

Multicultural Day 2024

On 13th June, Hadley Wood School had enjoyed a wonderful celebration of the cultures within our school community.

Assembly

We began our day with a whole school assembly where we shared ideas about cultural diversity and the importance of tolerance, mutual respect and celebrating the many cultures within our school.

We have more than twenty different cultures within our school and on this day, we were very lucky to be joined by some parents who gave us an insight into their culture.

In our assembly, we were taught how to say a welcome greeting in various languages.



Exploring Cultures

After the assembly had finished, each of our parent volunteers joined a class and shared a prepared activity with us.



In Moore Class, the children learnt how to create Rangoli patterns. Starr said 'We chose colours to make patterns'. The children read the story 'Dear Muslim Child' and Starr shared that after reading the story, they learnt that 'we are all different'. Mrs Patel who joined us on this day said it was *'really lovely to see the school taking the time to put on this multicultural day workshop. I personally learnt a lot just in the assembly I attended, so thank you for the invite. Amazing that we have more than 20 cultures across the school! It is brilliant to have this awareness from a young age as it creates a really positive environment for the children to learn about different cultures. The non-textbook approach was fantastic as this helped the children really embrace the different cultures.'*

Attenborough Class learnt about Sri Lanka and learnt some important phrases in Sinhalese. They made beetle leaves and passed them on to each other. Era said 'We were learning how to speak another language.' Jack said, "We learnt that if you want to say you are hungry, you say 'My tummy is on fire'."



Attenborough Class also spent time with Mrs Bassili learning how to count to 10 in Greek. They then joined in with a Greek version of 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' too.

Parks Class had a wonderful morning learning about the Lebanese culture with Mrs Aslam. She taught them how to cook a traditional dish using Za'atar which they all enjoyed tasting at the end.

In the afternoon, they learnt how to speak Italian with Mrs Bragoli.



In the morning, King Class were joined by Ms Sirjani who taught them a traditional Persian story. They then created art work based on the story that had been told.

In the afternoon, the children sang beautifully with Miss Seaton and took a quiz to see how many facts they remembered about Jamaica.



Thunberg Class were very impressed with the taste of their Eritrean breakfast that was shared with them by Ms Idris. Ms Idris also said, *'I really enjoyed my time with Year 4—they are such amazing kids, and we had a lot of fun cooking together. It was nice to share some history about Eritrea with the children, and I was impressed with their knowledge of the world. Many of them were able to guess which countries are close to Eritrea. The children really made my day when a few of them said that the food was the best thing they have ever tried!'*

The children also worked with Mrs Ladopouli in the afternoon and learnt the alphabet in Greek. They used that to help them write their names using Greek letters.

In Mandela Class, Mrs Constantine shared that she was *'deeply impressed by the geographical knowledge of the pupils from Year 5. We discussed the location of Poland and all the countries around it on the map of Europe. It was incredibly rewarding to witness the children's curiosity and enthusiasm. Enthusiasm especially for the gingerbread cookies from Toruń.'*

The children also worked with Mrs Ladopouli in the afternoon and learnt the alphabet in Greek. They then wrote their names using Greek letters.



In Turing Class, Mrs Cockburn shared an Estonian dance which the children thoroughly enjoyed learning (as you can see by their faces). Mrs Cockburn also loved joining us on this day. *'It was clear the pupils were interested and enthusiastic about learning something new from "real people" from different backgrounds. I am sure it widened their view of the world and they they loved this kind of learning!* Year 6 continued learning about other cultures in the afternoon as Mrs Christophorou also taught the colours in Greek too.

It is clear that everyone in our school community gained a great deal from this day. Thank you to all who were involved.