

Cultural Diversity Week - 11th - 14th February

During the week before half-term, the whole school took part in a variety of activities to celebrate the diverse cultures we are lucky enough to have represented within our families, as well as those in the wider world.

Our week was launched by Tia in year 5, who shared with us two of her energetic, expert and technically challenging Irish dances during Monday's assembly. Staff and children were extremely impressed with Tia's level of skill and confidence.

Teachers chose activities to suit the age and interest of their classes. Throughout the week, groups of children tried their hand at recreating such things as folk art from Poland and Panama, beautiful Indian elephant designs and *mud cloths* from Mali. *Inukshuk* images based on Inuit stone sculptures and Aboriginal Dreamtime inspired paintings were also popular.

Children in KS2 took part in silk painting workshops where they produced some stunning Indian inspired designs (and made an incredible mess!), using wax resist and inks.



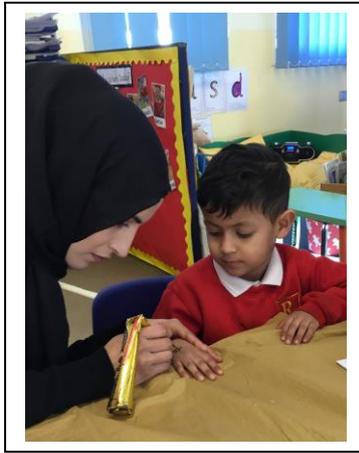
On a more physical note, Miss Biggadike led sessions with all the children, teaching English country dancing steps and sequences, and most classes took part in a lively and energetic African dance workshop.



Many children were also given the opportunity to prepare and/or taste food items from different parts of the world.



Throughout the week, we were lucky to have a selection of parent volunteers who gave up their time to support us in different ways, including leading art activities with groups and sharing information about their cultural background with classes.



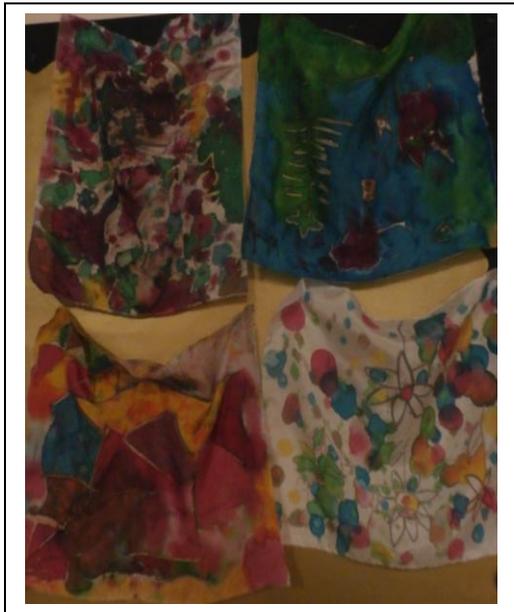
Special thanks goes to Mrs Inayat, assisted for a day by Mrs Irfan, who spent nearly the whole week in school, ensuring that all children, who had permission, and most of the staff, were adorned with henna in beautiful mehndi patterns, many of which were designed by the children.



On the Thursday, was lovely to see so many of our children wearing their traditional, cultural, national or religious clothing or an outfit with special meaning, and to hear about the significance of their outfits.



We would like to extend our thanks to all parents/carers who supported their children and the school during our Cultural Diversity week, either by providing food, objects or information about their culture or by giving their time and skills to assist children in their learning; without this, the week would not have been the success that it was.



Photographs and art work are currently on display in the hall, in the link and outside the year 5 classroom. Please take time to have a look!

