

Welcome to our third New Valley diversity newsletter and first from this academic year. This term, the children have studied many aspects of diversity in the widest sense. Diversity and Antibullying week have played a big part in the learning.

A particular favourite amongst the classes was when we shared the inspiring true story 'Coming to England' about Dame Floella Benjamin, following her journey from Trinidad to London as part of the Windrush generation. It is a powerful story, teaching us how courage and determination can always overcome adversity.

It's been lovely to see the threads of diversity flow through the classes and we hope to continue to understand and appreciate the diverse community that is New Valley.

Want to get involved?

We are looking for a motivated parent to join the adult Diversity Team and help contribute to the great work that we do. This will involve 4-6 afternoon/evening meetings spread throughout the school year. The team is made up of staff and governors who represent a spread of responsibility and leadership, and the team's mission is to ensure that diversity is genuinely celebrated and embraced at New Valley. The team's roles include generating ideas, involving stakeholders in decision making, planning projects and supporting change.

If this is an area for which you have a passion and you feel you could make a difference, please email Miss Weckmann at pine@newvalleyprimary.com with the topic line Diversity Team and some information around the following questions:

What does diversity mean to you?

Why are you interested in working with the New Valley Diversity Team?

The pupil Diversity team will review the applications and help make the final decision regarding who takes this worthwhile role.



Reception

Since September, Reception have explored and covered many topics within Diversity. We have read books that discuss differences and similarities and how we celebrate and embrace each other, such as, 'We're All Wonders', 'Something Else' and 'Astro Girl'. In Cherry class we have enjoyed learning about The Empire Windrush. The children loved exploring old photographs and chatting about what they noticed and how the people in the photos must have felt. The children found Diversity week very interesting, as Reception were learning about people who have physical disabilities. We watched videos about children who have Cerebral Palsy and visual impairments. We discussed pictures and how people should be treated if they are in a wheelchair, are blind, deaf or have prosthetic limbs. Cherry class are wonderful at being inclusive and said that everyone should be treated with the same kindness and that they would give extra help to someone if they needed it. After listening to the story 'Kind', Cherry class wanted to start their own 'Kindness Jar', which we fill everyday with pebbles for every kind act we do. We have also really enjoyed exploring different celebrations and festivals; so far we have learnt about Diwali and Christmas. For Diwali, Cherry class listened to a traditional Indian story about Rama and Sita, we made Diya lamps and made facts books about the Festival of Light. We also created Rangoli patterns with loose parts, colouring and chalk. We have been very busy preparing for our Nativity play, you may have heard your child singing some of the songs! We're looking forward to next term and learning even more!

Year 1

Over the last term, Year 1 have enjoyed exploring and learning about diversity and inclusion. We have been discussing that although diversity means everybody is different, diversity is about embracing and learning from each other's differences.

During Black History Month, we had a particular focus on the Windrush Journey and why people came over to England. We enjoyed learning about the variety of jobs that people had, such as train drivers, bus conductors, as well as the important roles in the health care service.

Throughout the term we have shared our personal experiences, learning from each other about the languages, traditions and backgrounds within the class. In particular, we have loved learning about sign language, which some of our families use at New Valley. We enjoyed learning our names and making our own poster to help teach other people. We have also discussed other physical disabilities and shared a story called 'Emmanuel's Dream'. This was based on the true story of a boy called Emmanuel, who cycled an incredible 400 miles across Ghana - with only one strong leg- to spread his powerful message: disability does not mean inability. This then inspired us to research and learn about Paralympic sports and we were lucky enough to receive a message from Sammi Kinghorn, a GB Paralympian who holds world record in wheelchair racing.

In Willow class, we are proud to be part of a diverse community and value the importance of sharing our similarities and celebrating and differences.



Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning lots about diversity. We have thoroughly enjoyed votes for schools and especially learning about the current war in Afghanistan and how children are living there. It really got us thinking about whether the world is equal and all of the things that we can do to help. In music, we have been understanding what a carnival is and we have looked at carnivals all around the world. What great fun we had dancing to different music! Everyone worked really hard on our final dance and we created masks and learnt some new moves as a whole class. We have really enjoyed diversity week because we read some really exciting and interesting books. The first book we read was called Mixed and it is all about different colours coming together to create a mixed and wonderful world. We linked this to cultural diversity and how the colours represent different cultures and what is part of that. Following this, we painted a picture with dots and labelled them with words that represented culture. The second book we read was called Tusk Tusk and this got us thinking about the impact we can have on others. We have had a fantastic term and can't wait to learn lots more!

Year 3

Year 3 has experienced a wide range of learning about diversity since September. We have really taken the time to deep dive into that core value of celebrating difference and worked on our understanding of what equality can actually look like.

We really enjoy doing Votes for School each week as it gives us the chance to have our own voices heard and some of our comments were even published by the VFS creators! The one that left the biggest impact on us were 'Do we celebrate our differences enough?' and the main consensus was that while we do within our school, we can ALWAYS do more.

