

A NOTE FROM MRS HEFFER

This week's whole school values focus has been 'THE RULE OF LAW':

'Teach the children so it will not be necessary to teach the adults.' Abraham Lincoln

On Wednesday this week, our Year 6 pupils impressed us all with their presentation in assembly on Democracy and The Rule of law. Below is the presentation written by the Year 6 pupils which they shared with the school. Following their assembly, the Swifts taught all the children a new song about school rules. Well done Swifts for an excellent and most informative assembly.

Welcome to our assembly. Today we will be talking to you about two of the British values; the rule of law and democracy. British values are the things that make Britain, Britain. Some of these values are found in other countries too.

In our school we are learning about a different British value each week in assemblies. In class we had a discussion about the values we have learnt about so far, we are going to share some of our thoughts and ideas with you.

Democracy is when everyone gets to be heard. Having your say isn't dependant on your race, gender, how wealthy you are or what your religion is. The main way we see democracy in action in Britain is when we have a general election to choose who will govern the country. You can vote in a general election if you are over 18 and a British Citizen. To vote in a general election you have to visit a polling station and go into a booth where you make your vote confidentially.

If you are unable to get to a polling station you can cast a postal vote. This makes sure that everyone has their chance to vote, even if they are unable to leave their house. There are special voting papers for people who have sight problems and the official people at the polling station can help people who can't read to cast their vote. These are some of the ways that the government make sure everyone can have their say.

It hasn't always been this fair. Women and poorer people didn't used to have a vote. Only rich land owners did. People thought this was very unfair and protested. Women who protested were called suffragettes.

If you didn't live in a democratic society it wouldn't be nice. You wouldn't have your say about who is in charge. The person who was in charge might do what was best for them and not what was best for the whole country.

The second British Value we have looked at is the Rule of Law.

Laws are there to keep us safe. Laws must be obeyed by everyone, all the time, in all places and situations. Even the Queen has to obey the laws. Rules are also there to keep us safe but they are sometimes there to make sure things are fair for everyone. Rules have to be followed sometimes, in certain situations and by certain groups of people. We have different rules for different places.

One of the times when rules are really important is when you are playing sport. If we didn't have rules, no one would play in the same way and you would have no idea who had won the game at the end!

Laws are made by the government to make our country a better and safe place to live. A new law that is starting soon is that adults won't be allowed to smoke in cars when there are children under 16 in the vehicle. The police are there to make sure that the laws are obeyed. If you are caught breaking a law you could: get arrested; fined money; banned from doing something or going somewhere; or you could even go to prison. In our school we have a set of rules. They are called the golden rules, they are: Be gentle, Listen, Be honest, Look after property, Work hard, Be kind and helpful. Both rules and laws are important to ensure that everyone is safe and happy in Britain.

We are looking forward to thinking about more British Values. Thank you for listening to our assembly.

SCHOOL SHOES – Please could we remind parents that as part of our school uniform, all pupils are expected to be in appropriate footwear for school. Trainers/plimsolls should be worn for PE only. Thank you for your support with this.

PE KIT – Please could we also remind parents that all pupils should have their correct PE kit in school during the week. Football kit can be worn for after school clubs but not for school PE sessions. We are happy to allow pupils five minutes at the end of the day to change into alternative kit for afterschool clubs if they so wish. Again, we thank you for your support with this.

RMeasimaths – Exciting news! This year the school has bought into an online maths programme for all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. This week the children have been getting familiar with logging onto the programme and accessing the maths tasks. Next week, we will issue all the children with their own personal login details to enable them to access the programme at home. This is an intelligent maths programme that covers all mathematical concepts and adjusts the level of the tasks as your child masters the range of concepts. To enable the programme to show a true reflection of your child's ability and where further support may be needed, it is important that they complete any activities independently. The children will also be accessing this programme in school throughout the week but any additional use at home will without doubt aid their learning. Details of how to log on will be sent home next week.

FRIDAYS – You may have already noticed that Mrs Read has altered the structure of her working week and does not now work in the office on Fridays. However, Miss Braddon is available from 8.45am and throughout the day if you need to drop in reply slips, dinner money etc. If you do need to speak with Mrs Read, she will be available as usual Mondays to Thursdays.

BULBS – We are very grateful to Mrs Paulette White and her growing team of enthusiastic parents, for developing a nature/wildlife area around the school pond. If you have any daffodil or bluebell bulbs you are able to donate to further beautify this area, Paulette and her team of wildlife enthusiasts would be happy to take them off your hands and find them a happy place in the area around the school pond. Many thanks for your support.

PARENT HELPERS – We would like to say a big thank you to all those parents who are able to help run clubs, hear readers, provide transport etc. We are very grateful for your continued support. If you would like to get more involved with helping in school, please see your child's class teacher or the teacher running a club or speak to Mrs Read. Your help is always welcomed and where possible we will always be happy for extra bodies to help run extra curricular clubs.

Have a lovely weekend!