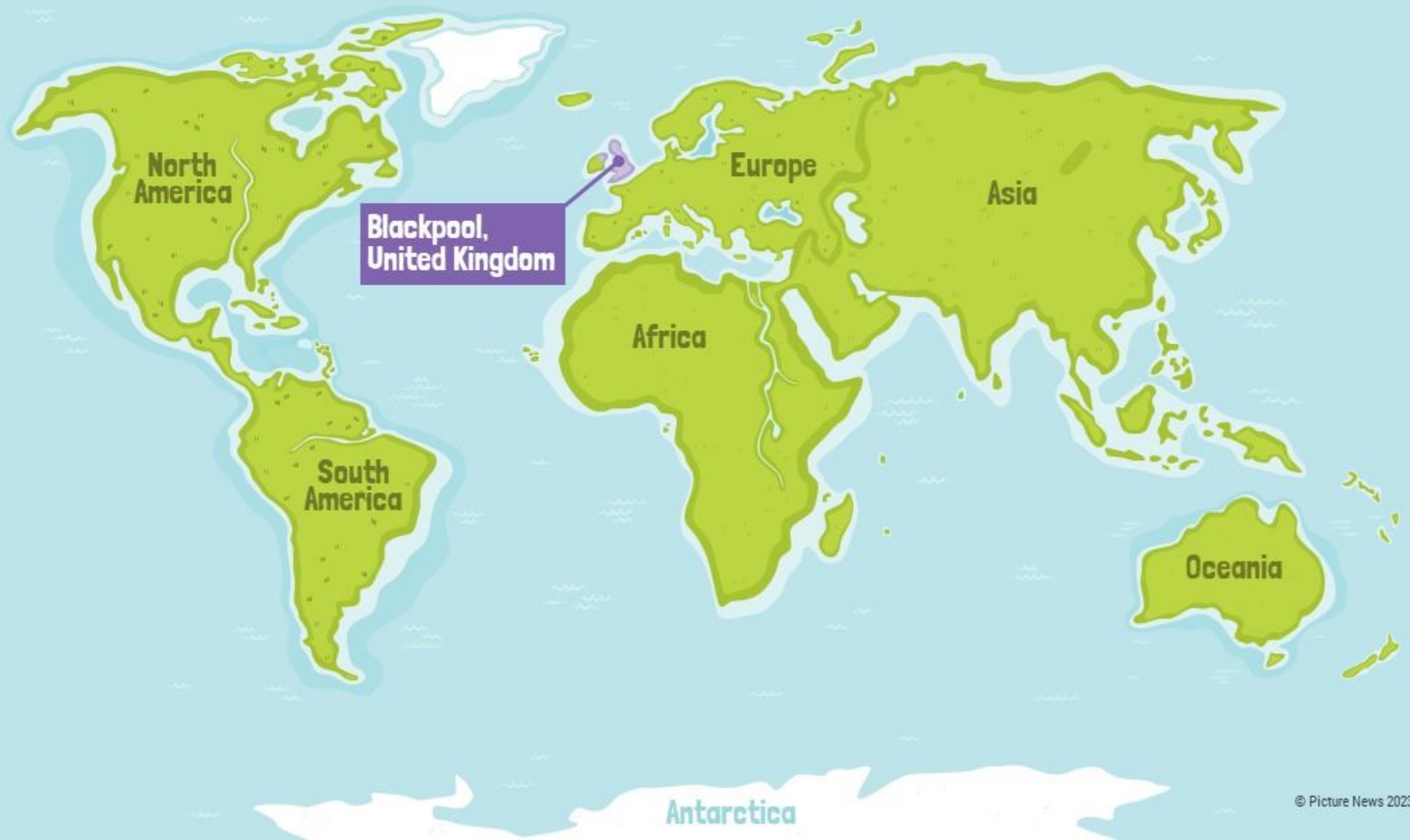


How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information found below about the new role at Blackpool Zoo.

What problems are seagulls causing at Blackpool Zoo?

Like most seaside resorts, Blackpool is home to lots of seagulls. However, they are becoming an increasing problem at Blackpool Zoo, stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures.

Seagulls learn very quickly. They understand what time of the day the displays and talks are on. Where there are people there is usually food. Sandwiches, snacks, crisps. Crisps are a big one and ice cream. They love a 99p ice cream cone.



Khaled Fawzy, Section Area Manager at Blackpool Zoo



Pictured above: The costume currently worn by a staff member at Blackpool Zoo, until the official 'Seagull Deterrents' are hired.
Source: Blackpool Zoo

What will the role of Seagull Deterrent involve?

'We need to do what we can to keep the seagulls away from our main visitor dining areas, which is why we are looking for a team of people to join our Visitor Services team as 'Seagull Deterrents'.

