



Newsletter

24th November 2023

Melany Pemberton
Executive Headteacher
Hannah Crotty
Head of School

We hope that you had a wonderful half term break. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm for their learning.

Our school ethos is underpinned by our twelve core behaviours. They are split into the personal and the social values we feel are essential in developing our pupils into the leaders of the future. At the start of each half term the children focus on two of these, to further embed and develop their understanding of what they mean and how they can demonstrate these. This half term the core behaviours the children are focusing on are 'courage' and 'self-awareness'.



Our Learning

Our overall topic focus this half term is 'Courageous Acts'. It has been a pleasure to see the children sharing their homework projects linked to this.

Nursery

So far this half term we have enjoyed learning about what the word 'courageous' means and how we can show courage. We all took part in an activity where we had to show courage by putting our hands into feely tubs with lots of different and interesting textures inside them. We enjoyed feeling the sticky mud and gloopy baked beans! We have also linked this learning about courage with the story 'Owl Babies' which has been our book of focus over the last two weeks. We noticed that the owls in the story had to be brave and show courage whilst their mum left them to go hunting for food. As part of this we have learned lots about owls including where they live and the fact that they are nocturnal creatures. We have loved retelling the story and using repeated phrases from the book, and using puppets and props to help us.



Reception

Reception have had a busy week exploring acts of courage. We began with a visit from the Fire Brigade. They taught us the many different ways they can help us, and what we need to do in an emergency. We loved exploring the fire engine and sitting inside!

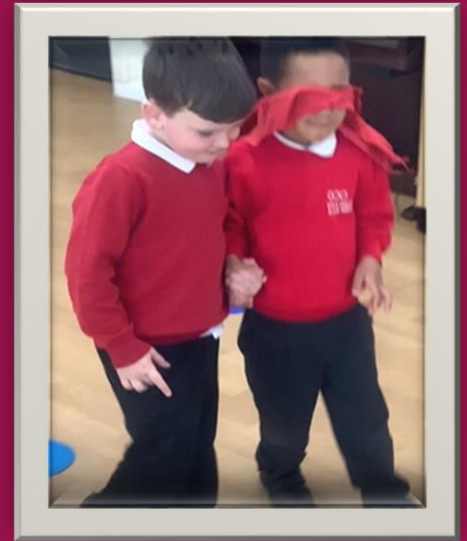
We have also been learning all about remembrance and the importance of thinking of those that have helped us. We went for a walk to visit a war memorial and lay down our wreath.



Year 1

This half term we are learning what the following core values mean to us. We explored what courage means by taking part in a blind-folded obstacle course. It was a little bit daunting having to navigate ourselves around the course without being able to see exactly what we were facing or where we were going. Luckily we could choose a friend to support us, and this helped us to understand that there are lots of strategies and resources out there to help us overcome our fears, stand up for what we believe and navigate the unknown.

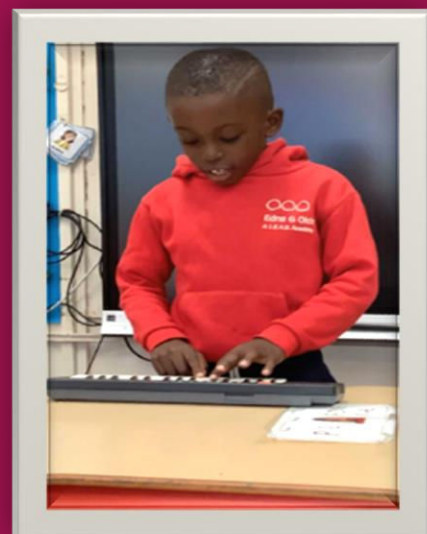
We also reflected on how courageous Sir Francis Beaufort needed to be as he encountered rough seas and the dangerous storms all those years ago.



Year 2

We explored two of our core values: courage and self-awareness. We considered our emotions and how we express them through our faces. This helped us understand how our actions can affect others. To reflect on this we created some pop art, showcasing the different emotions we could see on our faces when looking in the mirror. We labelled them with what we could see.

To demonstrate our courage, we held a talent show where we were all brave enough to present all of our amazing talents. We discussed how we felt before and after the talent show, and how having courage helped us.



Year 3

During our core behaviours launch day, we explained what courage and self-awareness mean and explored activities related to these ideas. We discussed why it is important to have courage and when we have shown it previously. We used our courage to try new fruits and vegetables! Some were tastier than others, but we all gave it a go and that's what counts! We then learnt more about emotions and how to recognise the way others may be feeling. We considered what our own personal strengths and challenges are in order to get to know ourselves better. We then created self-portraits that included our interests, values and what makes us unique.

