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Monday, 25 September 2023

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.

Parents are given information about these books so that, if they wish, they can read the contents of the books themselves and talk to their children about the books at home.

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

Book and Author	Themes to be explored
A Superhero Like You by Dr. Ranj Singh	A story about a girl who aspires to be a real-life superhero – the kind who helps people and make the world a better place. This story facilitates a discussion about the importance of care and kindness.
Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller	A story about a little girl who is assertive enough to tell people to stop touching her hair – she does not like it! A funny story with a serious message about expecting people to be respectful of our personal space.
Everybody Belongs by Lorna Freytag	<i>Everybody Belongs</i> explores the ways in which we are unique: from the colour of our eyes and skin to the size of our feet and the languages we speak. A book to celebrate diversity.
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.
Goodnight Already! by Jory John	A story about being considerate to our friends. Bear is exhausted. All he wants is to go to sleep. Duck, Bear's persistent next-door neighbour wants is to hang out . . . with Bear. Will he get the message that Bear wants to be left alone?
Green Lizards vs Red Rectangles by Steve Antony	A story about getting along with each other. The green lizards and the red rectangles are at war. No one can remember why, but they fight and fight... Until one day, a little red rectangle decides to speak up...

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.
Hello World by Michael Foreman	A book exploring the wonders of the world – encouraging a feeling of awe and wonder at creation.
I Could Be, You Could Be by Karen Owen	A story about the importance of imagination and make-believe.
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.
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.
It's Okay to Make Mistakes by Todd Parr	This book embraces life's happy accidents, the mistakes and mess-ups that can lead to self-discovery, encouraging the children to try new things, experiment, and dare to explore new paths. From colouring outside the lines and creating a unique piece of art to forgetting an umbrella but making a new friend, each page offers a child-friendly take on the importance of taking chances, trying new things, and embracing life, mistakes and all.
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.
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 Blowynose. 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.
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.
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper	A tale of a little engine that, despite her size, triumphantly pulls a train full of wonderful things to the children waiting on the other side of a mountain. The story promotes discussion about perseverance, resilience and self-belief.
The Mega Magic Teacher Swap by Rochelle Humes	A story exploring feelings about changes – this time about going up to the next year group and all the feelings that come with that move. The children are encouraged to look at all the positive aspects of change.
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?
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.
The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers	A story about imagination, make-believe and the importance of friendships.

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss these books in more detail, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Kind regards,
Mrs Marie Hardie
Deputy Headteacher



Quality Mark
EARLY YEARS
AWARD

PSHE Read Aloud Books: Reception

Term	Autumn 1		Autumn 2		Spring 1		Spring 2		Summer 1		Summer 2	
Theme	Being Me in My World		Celebrating Difference		Dreams and Goals		Healthy Me		Relationships		Changing Me	
Egypt	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller	Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall	The Feelings Book by Todd Parr	It's Okay to Make Mistakes by Todd Parr	I Could Be, You Could Be by Karen Owen	Goodnight Already! by Jory John	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	The Mega Magic Teacher Swap by Rochelle Humes
Cameroon	Jack and the Flumflum Tree by Julia Donaldson	Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller	It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr	Goodnight Already! by Jory John	A Superhero Like You by Dr. Ranj Singh	The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper	Hello World by Michael Foreman	Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall	The Feelings Book by Todd Parr	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	The Mega Magic Teacher Swap by Rochelle Humes	The New Small Person by Lauren Child
Morocco	It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr	Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall	Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller	Green Lizards vs Red Rectangles by Steve Antony	I Could Be, You Could Be by Karen Owen (p18)	It's Okay to Make Mistakes by Todd Parr	The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers	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	The Feelings Book by Todd Parr	Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall	Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller	It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr	The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper	A Superhero Like You by Dr. Ranj Singh	The Mouse Who Reached the Sky by Petr Horacek	Everybody Belongs by Lorna Freytag	Five Minutes Peace by Jill Murphy	Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud	I Got the Rhythm by Connie Scholfield-Morrison	It's Okay to Make Mistakes by Todd Parr