We are looking for people that are:

- *Visitor Focused*
- *Friendly*
- *Energetic*
- *Flexible*
- *Outgoing – as you need to be comfortable wearing a bird costume!*

Job advert from Blackpool Zoo's website

Do you think it is a good idea? Is it something you would like to do?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about seagulls.

The correct name for a seagull is actually just gull. There are over 50 different species of gull found worldwide. Six species are common to the UK. Although gulls are seabirds, they also live inland.

Describe the similarities and differences between these gulls



Did you know?

Seagulls will eat almost anything and are known for stealing food from other birds, animals and people!



**Does any of the information surprise you?
Is there anything else you would like to find out?**

Seagull Facts

A group of seagulls is called a colony.

They can fly and soar well and have webbed feet for swimming.

They have a very good sense of smell and detect food from over 3 miles away.

Seagulls prefer to drink fresh water but they can drink seawater.

The average lifespan of a seagull living in the wild is between 10 and 20 years.



Look at the resource below, where some people share their experiences of animal pests.

I have problems with rats, rabbits and wild birds. Rats are often trying to find a way into grain stores, rabbits eat the grass intended for livestock and destroy land with their burrows and wild birds can damage crops.

Helen



An ant infestation in someone's home.

Slugs cause so much harm to the plants in my garden. They eat holes in them and seem to especially enjoy my lettuce!

Gavin



Ticks are small, spider-like parasites that attach themselves to other animals and suck blood.



A crow, rabbit and rat. These are all animals that can be pests for farmers.

I had an ant infestation in my home. They had found a way into my kitchen and seemed to like the crumbs they found there.

Camila



A slug on a garden lettuce leaf.

My dog had a tick attached to his ear. It is actually a parasite and can cause harm so it needed to be removed.

Sunil



Do you agree each of these animals is a pest? Why?



**Should all animals
be treated equally?**

Reflection



Whilst all animals should be treated with respect, there may be times when measures need to be put in place to ensure safety for all.





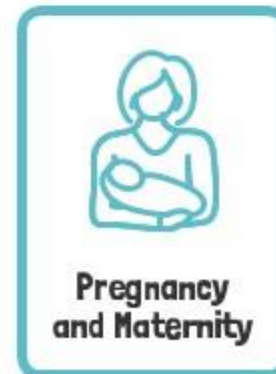
Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Seagulls are known for stealing food and can be a nuisance! Not everyone will feel this way. We can show respect to people who have different beliefs and opinions.

Protected Characteristics



A person's religion or belief can impact their regard for certain animals. This should never cause us to be treated unfairly.





UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to live in a clean and safe environment. Sometimes animals may damage our clean and safe environment, so measures need to be put in place to prevent this.



Useful vocabulary



Deterring

Preventing or discouraging someone or something.

Can you come up with any alternative ideas for **deterring** seagulls?

Enclosure

An area of land surrounded by a wall or fence and that is used for a particular purpose.

Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been persistently stealing food from visitors and animal **enclosures**.

Hire

Employ someone or pay them to do a particular job.

Blackpool Zoo is looking to **hire** a team of people in an attempt to scare away nuisance seagulls.

Inconvenience

Something that causes a problem or difficulty.

Discuss how different animals may cause different **inconveniences**.

Nuisance

Something or someone that annoys you or causes trouble for you.

Have you ever found them a **nuisance**?

Persistently

Happening repeatedly or for a long time.

Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been **persistently** stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures.

Can you use them in your writing this week?



Should all animals be treated equally?

Blackpool Zoo is looking to hire a team of people in an attempt to scare away nuisance seagulls - by dressing them in bird costumes. Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been persistently stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures. The role, which would be housed within the Zoo's Visitor Services team, will involve someone dressing up as an eagle and keeping seagulls away from the main visitor dining areas.



- Look at this week's poster image. What do you already know about seagulls? Have you seen any? Do they live close to where you live? Have you ever found them a nuisance?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource about the new role at Blackpool Zoo. Do you believe it is a good idea? Is it something you think you would like to do?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows more about the new role Blackpool Zoo is looking to fill. Can you come up with any alternative ideas for deterring seagulls?
- Aside from seagulls, can you name any other animals or smaller creatures, such as insects, that are an inconvenience to people? Discuss how different animals may cause different inconveniences.
- Which animal or animals would you say are your favourite? What is it about them that you particularly like? What about those you don't like? Why do you feel that way?
- Do you think that all living things deserve equal respect, even if they cause problems or are dangerous?

Reflection

Whilst all animals should be treated with respect, there may be times when measures need to be put in place to ensure safety for all.



KS1 focus

What do we know about seagulls?



