

Welcome to our second New Valley diversity newsletter. This term, the children have been focussing on many aspects of diversity through class as well as whole-school projects. One of our newest projects, which will continue next school year, is the whole school studying a course in basic British Sign Language. We are thoroughly enjoying this so far!

The Diversity teams (both pupil and adult) are really proud of the work that has been done this year and hope that next year, we continue to understand and appreciate the diverse community that is New Valley.



Reception

In Cherry class we have read stories such as 'Errol's Garden', which is about a little boy who lives in a flat but wants a garden. He rallies his neighbours together to help him build a roof top garden. This story was a great catalyst to discuss diversity across the class. We talked about various experiences we all had of growing plants and where we have visited to enjoy nature. We learnt that people live in different dwellings, but can all enjoy the outdoors. We have celebrated and discussed different celebrations, such as Eid. One of our children enjoyed telling the class all about what he did with his family during this special time. Throughout the day, we regularly have interesting discussions about the differences and similarities between us, for example: about our age; why we might have grey hair; what melatonin is; why can we see veins through some skin and not others; and what a vegetarian is. Our role play and dressing up box often highlights interesting topics and stimulates a conversation around hair types, disabilities and gender amongst others. We love having frank and honest discussions in Cherry class!

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.

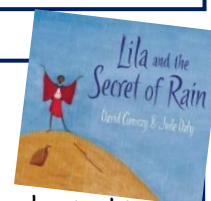
If this is an area for which you have a passion and you feel you could make a difference, please email office@newvalleyprimary.com with the topic line Diversity Team and some information around the following questions:

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.

Year 1

This term, Year 1 have shared some inspiring stories that have supported their learning journey about diversity and inclusion. They particularly enjoyed the story 'Julian is a Mermaid', which is a story about a boy and his Nana. Julian is out with his Nana when he spots three women in lavish mermaid costumes and he dreams about being a mermaid. Once home, he doesn't want to let go of his dream, so he creates a beautiful mermaid costume to wear. The story celebrates Julian's individuality and reinforces the important message of being yourself. The children enjoyed writing their own poetry inspired by this story, called 'Proud to be Me' and wrote from different animal's perspectives about what makes them different and special. Year 1 have also enjoyed learning about different countries and cultures from around the world during their geography topic about the world continents. They learnt about hot and cold places, and used the story Lila and the Secret of Rain to help them explore what life is like in a hot Kenyan village. They discussed similarities and differences between countries and cultures, but realised that diversity is the one true thing that we all have in common so we should celebrate it everyday!



Year 2

In Year 2, we have continued to learn about diversity and how we can be more inclusive.

Currently we are enjoying our geography study of the country of South Africa. We are learning all about the cultures and comparing some of them to British cultures to understand and appreciate difference.

In Votes for Schools, one of our favourite debates was about buying fair trade chocolate and how we could think about treating workers and their conditions with fairness and equality- not allowing companies take all the money.

Some of the religions we have studied this year are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We enjoyed learning about some of the similarities and differences between them and became fascinated by Judaism.

We have also really enjoyed sharing and discussing a variety of books about being true to yourself and individualism, including: Ruby's Worry, Ravi's Roar, Izzy Gizmo, Red, Pink is for Boys, The Koala who could, Lubna and Pebble, Here we are and The Black Book of Colours. We would heartily recommend all of these!

Year 3

In Pine class, we have been learning lots about being different. We have explored the thought that being different is good and that it makes our world more interesting. In our PSHE lessons, we read a book called 'The Same but Different Too' and then created a book about how we are all the different but also the same in many ways. During votes for schools, we have explored the importance of being a diverse world. If we were all the same then it would be boring. We all wrote down something about ourselves and then shared this with the class. The majority of children had written something different, and we learnt so much about each other.

Finally, we have been looking at what we want to be when we grow up. We thought about lots of different jobs that are out there and then had a discussion about jobs not being gender specific. Look out world! There are scientists, builders, actors, doctors, bus drivers and many more on their way.