We had a fantastic few days learning about the sailor and explorer Ellen McArthur. She was a courageous woman who sailed around the globe on her own and broke records whilst doing so. We have asked ourselves what we want to learn about her and her journey this half term. Examples of questions the children asked about Ellen McArthur: "What did she achieve?" "Did anybody have similar achievements?" "How did she show courage?"



Year 4

As part of our learning about 'Courageous Acts' we watched the Birmingham Bravery Awards, when 11-year-old Finley Hassall received an award for using his swimming skills and lifesaving knowledge to save a child from drowning in the sea. We discussed how Finley would have felt, and how being courageous is not the absence of fear, but feeling the fear and being brave. We also discussed the importance of knowing our own limits and keeping ourselves safe, and how it's also brave to ask for help.

We discussed how courage comes in many different forms, and how we are often brave every day in different ways. We discussed how people are scared of different things, and therefore different things require them to find courage. We shared some examples:

"When I went camping, there was a tall pole you could climb. When my friend first asked me, I refused. I was nervous and shaking. However, I found my courage and climbed it. I felt very happy afterwards," – Heussaff

"I'm scared of spiders and I saw an orange spider near my sister. I was scared but I moved my sister away and asked my parents what to do. They carried it outside." – Imara

"I was really nervous when I first started school. I hid behind my mum, there were so many children. At breaktime I was shaking, but people asked to be my friend." – Ashry

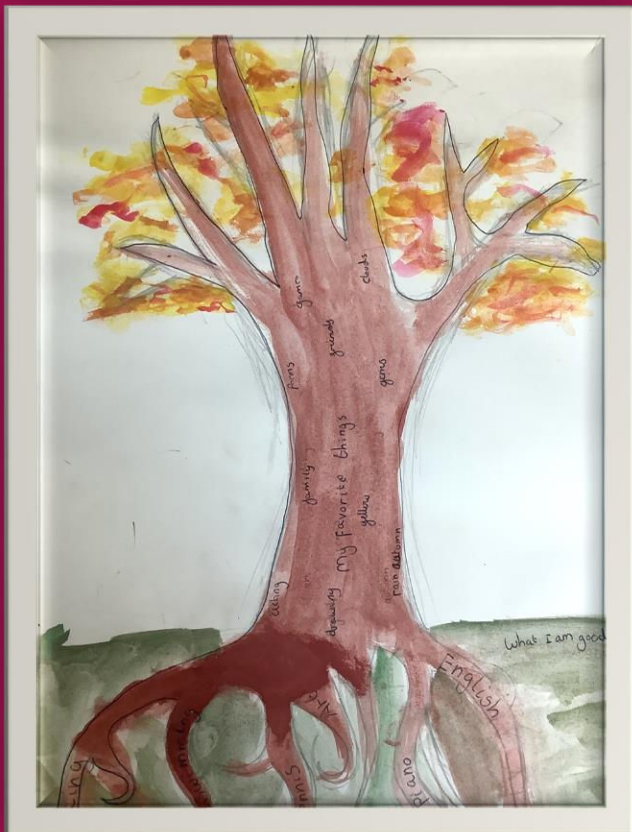
In groups, we created our own definitions of courage. We also created our own courageous characters. We thought about what qualities they might have and what would help them to be brave. Their character created their own motto.



Super Heussaff's motto is "Never give up!"

Year 5

This term, Year 5 are learning about the geologist William Smith and how he demonstrated courage when developing the first geological map of the UK. We have looked at how Smith's map was made and we have created our own geological map of the school site. We are also developing our map skills whilst we learn about different types of maps, keys and symbols, and how to use a compass and 6-figure grid references.



Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring the core value of courage through poetry. We have taken inspiration from Maya Angelou and her famous poem 'Life doesn't frighten me' to write our own poems using imagery, personification and rhyming to demonstrate how we have shown courage throughout our lives. We used art to explore the meaning of self-awareness, how we can identify our positive attributes and what makes everyone unique!

Edna G. Olds Academy News

Remembrance Day

On Friday 10th November we held a special Remembrance Assembly in order to honour our war veterans. Poppy wreaths were laid by each class and a minute's silence was held. The children have been reflecting upon the sacrifices made during war and conflict, as well as thinking about how veterans' past sacrifices have enabled us to treasure the values and freedoms we experience today.

