WOOD LEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

Schools of Sanctuary

Welcome Refugees

Hope
We are thrilled to announce that our school community are working hard to achieve the School of Sanctuary award. We are hoping to be the first School of Sanctuary in Suffolk which would recognise the work that we do to promote inclusivity and amplify the fact that we believe that diversity is a strength. A School of Sanctuary is a school that is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all. Multiculturalism and equality are at the heart of our curriculum and we value the importance of representation across all subjects. We believe that every child should see themselves represented within the books that they read and we also value the importance of using literature to expose the children to a host of nationalities, family dynamics and religions. Pupils in our school strive to include everyone, no matter where they are from, or what their circumstances are. We teach our children about the difficulties that people experience around the world which builds empathy and understanding. We embrace books that break stereotypes and address misconceptions to ensure that when pupils leave our school, they have a broad understanding of the wider world as well as their own culture and identity.
During World Book Week, we read books which featured refugee protagonists. The children used these texts to inspire their writing across the school. We hope that you enjoy looking at samples of the children’s work that took place during this special week.
In Foundation Stage, the children have been reading a book called ‘There’s a Boy Just Like Me’ by Frasier Cox. The author, who happens to be autistic, wrote this book when he was just 9 years old. It amplifies the fact that despite different cultures, we should all be treated with respect. It reminds readers that in finding common ground, we can all find hope in the friendships we make. The children were so inspired by this story. They wrote friendship poems after discussing what it means to be a kind and considerate person. The children also spoke about how they would welcome a refugee if they were to visit or join their class.
The children wrote welcoming words on spoons to add to their friendship recipe.
Foundation Stage also designed welcome posters which are displayed when their parents pick them up to extend the message that migrants and refugees will always be welcome in our school.
In Key Stage One, the children have been answering these key questions:

What is a refugee?

Why might someone become a refugee?

How could we welcome a refugee in our school?
Across the school, we have been addressing stereotypes about what refugees might look like. We know that refugees are people just like us who have been forced to flee their homes.
Refugees are good and ecstatic,
Refugees are welcome to this place,
I love refugees and they are good,
Everyone needs to welcome friends,
Never be afraid,
Do not be afraid,

By Callum
Year 1
Friendship we share, to show we care,
Respect we will give you,
I wish people to stop fighting,
Everyone in Elm welcomes you,
No more war or sadness,
Dreaming of peace.

By Matilda C
Year 2
Key Stage One
Welcome Posters
Friends make me happy,
Refugees are welcome here,
I want to play with you,
Everyone can play with me,
Never stop sharing and never stop caring,
Don’t worry Wood Ley will protect you!

By Mia and Olivia
Year 1
Hermione

Hello and Refugees

England 888

I'm happy you are here and safe.

Welcome

Woodley
As humans we share an incredible link,
And, although we are different, I definitely think
His family and people are misunderstood.
If we could find friendship, our world would be good.

Key Stage One were very moved by the book they read to inspire their poetry.
Beech Class have been addressing common misconceptions about migrants and refugees. When reading Rebel Girls, they read Yursra Mardini’s story. After the motor stopped working and the dinghy began to take in water in the Aegean Sea, Yusra got into the water and pushed and pulled the boat through the water for over 3 hours until the group reached land. She was a member of the Refugee Olympic Athletes Team (ROT), that competed under the Olympic flag at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Mardini has been appointed as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Beech Class were so inspired by her story and wrote their own poems about Yursra and the plight of refugees around the world.
Refugees don’t always have a home,
Some of them are all alone,
Refugees are very clever,
They can’t live without a home forever,
They might live in Syria or Afghanistan,
Please help them as much as you can,
The bombs in the sky are as black as soot,
To get to country to country they travel on foot,
Yursra Mardini is a refugee,
She saved 20 lives by swimming in the sea,
Please try and give refugees food,
If you don’t, it’s kind of rude,
Refugees usually live in refugee camps,
If they’re scared they might need lamps,
Yursra Mardini escaped from Syria to Germany,
Where they all live in perfect harmony.

