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Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term, each class is given two PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) inspired books to read in class. The children listen to the story, then think about all of the concepts to do with PSHE which the book relates to. They turn these concepts into philosophical questions and they then discuss the possible answers to these questions.

The children are encouraged to use their skills to define and refine questions, find meanings, justify their ideas and explain what they mean. They learn to speak with confidence, they learn to listen well to each other and they learn to build on the thoughts and ideas of each other to create a meaningful dialogue. They find polite ways to say that they agree and disagree with each other's points of view and they practise finding examples and evidence to describe and clarify their thoughts and opinions – all at a level appropriate to their age.

This activity aims to build communities of enquiry where children develop their creative, critical, caring and collaborative thinking skills.

Caring Listening, concentrating, valuing and appreciating e.g. showing interest in, and sensitivity to, others' experiences and values.	Collaborative Responding, communicating, supporting and conciliating e.g. building on each other's ideas, shaping common understandings and purposes.
Critical Questioning, interrogating, reasoning and evaluating e.g. seeking meaning, evidence, reasons, distinctions and good judgements.	Creative Connecting, relating, suggesting and speculating e.g. providing comparisons, examples, criteria, alternative explanations or conceptions.

At our recent RSHE parental consultation, parents asked for information about these books so that they could investigate the contents of the books themselves and prepare to talk to their children about the books at home.

These are the books being used, in Reception for PSHE Read Aloud, this academic year:

Term	Spring 2	Summer 1		Summer 2	
Theme	Healthy Me	Relationships		Changing Me	
Egypt	Jack and the Flumflum Tree by Julia Donaldson	Ping and Pong are Best Friends (mostly) by Tim Hopgood	Five Minutes Peace by Jill Murphy	It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr	I Got the Rhythm by Connie Scholfield-Morrison
Cameroon	Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall	The Feelings Book by Todd Parr	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	I Got the Rhythm by Connie Scholfield-Morrison	The New Small Person by Lauren Child
Morocco	The Mouse Who Reached the Sky by Petr Horacek	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	The Feelings Book by Todd Parr	The New Small Person by Lauren Child	I Got the Rhythm by Connie Scholfield-Morrison
Tanzania	Hungry Hen by Richard Waring	Five Minutes Peace by Jill Murphy	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	I Got the Rhythm by Connie Scholfield-Morrison	The Feelings Book by Todd Parr

Book and Author	Themes to be explored
The Feelings Book by Todd Parr	The Feelings Book illustrates the wide range of moods we all experience. The book explores the ever-changing, sometimes nonsensical emotions that we all feel. This book inspires children to discuss their multitude of feelings in a child-friendly way.
Five Minutes Peace by Jill Murphy	This is the story of Mrs Large the elephant - who just needs five minutes of peace and quiet away from her boisterous children! This book inspires children to talk about family life and to think about what it means to be part of a family.
The Mouse Who Reached the Sky by Petr Horacek	The Mouse Who Reached the Sky is a story that highlights the importance of sharing and working together. Mouse spots a beautiful red, shiny thing hanging from the tree. Little Mouse thinks it's a marble, but Mole is sure it's a balloon and Rabbit says it's a ball. None of them can reach it by themselves, so how will they discover what it really is?
Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	This story uses the metaphor of bucket filling and dipping to understand the effects of our actions and words on the well-being of others and ourselves. It encourages positive behaviour as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love.
Jack and the Flumflum Tree by Julia Donaldson	Jack's Granny is sick with a bad case of the moozles! The only cure is the fruit of the fantastic flumflum tree which grows on the faraway Isle of Blowyernose. It's a perilous journey, but Jack bravely sets sail anyway. The story is used to stimulate discussion about using our imaginations and being able to solve problems by thinking them through.
Ping and Pong are Best Friends (mostly) by Tim Hopgood	Ping and Pong are a pair of penguins who love to do new things. But whatever Ping tries to do, Pong can do it better - Ping can squeak in French, Pong can squeak in nine different languages, Ping can catch a fish, Pong can catch a shark... Is there anything Ping can do best? Yes, he can be a BEST friend. This story is used to talk about the true meaning of friendship and why sometimes comparing yourself to others is not always helpful.
It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr	The message of the book is that it is okay to be different. It's okay to need some help, it's okay to be a different colour, it's okay to talk about your feelings and so on... The book is used as a starter to a discussion about acceptance and understanding of the people around us and about how we should be confident about being ourselves.
I Got the Rhythm by Connie Scholfield-Morrison	On a visit to the park, the joy of music overtakes a mother and daughter. The little girl hears a rhythm coming from the world around her – everything is musical! This story prompts a discussion about being able to enjoy the sights and sounds of everyday life and appreciating the world (and the people) around us.
Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall	In this story about overcoming fears, Jabari wants to jump from the diving board. He is nervous and comes up with excuses to delay doing it. Jabari's dad then shares with Jabari that he also feels scared sometimes, and he tells Jabari what he does to overcome his fears. This story facilitates a discussion about having courage and learning from others.
The New Small Person by Lauren Child	This is a story about an only child whose contented life is about to change with the arrival of a new sibling. The story goes through how Elmore comes to love and appreciate his younger brother and prompts a discussion about how to be a good brother/sister.
Hungry Hen by Richard Waring	The Hungry Hen ends up eating the fox at the end of the story – think about when things don't turn out the way we expect them to.

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss these books in more detail, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher, the PSHE lead – Ms Henson (Reception - Cameroon), or to me.

Kind regards,
Mrs Marie Hardie
Deputy Headteacher