

**BIG
ISSUE**

pocket

MARCH 2024

MONEY



**How to grow
a magic money tree**

Welcome

What was the last thing you bought? Did you think hard before handing over your cash? Money is so important, but often we don't get to be part of the conversation. Well, this magazine is going to change that! From how you spend and save, to all that money stuff you might have heard about but don't understand, it's time to make finance fun (yes, really!).

thanks

The Big Issue would like to say a big thank you to The Week Junior and Social Enterprise Academy, who helped us make this magazine. It was supported by Experian's United For Financial Health Programme.

THE WEEK
Junior

SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
ACADEMY
One becomes many

experian.

The Big Issue is a weekly news, arts and social justice magazine, sold by people who are homeless, vulnerably housed or impacted by poverty. Sellers buy copies of the magazine for half its cover price, and keep the profit for each copy sold. Find out more, find a local vendor or take out a subscription at bigissue.com

Writers: Lucy Mason, Sarah Reid

Designer: Gill Durham

Illustrator: Luke McConkey

Photography: Steven Jones

Sub-editor: Jamie Atkins

Editor: Vicky Carroll

Art Director: Mark Neil

**BIG
ISSUE**

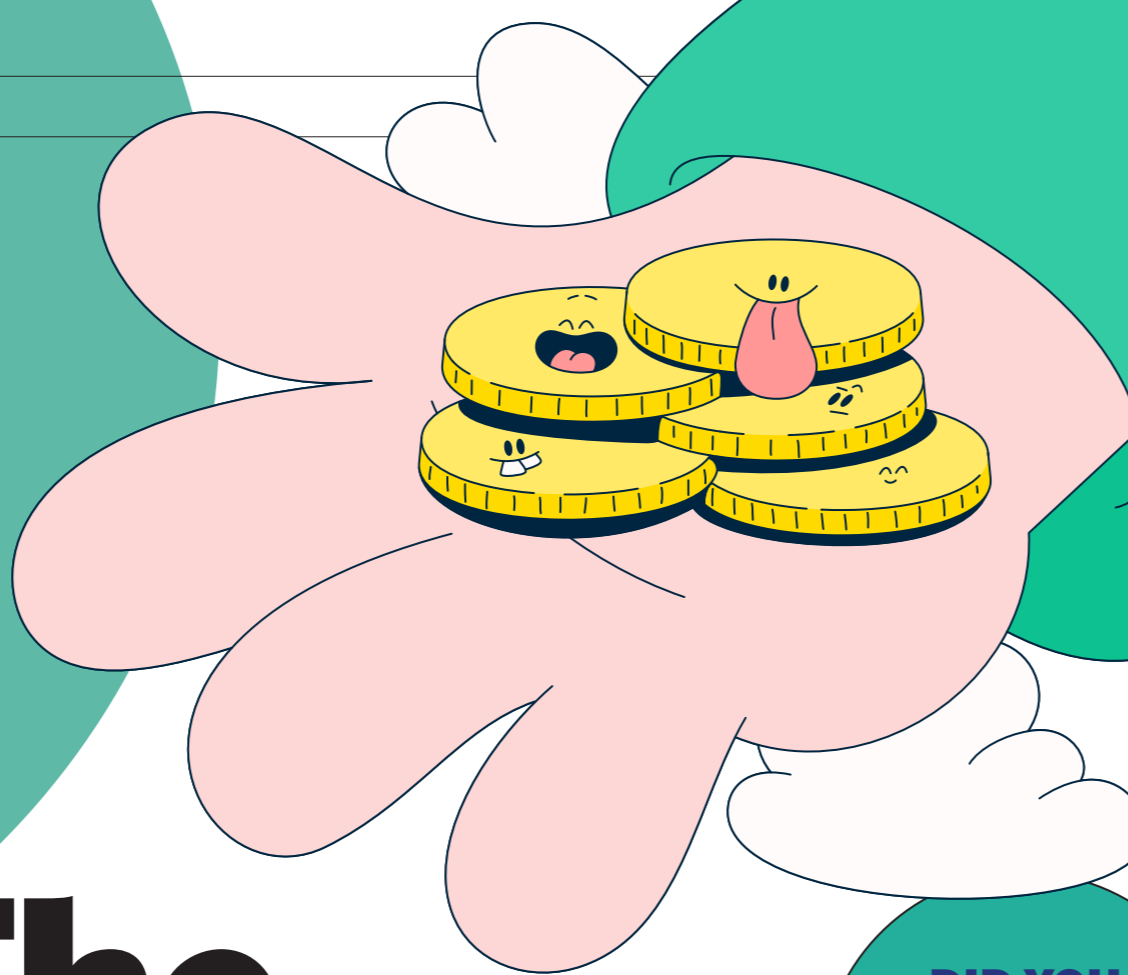
The basics

Getting confident with cash helps you to spend and save wisely

However you feel about money, it plays an important role in our lives. We're often told it doesn't grow on trees - we have to take care of it and grow it ourselves! So understanding the basics of what money is and where it comes from is a valuable skill.

Why money matters

Money pays for things like home, food and travel. It may not buy happiness, but it gives us the freedom to decide how we want to live. So if you want to save up for a new video game or dream of travelling the world one day, earning money and knowing when to spend and save it can help you achieve this. You can pay for things with cash (notes and coins) or by card or online, called digital money.



DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, children were paid an average of £5 pocket money per week

Where cash comes from

Having a job, doing chores and selling things we don't need are all ways to earn money. People earn different amounts, so while some have plenty of cash to spend, others might struggle to pay for the things they need. If this happens, our government may support people with money, called benefits.

Saving the pennies

