

Culture Week in Reception Class

Monday

Monday was the beginning of Culture Week and Reception Class had been given the continent of Antarctica to study. We began by locating it on a globe and then researched what life can be found there. We learnt that because it is so cold very few creatures make their home there. Penguins make up the majority of life on Antarctica followed by seals and whales. Two types of plant manage to survive the ice and snow and a couple of breeds of fish. Humans do not live on the continent, however, some visit it for a short while, mainly scientists who are researching the area. The children designed their own flag for the continent because they do not have their own due to the lack of population.

We were also very lucky to have Aylann's parents in to speak to us about their country of Mauritius. We learnt lots, including how far away it is, the language they speak, who discovered the island, the Dodo used to live there and we learnt a song and dance. We finished the session tucking into a delicious 'Francis' cake which Aylann's parents had made.



Tuesday

Today was all about storytelling. Wendy Shearer, an author and storyteller, told us the story of Anansi, the spider boy who loved playing tricks. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and spent the rest of the day making their own instruments and props for them to use while retelling the story during our Helicopter story session.



Wednesday

On Wednesday, the children took part in a Music Workshop when they learnt about different instruments from around the world. They listened to patterns of sounds and repeated them on drums altogether. Next, the children responded to a conductor by varying the volume of their music. Finally, the children learnt about making different types of sounds from wind, string and percussion instruments.

After returning to class, Reception class chose their own instruments to make from junk modelling materials. They made pan pipes, shakers, maracas, tambourines, guitars and drums. In the afternoon, contributions were given by the children to make a song about Antarctica. They practised playing their instruments in an orchestra to accompany their song and performed it in a concert for their friends to watch. Throughout the day, the children used their music wise intelligence skills.



Thursday

Reception class watched an animation video about caring for our common home, Laudato Si. They learnt that people are harming our planet Earth by using up too many resources, polluting it and throwing away things that could be recycled. As a class, the children sang a song to praise God for His wonderful creation. Later, everyone went on a nature walk to look for animals and appreciate the beauty of God's gifts to us. Reception class learnt about animals that were endangered and near extinction. In a discussion, the children understood how those animals need our help to be protected and survive. They drew pictures of the animals and sorted them into 'endangered', 'extinct' and 'not endangered' categories, then placed them on a world map to show where they lived. Finally, we prayed to God to help the animals survive.



Friday

To finish our week, the children listened to the story of 'The Good Samaritan' and discussed what the message was. Next, they were given time to think of ways to be kind and how the story helps them to show compassion to each other, which is an important school value. Later, they shared a story about friendship called 'The Bad Seed' and role-played how to be a good friend. As a class, the children discussed ideas for a friendship dance and in the afternoon, they performed it to Year 6. In return, Year 6 shared their dance with Reception and were given the opportunity to comment on what they had learnt about making and keeping friends.



Year 1 Culture week newsletter

In Year 1 we embarked on a week's learning about a variety of cultural traditions, with a focus on the continent of Africa. We also learnt how it is our job to love and protect the world and its people.

On Monday the children were introduced to the idea of cultural identity and how clothes, food and music help people to identify the place of their birth or where they live. This began with the children coming in in clothes which represented them – so thank you so much for providing costumes, uniforms and favourite clothes, it allowed for some interesting discussions to start off our week and to engage the children's interest. We were very lucky to have a visit from Aylann's parents who discussed their cultural traditions, clothes and shared some food with the class. There were some brilliant questions asked by the children.

On Monday the children each created a flag to represent themselves and we created a class flag too.



On Tuesday we focused on Geography skills and oracy through storytelling.

The children researched the continent of Africa, learning flags, country names and locations, native animals and capital cities.



Then we listened to a variety of Anansi stories and wrote our own class version – where Anansi played a trick on animals by pretending to be a watermelon!



On Wednesday we learnt about Instruments from Africa and we were treated to a workshop from visitors with a wide variety of native African instruments. We listened to their sounds, learnt their names, found out what they were made from and played some listening and response games, where, we of course got to play some too!

We listened to music that originated in North, South, East, West and Central Africa, discussing instruments we could hear and how the music made us feel.

On Thursday we learnt about a letter Pope Francis wrote to all of the people in the world called Laudato Si, where he calls upon each of us to do our duty to help protect the planet and its precious resources.

We sang the Laudato Si song and enjoyed reading a variety of books about looking after the planet.