By Imogen
Year 3
Syria is a dangerous tornado,
Heavy bombs falling like leaves on a tree,
Disappointed, unhappy and terrified,
Yursra flees her country,
Bang, crash, bash… the motor breaks,
Splash, splash, splash Yursra jumps,
Into the deep, gloomy water,
Germany is a super, summery smile,
Yusra trained endlessly non-stop,
Yursra heard cheering and clapping.

By Annabelle
Year 3

“I want everyone not to give up on their dreams. Even if it’s impossible, you never know what will happen.”
Refugees need our assistance,
Exterminating guns and ear-piercing tanks,
Fleeing their homes trying to find somewhere safe,
Unacceptable behaviour from those who try to take,
Glory and greatness they think they have found,
Enormous bombs crashing to the ground,
Enormous bombs making awful sounds,
So try your best and do what you can to be like superman!

By Ezra
Year 3
Amal: a puppet which walked across Europe to raise awareness of the hardships of unaccompanied minors.

In 2021, a 3.5 metre-tall living artwork of a young Syrian refugee child walked across Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and the UK to focus attention on the urgent needs of young refugees.

Maple Class made their own Amal puppets and tracked her journey by using a map. The children wrote diary entries in the point of view of an unaccompanied minor. Within the diaries, they discussed the conditions of refugee camps and challenges that children may have on their long journeys in order to seek sanctuary.
We have made our own Amal dolls and created diary entries to show the journey she made.
The journey represents the stories of millions of young refugees who are forced to leave their homes and often travel alone without their parents.
Reaching the UK October 2021

Dear Diary,

I’m nearly there. I feel tired. I feel thankful and proud that I have made it safely. Even though I am nervous, I love being here.

I also feel a little heartbroken for leaving my family.

Love,

[Signature]

July 2021

Dear Diary,

I have been travelling so long. I am so tired and I miss my family so much. I am so worried about my family.

And it has been so hot today and gave me a sun burn.

Amal

LKS2 Refugee Diaries
Poplar Class have been reading a book called Gervelie’s Journey. Gervelie, who was born in the Republic of the Congo in 1995, fled her country as a child. It is the honest and heartrending story of a family torn apart by war and their courageous decision to seek a life of peace in the West. Thankfully, Gervelie found safety in East Anglia where she was made to feel welcome.
Poplar Class have been answering these key questions:

What is the difference between a migrant and a refugee?

What difficulties do some refugees face?

Which countries do refugees come from?
Cedar Class have been reading a book called Imagine by John Lennon. They listened to the original song too and were so inspired by the lyrics. They wrote their own version of the song to showcase their solidarity with refugees and migrants.
Imagine there’s no conflict,
No bombs, no war, no crime,
We need to work together,
It’s easy if we try.
Imagine all the world,
Living life in peace.
Imagine there’s no refugees,
Everyone has a home,
Nothing to hide or run from,
Just feeling safe and warm.
Imagine all the countries,
Living life in peace.
You may say I’m a refugee,
But I really have no choice,
Please welcome all new people,
No matter where they’re from.
Imagine there’s no fighting,
No hate, no wars, no fear,
No need for dangerous journeys,
A life of love and cheer.
Imagine all the people,
Caring throughout the world.
Imagine there’s no fighting,
No hate, no wars, no fear,
No need for dangerous journeys,
A life of love and cheer.
Imagine all the people,
Caring throughout the world.
You may say I’m a refugee,
But I really have no choice,
I hope some day I can go home,
And feel safe with my family.
Key questions being explored in Cedar Class:

Can you tell me about any famous refugees?

What difficulties do some refugees face?

Where do refugees come from?

What stereotypes do some people hold about refugees?

What is the difference between a migrant and a refugee?

What can we do if we are upset about the news?