Saving helps us pay for things we want but don't need, like holidays, and also lets us put money aside in case of an emergency. Not everyone can afford to save, but if you do have cash to spare then paying it into a savings account helps it grow. A study shows that knowing we have money saved up makes us happier than if we earn a huge amount and then spend it. So as well as helping us buy things, saving - even a small amount - boosts our wellbeing.

Mastering money

Understanding money helps us to be financially responsible. This means knowing how to spend wisely so we can afford things we need and save any money we have left over. Even though we can't see digital money, there's always a limit to how much is available. So everyone, including the government, has to make choices about where to spend and save. Our financial responsibilities change over time, so getting to grips with money matters now, including learning to budget, understanding savings and asking lots of questions, will help you as you get older.

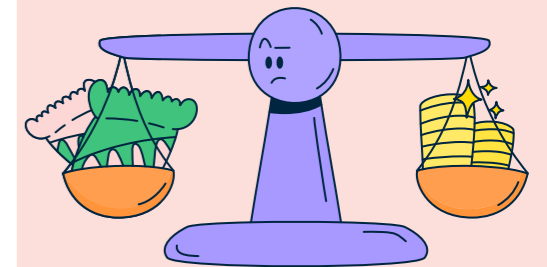
DID YOU KNOW?

The most popular paid chore for kids is tidying their room



Get your money SORTED!

Learning the difference between needs and wants helps you save



Without an endless supply of cash, we have to choose what we spend our money on. This is called prioritising, and the easiest way to do it is by thinking about needs and wants. Needs are things we must have to survive, like healthy food and clean water. Wants are nice to have, like sweets or a new bike, but we don't need them to live. Learning to prioritise buying things you need before splashing out on stuff you want helps you make the most of your money.

How it all adds up

Work out the cost of a trip to the cinema, including bus fares, tickets and snacks for the show. Then write down how much you'd spend on a home movie night, buying treats from a shop. When you see the difference, is the cinema good value? Or is there something else you could put your money towards instead?

SWEET TOOTH

In 2022, we spent a total of £4.5 billion on sweets and chocolate in the UK



Clued up



Think kids need to know more about money?
 Kalpana Fitzpatrick literally wrote the book on it!
 Here are her top money hacks

“
 I like to save all my money.
 The only things I would buy
 are things that I could sell
 to make a profit.
Ralje”



When is a good time to start saving? As soon as you can! Having goals, ambitions and challenges is good for you, and saving gives you a sense of achievement. It makes you think, “I can do this.” Then, as you get older, you can work towards bigger goals.

Piggy bank or savings account?