- Write the word 'seagull' on the board. Do you know what a seagull is? Do you know anything about them?
- Explain that a seagull is a type of bird. Look at resource 1, which shares some information about seagulls. Does any of the information surprise you? Is there anything else you would like to find out?
- Have you ever seen a seagull? Where were you? What was the seagull doing? Seagulls are known for pinching food. Have you ever seen seagulls flock towards people eating food?
- There are many different species of gull. People often describe all species of gull as seagulls. Did you realise they were actually called gulls?
- Look at the three species of gull found on resource 1. Can you describe any similarities and differences between their appearances? Can you find out the names of any other species of gull?
- Discuss how you feel about seagulls. Do you like them? Do they scare you? Do they annoy you? Do you feel the same about other birds such as robins, penguins, pigeons, ducks? Why?
- Some species of gull, such as the herring gull, have a UK conservation status of red. This means it is an endangered species. Does this surprise you? Why? How do you feel about it?

Reflection

The correct name for a seagull is gull. There are many species of gull, some of which are endangered. Seagulls are known for stealing food from other birds, animals and humans.



KS2 focus

Why are some animals treated as pests?



- Write the word 'pest' on the board. Do you know what a pest is? Can you use the word in a sentence? Look up its definition in a dictionary or share the following: an insect or other animal that attacks crops, food, livestock or causes harm.
- Which animals do you think could be described as a pest? Has an animal ever caused damage or harm to your home, local park or garden?
- Look at resource 2, where some people share their experience of animal pests. Do you agree each of these animals is a pest? Why?
- Focus on Helen's comment. She describes rabbits and rats as being pests. Do you know anyone who owns a pet rabbit or rat? Do you think they would agree with her comment?
- People who have problems with pests causing harm or damage may use pest control methods. Are you aware of any pest control methods? How do you feel about them? What might happen, if there was no pest control?
- Think about your local area and the pests that may be common to you. How do you think these compare with somewhere else in the UK? How do you think they compare with somewhere else in the world? Were you aware that elephants can cause damage to farmers' crops? Would you ever describe an elephant as a pest?

Reflection

Pests can be a nuisance or cause damage or harm. Sometimes action needs to be taken to manage or control pests. It is important that this action shows compassion for the animals it affects.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Locate your closest zoo and write them a letter. Think about:

- Explain why you are writing – to find out more about them and any pest problems they may have?
- Can you share Blackpool Zoo's seagull problem and their plans to combat it?
- Can you share any knowledge you have of potential pest problems a zoo may have?
- Find out the impact pests may have on different elements of the zoo – the animals, staff, visitors, enclosures.
- Ask what measures they put in place to help manage any pest problems they may have.

Plan your letter, first considering a formal layout, use of ambitious vocabulary, varying sentence type and organising your ideas in paragraphs.

Option 2

Make a list of animals that could be regarded as pests. Animals can be classified (divided) into two main groups. Animals that have a backbone are called vertebrates and animals that do not are called invertebrates.

- Can you sort your list of pests into vertebrates and invertebrates? What do you notice?
- How many of the pests are mammals?
- Are any of the pests birds?
- Can you think of a fish that might be a pest?
- Can you sort the pests according to the number of legs they have?
- Can you think of any other ways you could classify or group your list of pests?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Seagulls can often be found by the sea.

- Have you ever visited the seaside?
- What did you find there or what do you think you might find there?
- Have you ever built a sandcastle?
- Have you ever eaten an ice cream in a cone?
- Can you describe the sand and the sea? What does it look, sound, smell, feel like?
- Have you ever seen, heard or encountered a seagull?

Imagine you have visited the seaside. Write a postcard telling someone about your visit – hopefully it didn't involve a seagull pinching your food!

Option 2

Look at the pictures of three different species of gull found on resource 1.

- Can you name the different parts?
- Point to its beak, wing, eye, head.
- Can you see its tail?
- Did you know the top of a bird's head is called the crown?
- Can you see any feathers?

Resource 1 shows three species of gull.

- Can you find any images of other species of gull?
- Can you describe them using the vocabulary above?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between each of the species.



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/65376028

This week's useful video

Human bird scarer
www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-04-23/blackpool-zoo-is-recruiting-human-bird-scarers-to-deal-with-nuisance-seagulls

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Deterring

Preventing or discouraging someone or something. Can you come up with any alternative ideas for **deterring** seagulls?

Enclosure

An area of land surrounded by a wall or fence and that is used for a particular purpose. Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been persistently stealing food from visitors and animal **enclosures**.

Hire

Employ someone or pay them to do a particular job. Blackpool Zoo is looking to **hire** a team of people in an attempt to scare away nuisance seagulls.

Inconvenience

Something that causes a problem or difficulty. Discuss how different animals may cause different **inconveniences**.