How can we provide aid with dignity within our own community?
Cedar Class have also read a book called Malala’s Magic Pencil. This inspired them to write biographies describing the life of Malala Yousafzai.
Acer Class have been exploring a book called The Arrival. This wordless picture book invites readers to explore a strange new world in the company of a migrant or refugee who must leave their family and everything they have ever known to make the long and difficult journey to another land. Here, everything is different: language, buildings, customs, food – even the pets seem alien. Seeing this world through the traveller’s eyes, we are as confused as he is. But the city’s inhabitants have their own stories to tell and everyone helps out. By the time our traveller’s family is able to join him, we know that they’ll be happy in this new place.

They also read a book called Azzi. Azzi and her parents were in danger. They had to leave their home and escape to another country on a frightening journey. In the new country, they must learn to speak a new language, find a new home and Azzi must start a new school. With a kind helper at the school, Azzi begins to learn English and understand that she is not the only one who has had to flee her home. She makes a new friend, and with courage and resourcefulness, begins to adapt to her new life. But Grandma has been left behind and Azzi misses her more than anything.
Can you imagine trekking for thousands of miles just for safety? Can you imagine moving somewhere where you don’t know the language? Can you imagine crossing seas just for safety and a place to live?

A refugee is a person or a group of people fleeing their country because of war or natural destruction so they have to go to another country that is safe. Bombs annihilating towns, Shadows of the bomber planes, Shells ricocheting off buildings, The rumble of the tanks rolling into the streets.

I have met a refugee called Azzi, she left her home with the sounds of rumbling tanks rolling into the streets ready to gunfire, shells ricocheting off different items and bombs annihilating towns still ringing in her ears.

This taught me I am lucky to have a friendly loyal dog, a kind caring family and a colourful enjoyable iPad.

Throughout many dark days, education has slipped through peoples fingers, communities obliterated, families ripped apart and sent into trauma.

I have a friend called Azzi; she has travelled through the dark danger-filled depths of hell to get to a safe place. As much as she tries to be positive these dark feelings hang over her soul like Voldemort about to perform the cruciatus curse on you.

Can you imagine living in a place where you can’t speak their language, 119k refugees live in the UK, there are 4k stateless persons in the UK and over 5k unaccompanied children arrived in the UK in 2021.

My vision is for refugees to be able to live somewhere for a while and it is to be classified as their home on their passport and to live somewhere where the word “war” is eradicated.

I believe that refugees should be welcomed with a warm smile in their new community.

I believe that refugees should have access to shelter with food and electricity with a nice warm blanket and a nice, kind loving family in a place they call home.

Taking in refugees has so many benefits. For example: they bring in knowledge of their country and being a refugee and much more benefits.

Think about it... you could be the welcome that they need.

You could be the one that saves a refugee/refugees by making them feel at home.

We can do better. We can be more welcoming. We can be more adventurous with homing refugees. We can save the world.

If I were a refugee I would want you to hold my hand in my new world.

By Theo
Can you imagine leaving the place you grow up? Can you imagine you travel The whole sea? Can you imagine you get evacuated from places you enjoy? A refugee is a person who flee the country for safety they might have to escape from war persecution or danger. I have a friend calledazzi she left her home with the smell of smoke from buildings on fire bombs whooshing down from the sky and the soldiers marching through the streets. This has taught me I am lucky to have warm and safe home lovely fluffy teddies and a kind caring family. Over time children see things that they're not meant to see. Love ones lost community’s ruined and families have been Separated. I have a friend calledazzi as much as she tries to be in a safe place. Andy and her family arrived at the immigration centre which was boiling and hordes. Can you imagine having to live in the UK because there are 119000 refugees there. My vision is to always be in a safe place. I believe that all refugees should be loved cared for and welcoming them. Think about it you could be the one who welcomes them. We can be better we can be more welcoming we can accept people for who they are if I were a refugee I would want to be able to breathe again. By Ethan
Hazel Class read *The Diary of Anne Frank*. They researched other famous refugees to highlight the amazing contributions migrants and refugees have made to our diverse society. They realised that our number system is Arabic, our democracy is based on Greek ideas and our alphabet is Latin. They learnt lots of famous refugees including: one of the founders of M&S (Michael Marks a Russian-born Polish refugee), Rita Ora a famous singer (born in Kosovo) and Albert Einstein (who sought refuge in the USA).