It’s nice to put your money in a piggy bank because you can see it, but in a savings account you can watch it grow. A Junior ISA is a type of savings account that looks after your money until you reach 18. So these are good if you’ve got long-term goals like saving up for driving lessons or university.

Keeping your money safe

Don’t be tempted to take your cash to school. Think about how you’d feel if someone took it

“
 I look after my money
 a lot better now. I think,
 why would I buy this
 when I could save for
 something better?
Emily”



from you. If you use debit cards, don’t share your PIN or passwords with anyone, even your friends. Always ask a trusted adult for help if you want to buy something online.

Buying things you don’t need

If you want to buy something because your friend has it, ask yourself if you’d rather have something else that makes you happy deep down. Try understanding what you want and prioritising that. If you waste your money copying others it takes you away from your own goals.

How can I grow my money?

If you get pocket money, make a habit of saving the same amount every week. After a while you won’t even notice it’s gone. You could also create your own money journal with a notebook and colouring pens. Write down how much pocket money you get, where you spend

it and what you save. Stick in pictures of things you’re saving up for, to inspire you.

It’s good to talk

Learning good money skills is so important that the Scouts give out a badge for it. Feeling comfortable talking about money and asking questions will help you as you grow. So don’t be afraid to ask parents, carers or teachers, and if they don’t know the answer try finding it out together.



“
 I do chores to get
 money for holidays, I load
 the dishwasher and do the
 washing to get more money.
 My mum and dad get me
 lots of stuff, so it’s fair to
 help them out around
 the house.
Paris”

Find out more about money and how to look after it in Kalpana Fitzpatrick’s book, *Get to Know Money* (DK Children)

Financial products for youngsters

Junior ISA (JISA)

Cash JISAs grow your money by gaining interest, while Stocks and Shares JISAs invest your money in the stock market. If you want your savings to really make a difference, ethical JISAs like Big Exchange JISA, supported by The Big Issue, invest only in people and planet-friendly companies.

Savings account

Instant or easy-access savings accounts let you withdraw cash whenever you like, while regular savings accounts hold your money for a fixed amount of time.

Good news
 Great for long-term savings as your money stays in your account for longer. You also don’t have to pay tax on money you make.

Bad news
 You can’t withdraw cash until you’re 18, and investing in stocks and shares means your savings may go down as well as up in value.

Good news
 Both accounts pay interest and you usually get higher rates with a regular account.

Bad news
 You may earn less interest if you take money out early from a regular savings account.

LEARN THE LANGUAGE

Budget: A plan for spending and saving.

Invest: Using your money to try to make more money.

Interest: A reward from your bank for saving, and worked out as a percentage of the money you save.

Debit card: Lets you make payments and withdraw cash from your bank account.

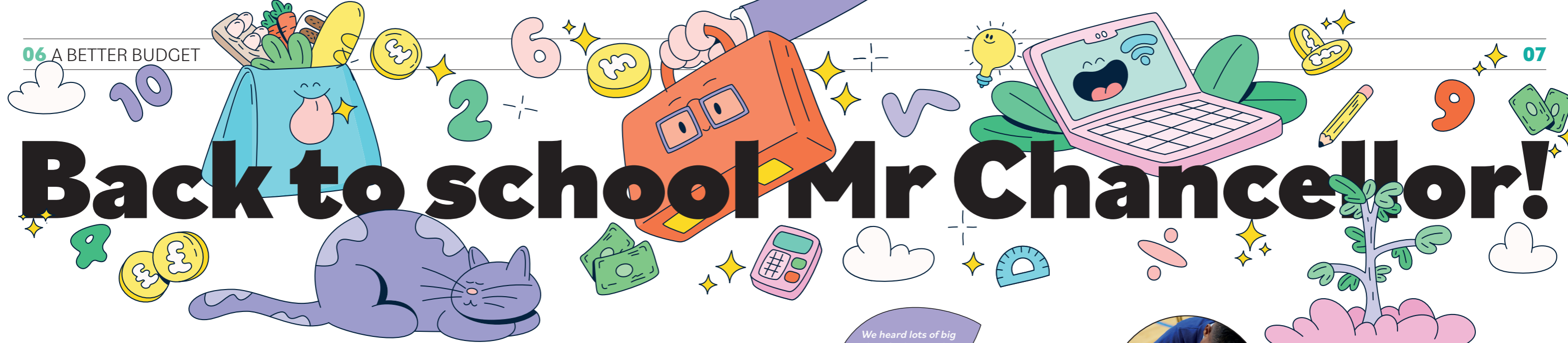
Credit card: Allows adults to borrow money from a bank or other financial company, which has to be paid back along with added extra costs.

