



Dear Parents / Carers,

This term we are launching our curriculum's two big ideas – **Diversity** and **Culture** – with all our pupils. These concepts will play a significant role in our curriculum and will shape the education your child receives.

Why Diversity Matters

In today's Britain, diversity is a rich and integral part of our society. We celebrate differences in ethnicity, family structure, sexuality and gender like never before. To counter division, ignorance and mistrust - the roots of prejudice - we will aim to teach our pupils about the diversity of the world they live in. We want them to understand and appreciate diversity as a positive and vital aspect of our society. We believe that our differences are what makes Britain truly special.

Why Culture Matters

Culture is the pattern of knowledge, belief and behaviour shared by a society or group of people. It encompasses things like food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs and religion. It is passed down from one generation to the next through learning. In our diverse world, it is crucial for children to understand the breadth of cultures across the globe. By building your child's understanding of these cultures, we aim to make them more knowledgeable, caring and empathetic towards others.

In Monday's assembly, we introduced the children to these two big ideas. Over the next two weeks, all our teachers will be sharing picture books with your children, which celebrate diversity and culture in a variety of ways. Later in the year, we will be sharing more picture books to explore our big ideas further. We would encourage you to ask your child about the books they have read. We have attached the list of picture books we will be reading over the year across different year groups. This is also on our website.

Beyond this, we will be using our broader curriculum to make explicit links to diversity and culture, where relevant. For example, during term 2...

- Year 1 will be learning about different animals in Science
- Year 2 will be learning about aboriginal art from Australia in Art
- Year 3 will be learning about how Europe has a diverse range of climates in Geography
- Year 4 will be learning about what it means to be a Christian in Britain today
- Year 5 will be celebrating difference in PSHE lessons
- Year 6 will be learning about what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today.

Our vision is that with ongoing teaching of diversity and culture, we will develop Woodlands pupils who...

- Celebrate diversity
- Understand how different people live
- See similarities as well as differences
- Respect others
- Feel proud of their community
- See the good in others
- Want to protect our environment

We look forward to embarking on this journey with your child and we appreciate your continued support in making Woodlands Primary School a place of rich learning, understanding and appreciation.

Best wishes,

The Woodlands Team



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