Hazel Class thought that when someone asked for our help, we should try to help them regardless of what they might grow up to be in the future.
Hazel Class read a book called *The Breadwinner*. The story helps to amplify what it might be like to be an Afghan child and reminds us of the devastating impact that war has on civilians. The children learnt that kite flying is a popular past time in Afghanistan which inspired them to design their own kites.
We learnt that being a refugee is not a choice. Refugees are forced to leave their homes.

Noah’s Inspirational Wish

I long for a time when literacy rates soar like birds in the sky.
I wonder about a life...
When the only flags are flattering freely,
When the only military trucks are showing solidarity,
When the only bangs are pretty fireworks,
I long for a time when poverty is only read about in History books
By Liam
Year 6

Here you are welcome
Solidarity with migrants and refugees

Euan
Year 6
Whoever you are,
Whatever you look like,
What ever you do,
I will never treat you differently,
Because you and I are the same
We breathe the same air and live on the same planet so
Spread some love.

by Shay & Lewis

We hope Suffolk can be a great home for you.

By Shay and Lewis
Year 6
Year 6 have been learning about the history of Afghanistan. They were surprised to learn about the ongoing conflicts are realised that many refugees spend decades living in refugee camps. Many refugees in Afghanistan are internally displaced within their country and the host countries with the highest numbers of displaced people tend to be in surrounding countries.
Hazel Class made welcome cards for newly-arrived Afghan refugees who have recently resettled in Suffolk.
The children made origami boats. They took them home to discuss the plight of refugees around the world and wrote their reflections on the sails.

Home Learning Project

The children made origami boats. They took them home to discuss the plight of refugees around the world and wrote their reflections on the sails.
We have been following the alarming conflict in Ukraine by accessing age-appropriate news sources including Newsround. We have also spoken about how to protect ourselves from upsetting news.
Questions that Hazel Class have been answering:

Can you tell me about significant refugees throughout history?

Why might someone become a refugee?

How could we welcome a refugee in our school?

Can you tell me about any famous refugees?

What difficulties do some refugees face?

Where do refugees come from?

What stereotypes do some people hold about refugees?

What is the difference between a migrant and a refugee?

Can you tell me about a conflict that is happening at the moment?

What can be done to support refugees?

How can you protect yourself when learning about ongoing conflicts?
“This poem is effective because it creates a different picture in your head. The racist viewpoint makes you more empathetic as we understand what people might go through. The writer’s intended impact is to shock us. It highlights how different people have different perspectives about migration. Inconsiderately written, we are encouraged to dig deeper to identify how much trauma refugees go through. In my opinion, refugees should be treated with the same respect as everyone else. They are assets to our community and not a burden.

A feeling of anger is evoked when reading the poem because of the horrific characters he makes all refugees to be. A juxtaposition is created when the poem is read from the bottom to the top. A different perspective is shown: sympathy.”

Noah, Year 6

Hazel Class were mortified when they read this poem by Brian Bilston. Luckily, an alternative message is expressed when you read the poem from the bottom to the top.
We are so proud of you...

Bobby has been collecting items to help Ukrainian diabetics. Diabetes is a lifelong condition that causes a person's blood sugar level to become too high. People that are diabetic need to carry out regular blood tests to ensure that their blood glucose levels stay balanced. They need specialist equipment to help them do this which might be difficult to obtain within a warzone.

Lewis, Benji and Finley kindly donated lots of their toys to newly-arrived refugees in Ipswich. They also raised over £100 for Suffolk Refugee Support by selling unwanted items. This would have made such a difference to children in our community.

If you have been inspired to support refugees outside of school, we would love to hear about it.
If you would like to continue educating your child about migration and refugees, we recommend these books:

**Foundation Stage and Key Stage One**
If you would like to continue educating your child about migration and refugees, we recommend these books:

Lower Key Stage Two
If you would like to continue educating your child about migration and refugees, we recommend these books:

**Upper Key Stage Two**
A special thanks to all families who donated towards our World Book Day fundraiser. We raised £115.81 for Suffolk Refugee Support.