Tax: Money the government takes from people and companies to help pay for things like schools and hospitals.

Debt: Money that somebody owes to someone else.

Stock market: Where people buy and sell shares (little parts of companies).

Back to school Mr Chancellor!



You will be hearing a lot just now about how the government plans to spend its money in the coming months.

It's called the Budget and it is announced by the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt. It's a big deal, because it lets us know how much the government will spend on things like schools, hospitals and the environment.

But if you were in charge of the Budget – how would you like to see the money spent?

A group of pupils from St Bernard's and St Catherine's primary schools in Glasgow, and Carleith Primary in Clydebank, got together to talk about the big spending issues that are important to them.

The pupils, aged nine to 11, are all involved in social enterprise projects at school. They run profitable businesses to tackle a problem that they've identified in their communities.

People experiencing homelessness, the elderly and the cost of living are on their list of spending priorities. And they also want more sports facilities and smart solutions to help the environment. So Mr Hunt, pay attention: here is your lesson in how to Budget better!

What matters most?

Lucas says he'd love to see more money spent on shelters for stray animals. With four cats, two dogs and two tortoises at home he knows what animals need to be happy and healthy.

Paris thinks that more bins would keep streets clean and protect animals from being harmed by our rubbish.

Homelessness is a big problem for these



These pupils want a fairer, greener, healthier economy



Being careful to not over-spend in one area avoids cuts in others



We heard lots of big ideas for how to do a better Budget

young business people. "When I walk past a homeless person I feel bad for them, especially when the weather is bad," says Cole. "I have enough, but not everyone does."

Jamie says the government could build more homeless shelters, and Jack thinks there should also be more houses. Free wifi and devices could also help people find jobs, they add. Peniel has some other thoughts on how the government could help. "I would give £150-£200 to homeless people on a special card to spend on food," she comments. Others agree that food should be cheaper for homeless people.

Janet worries about people whose homes have been damaged by winter storms. "If a house has been damaged, the government should at least help them to fix it," she says.

Tied in with housing is the cost of living. Lee points out that rising prices mean some families can't afford food – or the energy to heat their homes and cook.

Health matters to Emily and Rachel, who would fund sports like football and dancing.



Here's how to grow your magic money tree!

The Big Issue would like to thank Cole Langrell, Najjash Hatmi, Peniel Amanuel, Ralje Naungayan and Janet Governor (St Catherine's Primary), Sophie Johnstone, Cole Beattie, Paris Lang-Chrystal, Katrina Tahir and Lee Smith (St Bernard's Primary), and Rachel Hamilton, Emily Kerr, Jack Aitken, Lucas McCall and Jamie McAuley (Carleith Primary). Thanks also to St Bernard's Primary for hosting, to Social Enterprise Academy for arranging the event and Experian for their support.

The group hate the way that pollution is changing the planet and think the Chancellor could give everyone a reusable cup to cut plastic waste.

"If we had more trees we could have more paper items and less plastic," says Peniel. And Ralje agrees: "We need more trees because of the pollution, they'd give us more oxygen."

Other ideas include more care homes for older people, green energy for every home and help for families who can't afford school uniforms.

Growing the economy

Writing their spending plans on paper leaves, the pupils hang them on our 'magic money tree', to show the Chancellor what areas of spending they'd like to grow!

Running their own businesses means these young people are already pretty clued up about budgeting. Their social enterprises range from Carleith's Hand in Hand Pantry, a cafe and shop to support people feeling isolated, to St Catherine's Gifts and Cards, which uses its profits to help local people in poverty, and a customised reusable cup business run by pupils from St Bernard's.

And these young business people have a few tips for Mr Hunt about smart spending.

