

SMSC Update ELveden- October 2016

Over the past year, we have been very busy at Elveden C of E Primary Academy making fantastic opportunities for our children to use their Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social skills in every day learning!

We continue to have daily religious assemblies each week, which are always focussed on a different aspect of SMSC, BLP or on our theme such as, 'Friendship,' and, 'Hope,' etc. In addition to this, the children of each class put on an assembly each half term, as an opportunity to tell their friends and families what fun they have had and the learning they have done. The assemblies give the children an opportunity to reflect on the past half term and give them time to think about what they are looking forward to for the next one. The children have also put on numerous whole school assemblies where they have told a Bible story (Red Deer told the story of Ruth). In our Spiritual Garden, we are also going to be hanging some homemade reflection hangings, which will give the children the opportunity to reflect further and the different aspects of religion.

The children have been given opportunities to embed the SMSC skills through carefully chosen topics. For example, our Autumn 1 topic was based on the popular children's film, 'Inside Out,' which reflected heavily on feelings and emotions. The fun lessons plan in this topic let the children think a lot about the moral decisions of the main character and how different social situations, such as moving house, had a real impact on her.

In EYFS, there is a real importance for SMSC. The children have been learning the most important skills of school: how to share, how to make friendships, the right and wrong choices, looking at how friends treat each other, things families do together and looking at different feelings. They have been making Riley's, 'feeling jars,' to try and express themselves. They have been making patterns with shapes and learning about awe and wonder! This will continue throughout the year!

In KS1, the children also followed the fantastic topic of, 'Inside Out.' The children were able to debate social issues through role play. They were able to reflect spiritually through an RE week which focussed on how Jesus would act and feel. In addition, the children thought about moral dilemmas of the characters and how different characters had different perspectives. This led them to think about their own moral situations. Culturally, they focussed on money and the importance of knowing it's value and how there is a difference between the things they want and the things they need. Next half term, KS1 will be looking at, 'Time Travel,' which will give them some fantastic opportunities to explore SMSC. Spiritually- they will be looking at the different religious focuses throughout the ages and how worshipping evolved over time. Morally- they will be looking at the morals of the Victorians and the deprivation of the work houses in comparison to the super rich. Socially- they will be looking at how relationships changed over time and the strict boundaries of a Victorian environment. Culturally- they will be looking at history in various different countries and will be able to compare the changes. KS1 are ready to travel through time!

In LKS2, the children were looking at the wonderful text, 'The Day the Crayons Quit,' which was focussed around what made the crayons special. The children then thought a lot about what was

special about them and how they can make others feel special- some great social skills here! They also looked at the character, 'Riley,' from, 'Inside Out,' and at the different moral situations she faced and discussed whether she was right or wrong in her actions. Furthermore, LKS2 were looking at the book, , which gave them a great opportunity to explore the cultural differences between our country and Africa. This also lead them to think about how lucky they are and how it is our moral obligation to try and help others who are less fortunate than us. They all donated stationary for Mrs Roarke and Mrs Cunningham's visit to Malawi, where they visited orphanages and schools. Next half term, LKS2 will be looking at WW2- a very exciting topic for SMSC! They will look at: how the social dynamics and relationships changed between men and women; the moral situations that the soldiers on the front line faced and the morals of war; how it made the men and women involved reflect on their spirituality; how the culture changed with all the men off at war and the women doing the men's jobs.

In UKS2, we have been busy honing our SMSC opportunities! The children looked in depth at the cultural differences between our country and different places in North America (where Riley is from in Inside Out). They also have been studying feelings and moral decisions. Was Riley right with her decisions and how she acted? What could she have done differently? In addition, they have been looking at Earth Quakes and how there can devastate countries which really got us in tune with our emotions and empathising how terrible this must be. Socially, the children have been focussing on friendships in PSHE and this has also been encouraged in team sports in PE. Spiritually, the children have been looking at Humanism in RE and thinking about the things they are grateful for. Next half term, they will be studying WW1 and looking at the fantastic text of, 'War Horse,' which opens a lot of SMSC opportunities in lessons. The children will look at the feelings of the horses, how it is human's moral obligation to care for their animals and how Joey feels a moral obligation to look after his rider- no matter what. We will be looking at how the social dynamics changed over the war and how this affected us today.

In addition to all of these fabulous activities, the children have had all sorts of wonderful opportunities. Roald Dahl day, gave us the opportunity to reflect on the importance that Roald Dahl has had on our culture and looking at depth at some of the character's feelings and morals. We have had 2 wonderful Immersion days, where the children got to be evacuees for the day and also learning to cook and make friendship bracelets! In addition to this, we had the wonderful people from, 'Starfish Malawi,' in again, giving the children time to think about how lucky they are and how difficult life is in the poorer parts of Africa. We are also all booked up for a jam-packed anti-bullying week, with a drama workshop and a performance- a perfect time to reflect on our morals. We also have Parliament week- reflecting on what has made our country so great! The children will be looking at the Magna Carta, the Suffragettes and the Gunpowder Plot and how these changed our society forever! The MP is coming to visit too! There is lots of getting ready to do for the Christmas period, where we will focus on the, 'real,' meaning of Christmas- the birth of Jesus.