Nuisance

Something or someone that annoys you or causes trouble for you. Have you ever found them a **nuisance**?

Persistently

Happening repeatedly or for a long time. Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been **persistently** stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures.

Feathered Friends Facetime

Pet parrots in the USA have been learning to video call each other and they love it, announced Rébecca Kleinberger and Jennifer Cunha from Northeastern University, Boston. New research by scientists at the American university has revealed that the parrots in the study enjoyed their interactions so much, they wanted to repeat them again and again. The parrots made friends with each other and had certain buddies that they would rather call than others. They had tablets with images of the parrots they could call so they could indicate by tapping on the picture with their beaks who they would like to chat with. The study showed that the pet birds learned to make video calls to chat with other parrots, then developed friendships, with their owners reporting that they thought the calls helped to combat loneliness in their feathered friends. The video calls, which were limited to 5 minutes at a time, are also thought to have helped the parrots learn new skills, such as flying and more words! Birds are America's fourth favourite pet, with over 20 million pet parrots currently living in people's homes.



Pictured: Goffin's cockatoos (top) Macaw parrot (bottom) **Source:** Canva

Do you think it is a good idea for animals to make video calls?

Marvellous Mountaineer



Michael Copeland, a former soldier from Stafford, has completed his challenge to conquer the three peaks in under 24 hours, with a fridge on his back! Mike decided to summit the highest mountains in England, Scotland, and Wales to raise money for mental health charity, Mind. The three peaks challenge is popular with hikers but people don't normally attempt the 23-mile (37Km) trek, with a total ascent of 3064 metres, carrying a fridge! He first climbed Scotland's highest peak, Ben Nevis, before scaling Scafell Pike in the Lake District, England, lastly Snowdon in Wales, only completing his descent with 10 minutes to spare by running at the end! Speaking of his amazing achievement, he said, 'The fridge represents the burden that mental

Pictured: Mike (carrying his fridge) with friends at the top of Ben Nevis during his 3 peak challenge and at landmark Bamford Edge. **Source:** Michael Copeland's Facebook page.

health can have on us all...The whole challenge felt like a movie with the changing weather conditions... 30-40mph winds as we were going up Snowdon so it almost felt like a grown adult was trying to push me over. Climbing Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike was okay as there wasn't any wind however, when we got to the top of Ben Nevis we were met with 12 inches of snow and minus conditions. I was running with the fridge on my back, it was banging against my back and it was very uncomfortable, but I couldn't not finish it.' **Do you like to challenge yourself?**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



School Powered by "Kiddywatts"



Pictured: Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng school, staff and pupils Sources: Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng Facebook page.

A new 'groundbreaking' energy-efficient school has opened its doors to school children in Powys, Wales. The specially designed building will use pupils' own heat to keep its classrooms warm. Triple-glazed windows, highly insulated walls and an airtight construction mean very little energy is lost from the building. Ian Pilcher, Housing Estates and Property Manager at Powys County Council, said the warmth generated by the students is informally known as 'kiddywatts'. He explained that, 'We use the heat that the people in the building generate and because it's so thermally insulated we don't lose a lot of that.' This warm air is then moved around the building using a ventilation unit so no gas central heating is required. Air source heat pumps are also



used to generate heat and solar panels on the school's roof produce electricity. Angharad Davies, who is the school headteacher, said, 'This new building represents us and has helped create our vision for what this school can be. I can't believe how lucky I am to be head of this wonderful school, where we celebrate that nobody is perfect, and everyone is different.' **Do you think every building could be more energy efficient?**

Last week's topic:

How do you choose to celebrate significant events?

Doing something different that you wouldn't normally do is a good way to mark an event.

Greg

In my opinion I think that we (as a country) celebrate significant events by coming up with a certain day to celebrate them publicly as a country having lots of fun and understanding the meaning of the event.

Sukhjot

I always want to be with my friends to celebrate.

Ian



I love doing something special to celebrate important events either to do with birthdays, anniversaries or any other important dates!

Yesilya

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

 www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

 help@picture-news.co.uk

 @HelpPicture

 Picture News Ltd,
Colber Lane,
Bishop Thornton,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



TAKEHOME



Should all animals
be treated equally?



In the news this week

Blackpool Zoo is looking to hire a team of people in an attempt to scare away nuisance seagulls - by dressing them in bird costumes. Blackpool Zoo says the birds have been persistently stealing food from visitors and animal enclosures. The role, which would be housed within the Zoo's Visitor Services team, will involve someone dressing up as an eagle and keeping seagulls away from the main visitor dining areas.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Have you seen a seagull? Have they ever been an inconvenience to you?
- Share your thoughts on the new role for deterring seagulls.
- Is it a job you think you would like to do?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

