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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 5 for PSHE Read Aloud, this academic year:

Term	Spring 2	Summer 1		Summer 2	
Theme	Healthy Me	Relationships		Changing Me	
Australia	Ish by Peter H. Reynolds	Thank you Omu! by Oge Mora	The Most Magnificent Mosque by Ann Jungman	What Do You Do With A Problem? by Kobi Yamada	The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson
Japan	Not Today, Celeste! by Liza Stevens and Pooky Knightsmith	The Most Magnificent Mosque by Ann Jungman	Mixed by Arree Chung	The Promise by Nicola Davies	What Do You Do With A Problem? by Kobi Yamada
Madagascar	What Do You Do With A Problem? by Kobi Yamada	Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan	The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson	What Do You Do With An Idea? by Kobi Yamada	The Big Blue Thing on the Hill by Yuval Zommer
New Zealand	What Do You Do With An Idea? by Kobi Yamada	Mixed by Arree Chung	Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan	The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson	The Happy Prince by Jane Ray

Book and Author	Themes to be explored
The Happy Prince by Jane Ray	A story about a town where a lot of poor people suffer, where a swallow meets the statue of the late 'Happy Prince', who in reality has never experienced true sorrow, for he lived in a palace where sorrow isn't allowed to enter. Together, they help the people they can see suffering by taking off the precious jewels and metal from the statue. The children discuss helping others and the concept of selflessness.
What Do You Do With An Idea? by Kobi Yamada	This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. This explains that hard work and determination can lead to great things.
The Big Blue Thing on the Hill by Yuval Zommer	A story of animals working together to scare away a 'monster'. The children will discuss working together and problem solving.
Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan	A story about Rubina and her siblings and the difficulty of being the oldest child.
The Promise by Nicola Davies	A story about beauty and hope and the power each person has to make a difference.
Mixed by Arree Chung	A story about difference and acceptance.
The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson	This book explores the concept of grief. George is an orphan who lives with his grandmother. He finds happiness and love after he brings a sad dog named Jeremy home from an animal shelter.
Thank you Omu! by Oge Mora	A story about sharing and generosity and the importance of community.
Ish by Peter H. Reynolds	A story about Ramon who loves to draw but who is put off by one throwaway comment. The children explore how things do not have to be perfect to be appreciated.
The Most Magnificent Mosque by Ann Jungman	This story is based on the true story of the mosque in Cordoba and follows the adventures of three friends, Rashid, who is Muslim, Samuel who is Jewish and Miguel who is Christian. The story demonstrates what can be achieved when people work together and don't waste energy hating each other.
What Do You Do With A Problem by Kobi Yamada	What do you do with a problem? Especially one that follows you around and doesn't seem to be going away? Do you worry about it? Ignore it? Do you run and hide from it? This is the story of a persistent problem and the child who isn't so sure what to make of it. The longer the problem is avoided, the bigger it seems to get. But when the child finally musters up the courage to face it, the problem turns out to be something quite different than it appeared. This story will encourage children to talk about what to do if they have a problem that they are not sure how to deal with.
Not Today, Celeste!: A Dog's Tale about Her Human's Depression by Liza Stevens and Pooky Knightsmith	This story introduces the children to the idea of depression in an age-appropriate way. Celeste the dog notices that her human is acting differently and the story goes on to provide reassurance by explaining what depression is and explaining how it is possible to find help. Talk to your child about the signs of depression and about how important it is to take care of your mental health.

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