The children chose to make binoculars to help them see God's natural world. Once the children made and decorated them, we went on a local walk looking at nature and listening for natural sounds.





Friday's learning began with a CAFOD film explaining Fratelli Tutti to the children, where Pope Francis urges us to learn from the parable The Good Samaritan. The children showed great understanding and thought of so many ways they could support or help their friends.

We reviewed our class pledge to help our community, where they all remembered they had promised to help tidy their bedrooms!

Later in the day the children enjoyed choreographing a friendship dance and performed it to other classes.

Friday was the day everybody finished making by Moroccan pancakes, a recipe they voted to make.



Comments from the children about culture week:

"I liked the cake with coconut sprinkles when Aylann's parents taught us about Mauritius. We learnt a local nursery rhyme from them."

"I enjoyed all the activities we learnt because I like church work on looking after our world and our people."

"My favourite part was wearing my beautiful dress. It's my party dress."

"I like learning how to make pancakes, because they were so yummy! I want to make them again."

"I enjoyed making Moroccan pancakes, with golden syrup."

"We made an African song. It was called Waka Waka, like a dance we learnt, and I played instruments."

"When we were watching the good Samaritan, I remembered that want to be a good Samaritan. I was helping people today in class and at lunchtime."

"I have been developing body wise skills when we moved in time to the music and played instruments to a beat."

"I liked solving problems, being logic wise – making African animals by twisting newspaper to make the body shapes. The hard bit was measuring the legs."

"I was music wise working to hear the African instruments. When I was watching nature through the binoculars I was being nature wise."

By Year 1

Year 2's Culture Week!

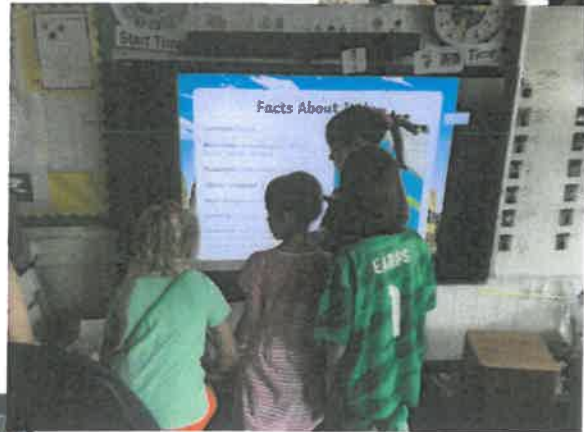
Year 2 have had a really fun time taking part in Culture Week. We have completed lots of activities and have enjoyed learning about different cultures and exploring our own. Take a look at everything we have got up to!

Monday

On Monday we wore our own clothes that represent us! We spoke about our own heritage and found this on a map!

We found out we were studying the continent of Europe. Then we made our own passports and travelled to different countries in Europe; Iceland, Italy, Turkey, Sweden and Czech Republic. At each country we found out different facts. Next, each group picked a European country out of a hat and began to explore it. This activity continued throughout the week.

In the afternoon we created our own flags that represent us and stuck them to the bunting of our houses and displayed this in the classroom. After that, we created a class national dress that represents us as a class! When we had finished this, Mr Portillo Risdon kindly came in to tell us all about Venezuela and Jamaica. This was very interesting and we really enjoyed it!



Tuesday

On Tuesday, we were learning all about different stories from lots of cultures. We spoke about our favourite stories and why we like them.

Then, we went into the hall to listen to Wendy telling us a Caribbean story. We really enjoyed it, especially when Wendy sprayed us with water when it was raining in the story!

After, in our groups, we created our own story based on Wendy's Anansi story. We used our music wise skills by including musical instruments to add effects - just like Wendy.



Wednesday

Music was our focus for Wednesday! We looked at different music from our own continent - Europe. We spoke about how this was similar or different to the music we like and listen to.

Later that day, we had a music workshop! During this workshop we were really lucky because we got to listen to and play different instruments from around the world. We learnt how some countries use dried fruit to make their instruments sound louder or different. Our favourite part was playing games using the drums!



Thursday

On Thursday we learnt about Laudato Si. We discussed our world and why it is important to take care of it. The children remembered lots from our climate change project earlier in the year and were able to link this with Laudato Si, explaining how things we do are impacting the world, especially the animals.

