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Dear Parent/Carer,

This week is our annual 'One Britain' theme week where children participate in a range of activities to promote equality and to give them opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of diversity within our country and community. These activities build on the knowledge and understanding that they have gained in this term's PSHE/RSE lessons so far.

Schools have a responsibility to ensure that their curriculum systematically teaches pupils about all aspects of individual difference and diversity, including those related to appearance, religion, race, gender, sexuality, disability and ability. This aspect of our curriculum should include a clear progression that takes account of the age and maturity of pupils and is tailored to the particular needs of the school and wider community. We know that pupils have lots of questions about things they perceive to be 'different' and through helping them to explore and understand some of these areas, we will support them in becoming caring, well-informed and tolerant young people and adults of the future. You will also see we are exploring themes around emotional health and well-being, an aspect I'm sure you will agree is becoming more and more important to discuss with our children and young people.

Our children always show a very thoughtful approach to the themes explored and enjoy the range of activities on offer. This term and during One Britain Week, activities in this area of our curriculum include:

- Pupils in Years 2 to 6 watch an educational film which highlights the issue of racism, produced by the Tyne and Wear based charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'
- All pupils are involved in designing an anti-racism poster/t-shirt or producing a piece of creative writing about this theme for a national competition run by the charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'. We have won the national poster/creative writing competition twice so far with the winning pupils travelling to the Emirates and Wembley stadiums to receive their prize! Third time lucky hopefully this year!
- Nursery and Reception think about special people in their lives, start to understand what a disability is and learn about Chinese New Year customs and traditions



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- Years 1 and 2 learn about similarities and differences, different kinds of physical disabilities, look at the different relationships within a family (brother, sister, parent, cousin, uncle etc) and whether all families are the same. They also find out more about the countries of birth of some of our families within our school and community.
- Years 3 and 4 explore positive images and stories of disability, including the lives of some Paralympic athletes. They look at different types of families, including single parent families. They think about what diversity means and why this is a positive aspect of our community.
- Years 5 and 6 look at different types of families and relationships, including same-sex parent families. They also discuss Homophobia. They explore the topic of refugees and asylum seekers and further develop their understanding of Autism and ADHD.
- Classes in Years 4 to Year 6 have an Anti Hate-Bullying workshop, delivered by our local PCSOs
- Our World Book Day gives pupils the opportunity to either dress as a book character or in Rainbow colours to celebrate equality and diversity. Classes in Years 2 to 6 also have a Poetry workshop, looking at poetry from a range of authors and writing and performing their own poetry.



These themes and activities are very much part of our ethos as a Silver Award Rights Respecting School and are closely linked to the following rights/articles:

Article 13 *You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people*

Article 29: *A child's education should help them to learn to live peacefully...and respect other people.*

Article 30: *Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.*

I'm sure children will have lots to tell you about these activities and we will share as much as we can on Class Dojo.

Please contact me if you would like to know more about any of these activities or have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lavelle



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