



Picture News

Advanced

18th January 2021

What's going on this week?



Source: clapforourcarers.co.uk

The celebration for NHS staff, formally known as 'Clap for Carers', returned under the new name of 'Clap for Heroes' on the 7th of January, announced by the initiative's founder, Annemarie Plas. The weekly applause for front-line NHS staff and other key workers ran for 10 weeks during the UK's first coronavirus lockdown last spring. This time, the initiative is celebrating not just NHS and key workers but also extends to home-schooling parents, those who are shielding and all who are pushing through this period.

Annemarie Plas hopes the initiative will "lift the spirit of all of us including all who are pushing through this difficult time".

This week's news story: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55561108

This week's useful video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=odi7PrJCIE8



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Main question:

How can we show our thanks to those who help us?

Listen, think, share

- Read through this week's story, have you taken part in either the 'Clap for Heroes' or 'Clap for Carers' campaigns? What are your thoughts about the campaigns? If you have taken part, how did it feel to take part? The clapping initiative isn't just a UK phenomenon, it has taken place all over the world. In Italy, people inside decided to bang on pots, play accordions, wave flags and sing. In Spain, many residents met on their balconies at 8pm every day in March 2020 to applaud hospital staff and other workers. Why do you think these types of campaigns gain so much momentum during lockdown periods? What do you think are the benefits and impact of such a collective event?
- In the UK, it was London resident, Annemarie Plas, who conceived the idea of a collective celebration and recognition of our NHS staff and key workers. Last March, as the nation went into the first lockdown, Annemarie coined the 'Clap for Carers' concept as a way for people to show their appreciation and thanks to NHS staff and key workers, who were continuing their work throughout the pandemic. The first clap took place on 26th March and for the next 10 weeks, each Thursday at 8pm, people would stand outside their homes, clap and make noise to show thanks. At the start of 2021, following the announcement of a third national lockdown in the UK, Annemarie launched the new 'Clap for Heroes' initiative. As well as clapping for NHS staff and key workers, this new campaign aims to celebrate many other heroes who have played a role in helping or supporting others at this time. Do you think it is a good idea to re-launch the initiative? What do you think of the idea to include a wider range of roles this time?
- Not everyone is supportive of the initiative. Can you think of any reasons why some people may not be fully behind the 'Clap for Heroes' campaign? NHS Million, an anonymous Twitter account run by NHS staff recently tweeted, *'This time instead of clapping for NHS staff will you maybe just stay at home for them instead?'* Another NHS worker tweeted, *'The whole #clapforheroes thing was bad enough last time. We don't want applause for doing our jobs. We want safe working conditions, safe staffing and adequate pay.'* Do these thoughts surprise you? Do you think this lockdown's clapping campaign will be more or less popular than the last? Why?
- An annual 'Clap for Carers' day is planned for the last Thursday of March each year. Discuss your thoughts on this idea. Is it something that you envisage yourself taking part in?

Further questions for discussion

- The Queen referred to the 'Clap for Carers' campaign as an 'expression of our national spirit.' What do you think she meant by this and do you agree?
- Can you think of any other ways that you can show your appreciation and thanks to those who help us in times of need?
- Who do you think the clapping campaigns benefit more, the people who are clapping or the people who are being clapped for? Why?