The children then decided on a promise they will keep, to try and help keep the world safe. Once they had done that, all of the children created a zoo for endangered animals. In the zoo they wrote how we could help look after the animals to reduce the risk of them becoming extinct!



Friday

On our final day of culture week, we looked at Fratelli Tutti. As a class, the children identified different ways that we can communicate and their favourite way to do this. The children were able to understand how Covid-19 changed how we communicate. We spoke about our experiences and what is the same and different after the pandemic.

We then created a class dance based on friendship. The children voted to use We Are Family as their song and created a little piece in groups. We shared our dance with Years 3 and 5 in the afternoon.





Year 3 Culture week

This week, Year 3 have been learning all about South America. We have looked at a map, atlases and a giant globe to understand where South America is in relation to us. We also dressed in clothes that represented us and our culture.



On Monday, the children created flags to represent themselves which we hung on their house colours and displayed them in the classroom. In groups, the children then created a flag to represent Year 3. After that, we looked at the national costume for each of the countries that the table groups had been given and worked in pairs to design their own costume using recycled materials. In the afternoon, Mr Portillo Risdon shared information about Venezuela and Jamaica.

On Tuesday, Mrs Palfrey came in and shared information about her home country of Brazil and the children danced to Latin music. The children then had a story workshop with Wendy Shearer where they listened to and joined in with a story from the Caribbean. We then made the characters from the story and acted it out with the puppets we made. Finally, throughout the week we researched the countries from South America and presented the information to the class.





On Wednesday, we had a musical day! We looked at instruments from South America and made our very own ones using recycled materials. We then created our very own national anthem for our countries using the instruments and creating a song. In the afternoon, we had a musical workshop where we experienced different instruments from around the world.



On Thursday, we looked at the message from the Pope about caring for our common home. We created songs, posters and poems about how we could make a change and care for the world. We then tried Brazilian food. Mrs Palfrey's main meal was called Feijoada and the dessert was called Brigadeiros. We included an Earth hour into our day in order to be kind to our planet where we did not use electricity.



On Friday, we looked at the meaning of Fratelli Tutti. We considered different ways we could be a kind global neighbour to all. We then used this message to create a dance using we are 'All in this together' and showed it to Year 2 and Year 5.



Hear the song we sing
to encourage and inspire

If we all sing together,
one voice becomes a choir

Our very own
flags & class
national
costumes



This issue

Flags, PowerPoint, National
costumes & anthem **P.1**

Storytelling, Desserts, Musical
instruments and dance **P.2**

Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti **P.3**

Exploring the World of North America

The children have been well and truly engaged with our cultural week: Globetrotting around **North America**. There has been so much excitement and learning in the last week.

On Monday, using maps, atlases, globes and computer mapping, the children had the opportunity to locate the features and the countries that make up North America. Additionally, the children have learned what 'states' and 'territories' are and explored the states in the USA. They discovered that North America is the only continent which contains all the biomes!

The children designed their own personal flags that represented themselves. They chose their colours, symbols, pictures, and a *lot* of creative freedom! But all hung up together, they made the classroom brighter.

Creating the class flag was probably the most challenging with all the hand prints that needed to be painted, it was quite the job. Overall, it was worth it, from the colourful hands to the glittery highlights. This represented Y4. They made faces about their inner self on one side and their outer selves on the other. It demonstrated that not everyone is the same on the inside and that everyone deserves to have their own unique personality.

The children were fashion designers in the afternoon. They designed a national costume for our class. They made special badges with Y4 poems to add to the features of their costumes, made from bin bags and colourful paper. The class recruited Freddie Lee & Tamilore to model their national costume. They were very proud of their product.

Musical instruments of North America



Story Time



Dessert making



Following this, the children worked together to create a class national anthem. We chose Pocahontas 'colours of the wind' as our backing track.

On Tuesday, the children used iPads to research more amazing facts about the continent of North America and the countries that form it. We investigated details of some of the contrasting regions of Americas, finding out about the landscape, climate and location of each area. They learnt some of the plants and animals that come from North America and were fascinated to discover the different national costumes /dress of the different countries. Some children had the opportunity to identify the similarities and differences between region of the Americas and where they live. They successfully presented their findings through a PowerPoint presentation to teach each other.

In the afternoon, the children were treated to an African story time workshop. The children heard stories brought to life using music and musical instruments.