"You don't want to go over or under your budget," advises Najjash. And Katrina's top tip is to check you're getting good value because going over budget on one thing means you end up with less to spend on everything else.

So these are your lessons, Mr Hunt – how to grow a happier, healthier, fairer economy!



Looking after elderly and homeless people is important

What is the Budget?

The Budget is a plan announced every year by the government, explaining where it's going to get the money needed to run the country and how it will be spent. The Chancellor of the Exchequer works out the Budget with help from their office, called the Treasury.

How does it affect me?

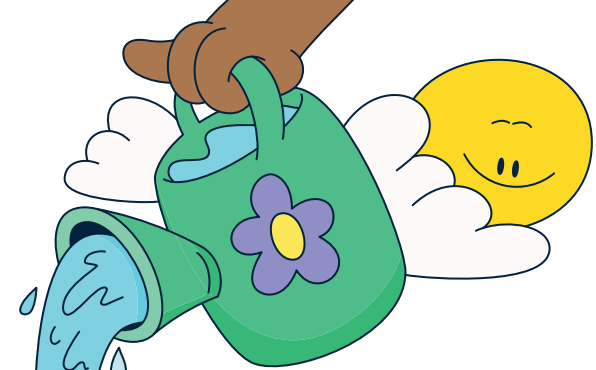
The government gets most of its funds from taxes. This is money it takes from people and businesses. So if the Budget raises or lowers taxes, or it affects the costs of things like food and electricity, adults may have more or less money to spend – which could mean more or less pocket money for you.

What's in the red briefcase?

The Chancellor is usually seen on Budget day waving a red briefcase, which is said to hold the budget speech and other important documents. The original was used for nearly 100 years before the current case was made in 1997.

FUN FACT
The word Budget comes from an old French word 'bougette', meaning little bag





Grow your own money tree

We've learned a lot about money in these pages. But what does it mean for YOU and your own money tree?

Hopefully you've learned that while spending is fun, saving is important. There are different ways to save - in a piggy bank or in a real bank, for example.

Most banks offer an app, so you can keep track of your money really easily. Some even let you separate your account into different sections, so your spending money and savings are kept apart.

Just like adults, kids can get interest on their money when it's in the bank. While it's not a huge amount, this is free money that the bank gives you for keeping your savings with them. And interest rates are a bit higher now than they have been recently, so that means the bank will be paying you that little bit more.

To help your money tree grow, we've seen that it's a good idea to think in terms of needs and wants. These are different for everyone, but it's a simple way of deciding what you spend your money on (even adults have to do this!)

In theory, this should mean you don't spend money on something you'll later regret. But everyone slips up sometimes and buys something RIDICULOUS! So don't feel bad if that's happened to you. It's all part of learning about money, value, saving... and why a mini claw machine maybe isn't something you'll love forever.

Good luck with your money trees!

And tell us your ideas for growing money at
 @BigIssue
 @theweekjunior
 #BigIssueTalksMoney



WORD SEARCH

BUDGET
 INTEREST
 DEBT

SAVING
 PROFIT
 ALLOWANCE

INCOME
 CREDIT
 SPENDING

S	R	J	E	M	O	C	N	I	A	L	A
L	A	E	N	M	C	R	T	P	L	J	G
C	R	T	H	P	Q	A	R	C	S	V	R
V	N	B	S	A	G	N	I	V	A	S	V
R	K	U	I	E	L	T	A	M	L	E	B
F	Y	D	D	P	R	O	F	I	T	C	N
R	J	G	I	S	P	E	N	D	I	N	G
X	E	E	M	J	M	Y	T	X	Q	E	D
A	G	T	I	F	W	L	B	N	N	A	O
Y	B	U	N	X	C	R	E	D	I	T	E
M	J	R	E	N	S	R	D	T	Y	O	W
K	Z	A	L	L	O	W	A	N	C	E	L

SAVING

It's easier to reach a savings goal with your plans noted down in a handy checklist!

Something I'd like to buy
Prices compared (price and retailer)
Cheapest price
Amount I want to save £
Pocket money/allowance per week/month
Extra money (birthday, gifts, chores etc)
Total money £
Other things I might spend money on before I reach my savings goal (and rough price for each item)