

Diversity Day 2018

Our Y6 pupils took part in a range of workshops at the First Wensleydale Diversity Day held at Leyburn Primary School (YCAT).



Y6 Pupils from Askrigg, Bainbridge, West Burton, Reeth, Gunnerside, Middleham and Spennimore, Leyburn and Hawes Primary Schools worked in mixed school groups.

Disability Awareness – Meeting Hannah and Jamie



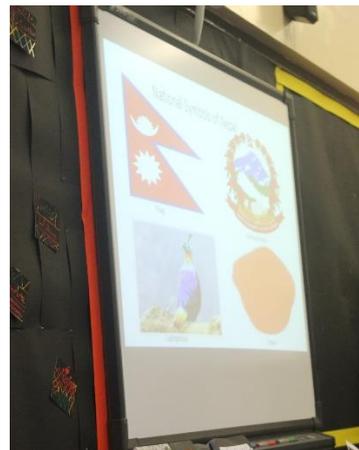
The children met Hannah and Jamie who work for a group who represent young people who have a disability so that their voices can be heard on important issues such as transport.

Jamie, who was blind introduced himself to the pupils and explained the difficulties he had but also how he managed to overcome them.

In the workshop, the children worked in groups of 4 to design and make an outfit for a model and model it on the catwalk. However, the children had to work within certain parameters: 1 child was blindfolded, 1 child was unable to use their hands, 1 child was not allowed to stand up and the last child was not allowed to talk. This situation gave the children an opportunity to see how important inclusion is whilst giving them an insight into how it feels to have a disability.

Hinduism - Nepalese Community in Catterick

Met Sumitra who talked about the country of Nepal and where it was in the world. The children learnt about the geography of Nepal and the mountain range called the Himalayas which has Mount Everest. Sumitra had prepared a typical Nepalese Potato dish which the children could taste. Sumitra had also brought a range of Nepalese clothing which the children could try on. The children learnt about the practicality of the clothing and how women wore thick pieces of coloured material around their waists to provide support when they were carrying things up the mountains. The children were able to look at artefacts such as a home shrine which Hindus would have had at home.



LGBT-Barnardos

The children met Sarah and Christos from the children's charity Barnardos. In the workshop the children thought about different terms and how we are all different. They looked at the stereotypes of what is often associated with each gender i.e. girls like unicorns and boys like football. The children learnt that it didn't have to be like that, girls could like what makes them happy and likewise for boys. The children also learnt about different families and that there was no such thing as a 'normal family'. Families come in all shapes and sizes such as: a mum and a step-dad with 2 children, it could be 2 mums with 3 children, it could be a single dad with a child, and it could even be a grandma and grandma with their grandchildren. They also learnt that a family could be a foster mum and dad with a few children. The message was clear that: **so long as the family loved you and kept you safe then they could be a family.**



Syrian Refugees - Meeting Maria

In this workshop the children learnt about Refugees. They met Maria who is a 17 year old Syrian refugee who had come to Britain 9 months ago. Maria told her story of how she had fled Syria and had come to the safety of Britain. When Maria was 11 her house was bombed whilst she was in it. Her father had become a target for the government because he was a lawyer and he had been helping people who had been campaigning for freedom. Maria's father thought that Maria had died in the bombing but he got her out of the decimated house and carried her 10miles on foot, through the snow and ice to the safety of Jordan. When he got to the hospital they realised that Maria was still alive- they helped to get better and Maria's injuries were so bad that she remained in hospital for 2 years. It had been reported on the TV that Maria had been killed and when it was revealed that she was actually alive she became a target and her life was once again in danger. Her family left Jordan with nothing only the clothes they were standing up in and came to Britain as asylum seekers and when they were accepted into the country they became refugees. Maria and her family have built a life in North Yorkshire and they are 1 of 52 refugee families in North Yorkshire. Maria has learnt to speak English since coming here in January. She is studying IT and Business at Darrlington College.

Maria told the children about being a Muslim and explained that she wore a head scarf (hijab) as a mark of respect. She explained that in her religion (Islam) men and women must not touch each other and a women's hair is a mark of her beauty which they believe must be covered. She explained that she wore her head scarf only when she was outside of the family home.



The day was organised by the cluster schools and therefore there were all of the Y6 children in Wensleydale together.

The end of the day was celebrated by asking the Y6 pupils in each school to become Diversity Champions and share what they had learnt with the rest of their school and its community.

embrace diversity



Watch this space for Diversity Events which are being celebrated at Hawes Primary School.