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Dear Parent/Carer,

Next week is our annual 'One Britain' theme week. This is a cross curricular 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.

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 that KS2 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 year, these will include:

- Pupils will 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 will be involved in designing an anti-racism poster 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!
- I will lead a Rights Respecting School Assembly for all pupils. Our School is currently a Bronze Award Rights Respecting School and we are working towards the Silver Award this year. The Assembly will be based on the following Rights and Responsibilities:



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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.*

- All pupils will learn about the lives of people with a visual impairment and the resources and strategies they use to support them in day to day life. This will include a whole school workshop with Vision North East.
- Nursery and Reception will think about special people in their lives, start to understand what a disability is and learn about Chinese New Year customs and traditions
- Years 1 and 2 will learn about different kinds of physical disabilities, look at the different relationships within a family (brother, sister, parent, cousin, uncle etc). They will also find out more about the countries of birth of some of our families within school.
- Years 3 and 4 will explore positive images and stories of disability, including the lives of some Paralympic athletes. They will also look at different types of families and find out more about the countries of birth of some our families within school.
- Years 5 and 6 will be looking at different types of families and relationships. They will explore the topic of refugees and asylum seekers and further develop their understanding of Autism and ADHD.

An action packed week! 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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