The News
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by Emma Phillips

Some of the country's least well-off households are going to get a hand with making ends meet today in the run-up to Christmas. 5.8 million people across the country will be receiving a cheque for 100 euros to put towards their gas and electricity bills.

Another 100-euro bonus will also be on its way this week to 38 million French people earning less than 2,000 euros net a month. This cheque is to help deal with the cost of inflation. Scholarship students across the country can look forward to being the first to receive their cheques today.

Emmanuel Macron will be in Hungary today to meet Prime Minister Viktor Orban. They will discuss France's upcoming presidency of the Council of the European Union. Ahead of the meeting in Budapest, Macron said of Orban that "He is a political opponent but a European partner".

With four months to go until the presidential election, the socialist candidate Anne Hidalgo held a rally yesterday in Perpignan. The current mayor of Paris reiterated her plea for a "united" France, and the suggestion that the left put forward just one candiate into the race. For now, only Arnaud Montebourg has said he agrees with the idea whereas the head of the party La France Insoumise, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, rejects the proposal.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that the country is primed for a "tidal wave" of cases of the Omicron variant. Last night, Boris Johnson said that in the UK, the booster shot would be offered to everyone over 18 years of age by the end of the month.
More than 14,000 covid patients are currently hospitalized, including nearly 2,600 in intensive care.

In the south west of the country, things seem to be improving slightly after the bad weather and flooding of the past few days. However, this morning the Landes and the Pyrénées-Atlantiques remain on orange alert for the risk of flooding.

And finally to football and Paris Saint Germain won 2-0 against Monaco last night at the end of day 18 of the Ligue 1. PSG have Kylian Mbappé for both goals that have sealed their place at the top of the leader board, ahead of Marseille, who beat Strasbourg 2-0.