Year 4

In Maple class, we have enjoyed exploring and learning about a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and traditions. This year, we have shared our personal experiences, learning from each other about the languages, traditions and backgrounds within the class. In particular, we enjoy hearing other children speaking their native language and we try to learn new words. In our RE lessons, we have explored how different religions celebrate feast days and identified the similarities and differences between some of the world's religions. We value the times when we gather as a school community and particularly enjoyed learning about the lives of people from different backgrounds in our Celebrate Difference assemblies. In our English lessons, we were fascinated by a Russian traditional tale called The Firebird. It was wonderful to be able to hear a popular story from a different culture. In Maple class, we are proud to be part of a diverse community and enjoy celebrating these differences in all that we do.



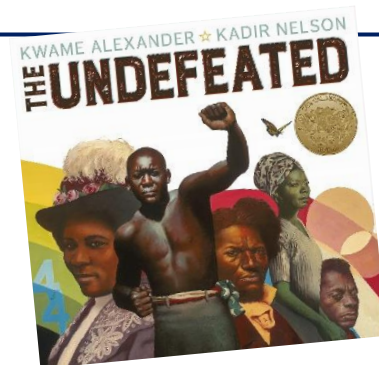
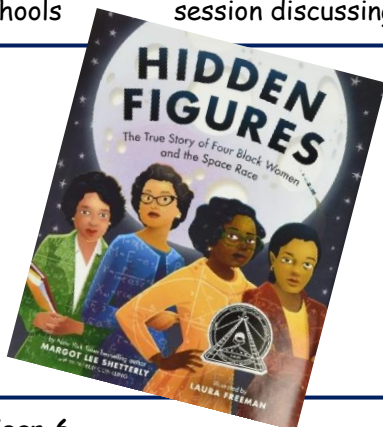
Year 5

Over the last term, Year 5 have been looking at diversity- racial, religious and gender specific.

In English we have been looking at the book 'Hidden Figures' which is based on a true story of four black women who faced racism and were oppressed because of their gender and race in America during the 1950s and 60s. Despite this they helped America win the space race to get the first man on the moon.

We have found many similarities to this and the antisemitism during World War II. We have been looking at the Story of Anne Frank and how her life would differ from those who lived in the UK at the time. We have also been discussing what role women played in World War II as well as men, particularly focusing on the propaganda aimed at women and their jobs and roles.

Lastly, in PE, we have been fortunate enough to be involved in an afternoon discussing gender equality in sport led by the Palace for Life Foundation. We found this really interesting and related it back to our Votes for Schools session discussing gender.



Year 6

Year 6 really enjoyed their weekly diversity workshops led by Crystal Palace football club this term. We had respectful and mature discussions about topics such as racism, discrimination and stereotyping. We were also really lucky to have received 30 free copies of Kwame Alexander's book 'The Undeclared' from the Children's Bookshow. The Undeclared is a poem which celebrates unforgettable and unafraid famous and overlooked figures from black history. In English, we discussed the language and imagery used in the poem and the impact it had on us as the reader. In our Sound Start music lessons, we learnt about the history of hip hop and used Quick Beats on Charanga to create a beat to read out our own poems to. In history, we have been learning about early Islamic civilisations and couldn't believe how much of our life today has been influenced by that period in history. We are also currently in the process of creating some artwork inspired by the work of fibre artist Bisa Butler. We found her art incredibly powerful and enjoyed going up to the woods to pose for photographs to use in our final pieces. We can't wait to show you how they turn out!



Votes for Schools topics we have covered

- Will Brexit affect you?
- Do we need to learn more about how vaccines work?
- Do you know what makes a good teammate?
- Will learning ever be the same again?
- Is cyber security important to you?
- Would you pay more for chocolate?
- Has lockdown made the internet more dangerous?
- Will gender stereotypes affect your future?
- Do we hear about enough world news?
- Is the end of cash coming?
- Should the public decide which films win awards?
- Do we need to learn more about boundaries?
- Should under-13s have Instagram?
- Do we take local elections seriously?
- Do we take the benefits of nature for granted?
- Will the high street bounce back after the pandemic?
- Should we be allowed to travel this year?
- Is streaming good for the music industry?
- Is the refugee crisis really over?
- Do school uniforms make it harder to show ourselves?
- Should we share our medical data?

In our next issue, find out about how we included understanding disability in our Sport's Day.