We covered a huge range of books about diversity but something that really stuck with us was learning about Dame Floella Benjamin during Black History Month: reading her book taught us that our smiles are our biggest weapons.

We also thoroughly enjoyed learning about invisible disabilities during Diversity Week. It taught us to be a bit more patient and aware. We hope to learn and grow even more next term!

Year 4

In Maple Class this half term we have enjoyed learning about the different religions and celebrations that we follow in our class. It was very interesting to find out that even if we follow the same religion, sometimes we worship or celebrate in different ways.

During our English lessons we have been reading the Iron Man. This was a great book to open discussions on how appearances can be deceiving. At the beginning of the text we thought the character was 'scary because he is dark grey' and he would 'hurt people because he is too big.' However, we found out that he was a kind-hearted character that just needed some food but was unable to communicate.

For Black History month, we really enjoyed learning about Windrush celebrations and even got to host our own mini 'Notting Hill Carnival' at school. You may have seen some of our amazing artwork from it!

Year 5

Year 5 have been covering a multitude of areas of diversity this term.

At the start of October, we celebrated Black History Month by looking at HMS Windrush, focusing on how and why people came over to England and the impact it had on music. We looked at the song 'London is the place for me' by Lord Kitchner and how this was a false representation of how people were treated when they arrived in England. We created our own poems to be sung, showing what it really was like for people who arrived on the Windrush.

In English, we have read the book 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. The story is set during the Victorian era where expectations for men and women were different. We discussed topics that arose in the story where women were suppressed.

During diversity week, we focused on mental disabilities. We began by looking at what an invisible disability was and the different types. We realised that most of the class knew someone with a disability and had something to add to our conversations. The main invisible disabilities we focused on were dyslexia, ADHD and Autism. As a class we spoke about how we could support someone with these.



Year 6

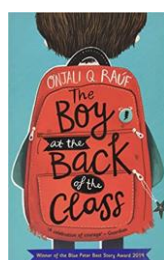
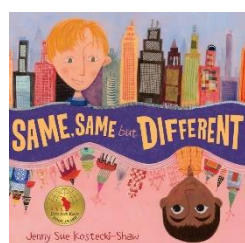
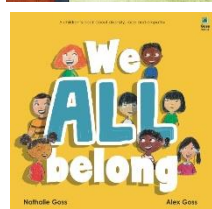
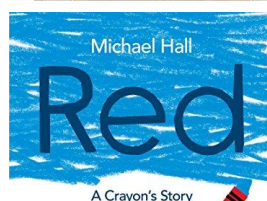
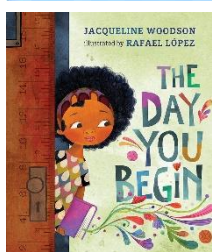
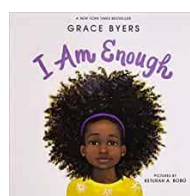
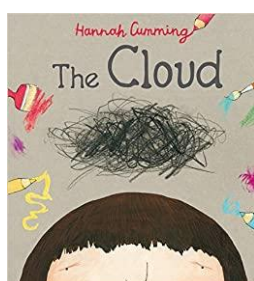
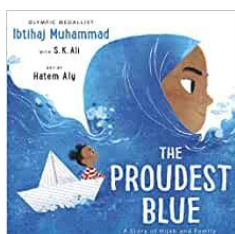
Year 6 have had some very mature discussions about diversity this term. In English, our first core text, Clodbusting, allowed us to think about the difficulties faced by children with non-visible disabilities when they join a new school. We talked about the importance of not making assumptions about people and how lucky we are at New Valley to be so inclusive and welcoming to people joining us. Through our History topic of the British Empire and another core text 'The Windrush Child' we have investigated the impact the British Empire has had around the world and in this country. We have realised that thanks to people coming to Britain from all over the Empire, we now live in a vibrant, multi-cultural society. Having identified where all our families originated from on our world map, we celebrated the richness of the varied languages, experiences and cultures we could share with one another.

Votes for Schools topics we have covered

Should children use phones in school?
Has the pandemic made us more aware of disabilities?
Was COP26 successful?
Can banter be bullying?
Should more people join in on religious celebrations?
Should you have to learn about politics in school?
Are protests necessary for change?
Do you see yourself as a leader?
Do we celebrate our differences enough?
Should more children get Free School Meals?
Should the UK do more for Afghanistan?
Will climate change affect children's rights?
Are tests the best way to show what you have learned?

Recommended books to read at home

When children see themselves in a book, they can gain role models and inspiration. They have something to emulate. They feel validated. When children see others who are different from them, they learn that the world is diverse.



Helpful resources

<https://diversebookfinder.org/>

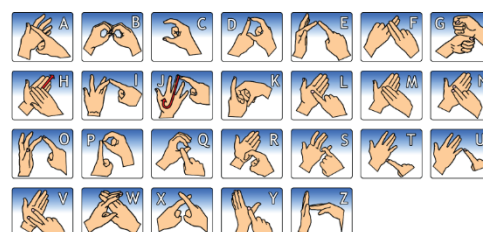


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