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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 Year 2 for PSHE Read Aloud, this academic year:

Term	Spring 2	Summer 1		Summer 2	
Theme	Healthy Me	Relationships		Changing Me	
Belgium	Sick Simon by Dan Krall	The Kindness Book by Todd Parr	The Bear Who Stared by Duncan Beedie	I Am Human by Susan Verde	The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton
Italy	Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival	Charlie's Checklist by Rory S. Lerman	The Kindness Book by Todd Parr	The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton	I Am Human by Susan Verde
Poland	Sick Simon by Dan Krall	Ravi's Roar by Tom Percival	Charlie's Checklist by Rory S. Lerman	The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton	Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter
Spain	No Means No! by Jayneen Sanders	Something Else by Kathryn Cave	The Kindness Book by Todd Parr	I Am Human by Susan Verde	Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter

Book and Author	Themes to be explored
Something Else by Kathryn Cave	A story about a small creature who does his best to join in with the others, but he's different. No matter how he tries, he just doesn't belong. Then Something Else turns up and wants to be friends. But the creature isn't sure about him at all... This book helps children learn about respecting people's differences and learn how to make friends.
No Means No! by Jayneen Sanders	'No Means No!' is a children's picture book about an empowered little girl who has a very strong and clear voice in all issues, especially those relating to her body and personal boundaries and is a springboard for discussions regarding children's choices and their rights. It is crucial that our children, from a very young age, are taught to have a clear, strong voice in regards to their rights - especially about their bodies. In this way, they will have the confidence to speak up when they are unhappy or feel uncomfortable in any situation.
Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter	As a young girl growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But years later when she returns home, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something - and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard. This story demonstrates how one person's passion, vision, and determination can inspire great change.
Ravi's Roar by Tom Percival	This is the story of Ravi who, most of the time, can control his temper but, one day, lets out the 'tiger' within. This story facilitates an important discussion about expressing feelings in a positive way and making amends.
Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival	Ruby loves being Ruby. Until, one day, she finds a worry. At first it's not such a big worry, and that's all right, but then it starts to grow. It gets bigger and bigger every day and it makes Ruby sad. This book facilitates a discussion about childhood worries and anxieties and the importance of talking about them, no matter how big or small they may be.
The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton	This is a story about Joe, a boy who loves to imagine. Joe lives in a pretty ordinary tower block, in a rather ordinary city. His world is rather grey. However, he spends his time imagining a wonderful world filled with exotic plants and unusual animals. One day Joe decides to plant a seed on his balcony, he waits and waits but nothing happens! Joe gives up and goes back to his daily life, but one day when he least expects it he spots that the seed has turned into the most beautiful tree. Joe begins caring for the tree and growing lots of other plants on his balcony and soon everyone in the neighbourhood is getting involved. This story facilitates a discussion about the importance of nature and teaches us that if we work hard enough, our dreams really can come true!
I Am Human by Susan Verde	I Am Human introduces the children to the concepts of empathy and compassion. It shows that it is okay to make mistakes while also emphasizing the power of good choices by offering a kind word or smile or by saying "I'm sorry."
The Bear Who Stared by Duncan Beedie	There once was a bear who liked to stare... and stare... and STARE. Bear doesn't mean to be rude, he's just curious but too shy to say anything. But nobody likes being stared at and it soon gets Bear into trouble. Luckily a goggle-eyed frog helps Bear realise that sometimes a smile is all you need to turn a stare into a friendly hello. This story helps children to understand the concept of shyness and facilitates a discussion about how to initiate play and friendships.
The Kindness Book by Todd Parr	This book is all about the importance of showing kindness to one another. It explains that no matter what other people choose to do, you can always choose to be kind.
Sick Simon by Dan Krall	This book explores the reason why it is important to have good personal hygiene in order to help protect others from illness. Sick Simon learns how to be health-conscious during cold and flu season when he has a cold and sneezes everywhere, and coughs on everyone, and touches everything. Germs call him a hero whilst everyone else calls him...Sick Simon. Talk to your child about the importance of washing hands and sneezing into a tissue.
Charlie's Checklist by Rory S. Lerman	This story of Charlie the dog, who is looking for an owner, teaches children that sometimes we do not appreciate what we already have. Talk to your child about appreciating the everyday things in life and also the people in our lives.

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 Head Teacher