On Wednesday, the children had an exciting morning cooking a North American vegan chocolate chip cookie. They learnt the history behind the chocolate chip cookies and discovered it was an American chef named Ruth Graves who owned a tourist lodge called 'Toll House Inn' that invented the dessert by adding nestle semi – sweet chocolate to her butter drop cookies recipe. The cookies tasted delicious and was approved by all.

In the afternoon, we delved into a variety of North American tales. Most of these tale's centered on the importance of animals and the connection between humans and the natural world.

Many of them are also pourquoi tales, a type of "why things are the way they are" story. The children worked well in groups to re-enact their favourite North American tale. Some included Salmon boy and a young hero flights a grizzly bear.

In the afternoon, the children took part in a musical workshop in the school hall. They were introduced to some beautiful musical instruments from around the world.

They had the opportunity to play a 21-string instrument, which is used extensively in West Africa called the kora. They played the Chinese Guzheng Zither Harp and a variety of North American drums. Back in classroom, after extensive research on different instruments used in North America, the children made their own Native American flute from straws and gourd rattles made from plastic bottles and rice.

Laudato Si- Care for
our Common Home

Fratelli Tutti – All
Brothers and Sisters



On Thursday, we celebrated Laudato Si with a film called 'the letter' from Pope Francis, with singing and dancing. The children made prayers to ask God the creator to send the Holy Spirit upon those who work for our common home, to also infuse them with His mercy and strength so that they may grow aware of their ecological sins and the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor.

The children then made a 'hand full of hopes' poster of *how* they can care for their planet and other people. They all contributed to the class discussion of what little things they can do to help our planet. They suggested: 'turn off lights when we leave the room', 'always remember to turn off the tap-even when we brush our teeth,' and 'walking instead of driving which great for our planet.'

Friday morning, we had special guests - Isaac Mendis's grandmother and auntie. They came in to cook a traditional snack from South Asia.

The popular roti which is packed with flavour and coconut is a Hindi word for bread. It has five ingredients. It tasted so delicious and luckily there was enough for seconds. Thank you Mary Anne and Nicola for showing us your fantastic cooking skills.

In the afternoon, we discussed the Gospel story at the heart of Fratelli Tutti; the parable of the Good Samaritan. This moved us to respond to our brother and sister in need, whoever they are, wherever they may come from. We are challenged to turn outwards, to act as neighbours, and to reach out to those who are in need. As a class we then created a friendship dance with solo and group singers. The children did a tremendous job learning of their lines in one day of the song 'That's what friends are for' by Dionne Warwick. It's quite amazing how much learning has happened over the last week. Well done Year 4!

TERM 6 NEWSLETTER

YEAR 5 CULTURE WEEK CELEBRATIONS!

Last week, we celebrated the cultural diversity of people in our school. Year 5 focused on Asia and enjoyed the culture week packed with interesting and creative activities including storytelling, cooking, fashion design, music workshop and much more...



Dressing up for the culture week

It was lovely to see so many children dressed in their traditional costumes and clothes that represented who they are, showing a sense of pride for the diversity of their own culture and identity. We

then took this idea to create garments from recycled materials to represent our class. Year 5 thought that we had love of nature and enjoyed outdoor activities, and this was reflected in their creations.



Storytelling



Wendy Shearer, a professional storyteller and an author, was in our school for a storytelling workshop. She told us folk tales from the Caribbean and Windrush generation. Children were highly engaged and some were invited to act out as characters.



Studying Asia



PLACES TO VISIT IN ASIA

- MOUNT FUJI, JAPAN- In Mount Fuji there are the beautiful cherry blossoms that bloom every Spring. Although it is a volcano, it is one of Japan's most 'Holy Mountains'.
- DEAD SEA, ISRAEL- The Dead sea is so thick, nothing can sink into it and everyone who walks into it will naturally float. While the coastline has become a flourishing spa and resort destination, there is also a large influx of religious tourism in the area.
- PHUKET, THAILAND- Thailand biggest island is also a magnet for visitors and for good reason. It has some of the best beaches in the country, with clean soft, rolling sands and turquoise waters.
- BEIJING, CHINA- One of the most popular cities in the world, Beijing is also one of the oldest. You can get a peek into that history by walking the hutongs of Beijing. The city offers visitors many unique-looking pagodas and temples.
- HOI AN, VIETNAM- Every full moon cycle, Hoi An celebrates the Lantern Festival, which honours ancestors through light.



