



In our Zoom assembly this week, we focussed on one of the core British Values, individual liberty. At this time of year, when children are naturally preparing for Christmas and talking about the birth of Jesus and the nativity, we must also talk about our right to **choose** if we celebrate Christmas, or not. In fact, responsible teaching takes this further, and celebrates our right to choose if we have a belief system, a religion, or nothing of the sort. Individual liberty therefore featured strongly in our assembly this week, and children explored and discussed the ideas of oppression, regulation and freedom. We reviewed previous history and cultural lessons that prove that the right to choose is not a 'right' in every time and place. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Emmeline Pankhurst all featured as significant individuals in history that strongly advocated individual liberty and freedom from oppression, a message that still resonates with us today.

The right to be safe and protected, the right to be fed, the right to education, the right to live life according to your own beliefs are all aspects of British life that are not necessarily common in all cultures around the world, and, while they are fundamental British rights, it does not even mean that all British citizens are free to make these choices. Inequality (through poverty, gender, age, religion, race or culture) still exists, regardless of the 'rules'. Part of the curriculum also teaches children that we can all contribute to making the world a fairer place, and that there are things we can all do to make this happen!

Understanding that individual liberty is the right to make **good choices**, as opposed to the right to make **any** choice, is important to truly understanding British values. Children know, therefore, that parents setting rules about bedtime, brushing teeth and eating vegetables is NOT the same as oppression because of ethnicity, gender, culture, religion or belief and knowing the difference is a skill that must be taught explicitly and inclusively.

Therefore, studying British Values remains key throughout each and every year, and will be revisited again in the Spring term.



We have a number of compliments this week. Kavitha, Kani's mum (Y2), would like to share how much it makes her smile when **Joshua Binneman** (Y2) and **Kenny Ochije** (Y4) share their lovely smiles with her whenever she sees them. Great job boys!

Ingrid, **Freya Thomas-Webb's** grandma (Y4), would like to pay a compliment to the staff for making school such fun and for maintaining opportunities to learn and make progress in these challenging times. Positive feedback is much appreciated by staff at all times, but it particularly means a lot now when staff are working harder than ever to maintain a realistic yet aspirational approach to teaching and learning. Thanks for spreading good cheer Ingrid!

I would like to thank **Ezra Adefarasin** (Y1), **Nicholas Vivian** (YR), **Joshua Page**

(Y1), and **Agata Tilezhinskaya** (Y3) for practising good manners when greeting in the morning and for asking me how I am too. You are now part of a long list of children who have worked hard to be more polite at greeting. Thank you!



Good news! We will be opening our Christmas

Postbox this year for you to post your cards, but with some added COVID-friendly rules! Our postbox will only be open from **Monday 30th November to Friday, 4th December.**

This will allow us time to 'quarantine' them all before they are handed out. Sadly, the Christmas Fairies won't be sorting the mail this year, but don't worry children.....your teachers are going to do it for them!



Don't forget to look out your best winter jumpers..... you'll need them for our Christmas Lunch!

Friday 4th December

[Lower Primary Winter Walk](#)

Lower Primary are going for their winter walk on **Wednesday, 2nd December.**



We will be passing by St Michael's Church so children can post their letters to Santa, after which we will go to the local pond to observe seasonal change, as we do every term.

Please ensure children are equipped with boots/walking shoes, coats, hats, gloves and scarves, as we will be out for a couple of hours.



[M'Brook Cook Book](#)

More good news! Our Cook Books are ready at the printers and will be with us very soon! To avoid contact through shared hard copies, our Cook Book will be available to preview on our school website from Monday, so you can check it out before you buy it! Please email your pre-order to Joy. Please also remember our payment process is cash on collection. We will notify you when the books are available to collect.

[ISA T-Shirt Competition](#)

Well done to **Isabella Vassallo** (Y6), **William Granados** (Y6) and **Ethan**

Thomas (Y5) for being selected to represent the school in the ISA

Design-a-T-Shirt competition. Your designs were creative and original. Good luck!



The most recent **Internet Matters** study, titled '*In Their Own Words:*

The Digital Lives of School Children' reports a number of interesting points raised by school-age children in the UK. It highlights that many children are starting to 'shut down' to the safety guidance provided to them by adults, as they feel the adults providing the guidance are not trustworthy, that they don't follow the guidance themselves or that they only talk about the 'bad' elements of using online technology and platforms. To counteract this, the study suggests that parents could spend more time engaging positively with their children digitally, asking about their interests, their favourite sites and games and their favourite online celebrities and trends. In this way, adults can maintain a supervisory 'eye' on children, without the fear of the reported 'shut down'. It might be worth a try at home!

Happy birthday

Agata Tilezhinskaya,

(Y3). We hope you had a lovely day!



Have a great weekend
Sarah