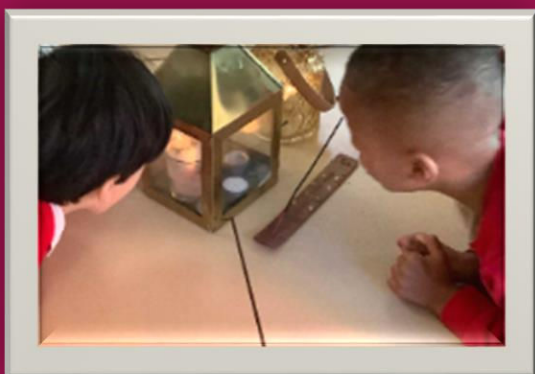


Anti –Bullying Week

Last week was anti-bullying week, which focused on 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. The children loved wearing odd socks to school on Tuesday 14th November to celebrate their individuality and why that is important. Children across the school were involved in a number of learning activities to support their understanding of the different types of bullying, their rights to be happy and safe and their responsibilities towards bullying. The children also linked their learning to our core behaviours, thinking about how they should be courageous to stand up for what they know is right. We discussed not being a bystander if they see or hear something they know is wrong.



Diwali Celebrations

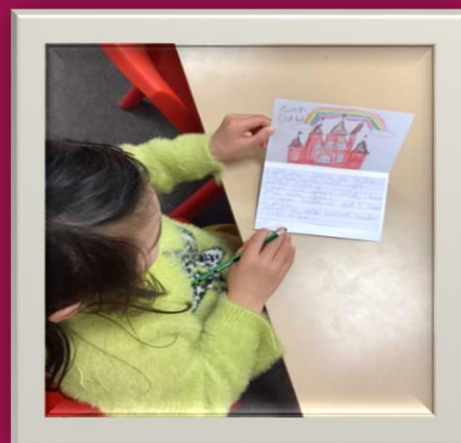


On Monday 13th November we celebrated Diwali in school. Children across the school have been building upon their understanding and learning about this festival. It has been lovely to hear children talking about their own experiences and discussing these with their peers. The children also enjoyed a delicious Diwali meal prepared by our kitchen staff team.

Children in Need

We had a great time in school last week fundraising for Children in Need. We held a bake sale and children came to school dressed in spots or something yellow! Children also loved participating in their 'Pudsey Bearpees Challenge'. We managed to raise £522.

Additionally, the children in Year 2 made cards for the children at Nottingham Children's Hospital. The children wanted to show they were thinking of them. Thank you for all the wonderful cake donations and your continued support.



Pupils' News



Lawren and Zana have been out collecting coppers for Children in Need. They asked friends and family and even went to the park in search of coins on the floor. So far they have collected £70! This is amazing.

Reverse Advent Calendar

During the next few weeks as we approach Christmas, we are organising a 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. I am sure lots of you are familiar with traditional advent calendars where children receive a small token or a piece of chocolate. This flips this concept in that instead of receiving, we give something. If you are able to support this, children can bring a bar of chocolate and add it to the reverse advent. All donations will be distributed to local foodbanks in the hope that all children will receive some chocolate over the festive period.





Core Behaviours Achievers



Nursery	Derick	For always showing enthusiasm with activities in Nursery.
	Elaine	For showing courage in coming into school even when finding it challenging.
Rec	Jacob	For always putting in 100% effort and showing motivation across all areas of learning.
	Talia K	For displaying great personal responsibility and always trying her best.
Year 1	Jenan	For showing courage and using her voice to share her ideas with the rest of the class.
	Aimar	For his creativity in maths where he created a wonderful picture of a flower using 2d shapes.
Year 2	Ayla	For showing determination in her lessons to always try and participate in her group.
	Enoch	For showing respect and personal responsibility this week to be mindful of others in the classroom.
Year 3	Halima	For her courage and resilience in the pool. She is also so kind and caring everyday!
	Ismail	For being more focussed and motivated this week! He has produced great work.
Year 4	Reem	For taking personal responsibility and working really hard on her times tables. The hard work is really paying off!
	Kuzey	For showing motivation and personal responsibility in every lesson and always trying his best.
Year 5	Raunaq	For being a fantastic role model all the time. She demonstrates motivation and self awareness in her learning and is always exceptionally behaved.
	Adnan	Demonstrating motivation, personal responsibility and perseverance; listening to feedback and acting on it.
Year 6	Ali	For his personal responsibility and resilience in mastering fractions. Ali did not give up and worked really hard at home and school.
	Kya-Rose	For her determination in getting one of the main parts for the production. She worked so hard for the auditions!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Melany Pemberton
Executive Headteacher

Mrs Hannah Crotty
Head of School