Children researched about Asia and created a PowerPoint presentation focusing on different aspects of the continent including culture, cuisine, festivals, places to visit, flora and fauna. They





listened to national anthems of various countries in Asia and composed their own national anthem using musical instruments and body percussion.



Music workshop



Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed the music workshop run by EARTH SONG. Children found out about different instruments that they have never seen before or heard of, from all over the world and learned techniques to play various instruments. They enjoyed playing drums and stringed instruments, and they performed dances from African and Asian cultures.



Cooking



Year 5 also enjoyed baking Indian flat breads in our cooking workshop. Children were involved in rolling out the dough and they got to taste it once it was cooked.

We also chose an Asian recipe to try-Chinese mango pudding. Children were given the ingredients and made it themselves by carefully following the instructions.





Monday

The first day of our Culture Week was off to a bright and colourful start as the children arrived at school in clothes that represented them – they all looked superb! Thank you to the parents for making such an effort in helping to organise the outfits. It was so lovely to see all of the children arriving in the assembly in the morning to show off their outfits to one another. Upon returning to the classroom, the class began by reflecting upon their own culture and creating a flag to represent it. This was followed by some research into our focus continent for the week: Australasia/Oceania. In the afternoon, the children were then given the opportunity to use their research to create an outfit from one of the countries we had been researching in the morning.

Year 6 Culture Week



Tuesday

The second day of our Culture Week was focused on the theme of storytelling. We spent the morning reading traditional tales from various countries within Oceania as a group and thinking about how we could use them to write our own. This allowed us to then return from break and write some fantastic stories that we shared with our partners. In the afternoon, we were treated to a brilliant story by Wendy Shearer, a visitor to our school, who shared traditional Ugandan folk tales with us.



Wednesday

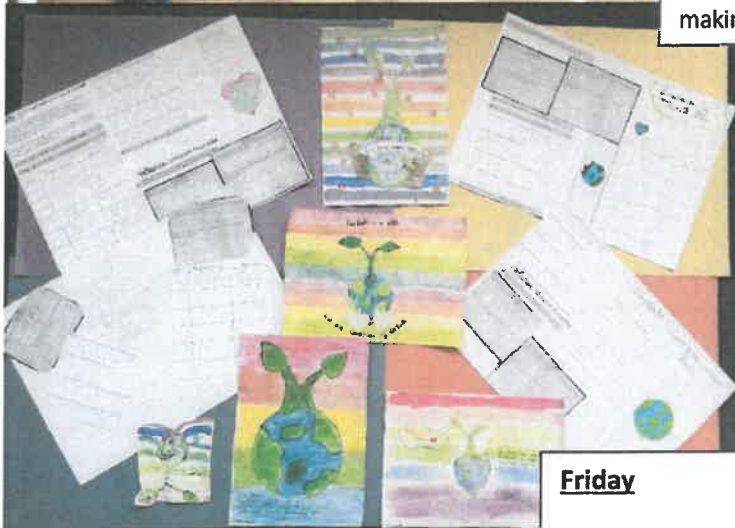
What a day the Wednesday was! It was filled with food, music and fun. We began the day by working in small groups to create a national anthem based on ones from Oceania. We then shared our performances with the rest of the class. Throughout the day, we also worked in small groups to make Australian biscuits called Anzac biscuits; we found out that they are called this because they have long been associated with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) established in WW1.





Thursday

Thursday's focus was Pope Francis' letter Laudato Si. We were reminded of the invitation to everyone on the planet to care for our common home. We started the day by watching a video to explain the theme and joined in with a Laudato Si song. We then listened and responded to a moving poem about caring for the environment. This helped us to reflect on our impact on the world and how we can work towards a sustainable future. Next, we took part in an 'Earth Song' workshop where we learnt about instruments and cultures from around the world and had the opportunity to play African drums. Finally, we spent the afternoon using water colours to create art to express today's theme, making sure to turn all electricity off to take part in 'Earth Hour'.



Friday

A busy end to a busy week! Our final day of Culture Week focussed on Fratelli Tutti. We explored this theme through reading The Good Samaritan and books on friendship, as well as creating a friendship dance that we shared with Reception Class. We also reflected upon and evaluated our CST pledge from earlier in the year. Our concluding task was a final piece of art using pastels to reflect on the day's learning.

