



04.12.2023 Whole School Assembly: The Power of Words

Thinking time whilst coming into assembly:

What are these? Where have you thought about them before?

The Rule of Law

- No one is above the law
- Laws protect everyone

Individual Liberty

- Freedom of speech

Democracy

- Your opinion counts

Respect & Tolerance

- All backgrounds and cultures
- All ages
- All genders and sexualities
- All religions and beliefs

The children were then asked to think about how each of these British values is linked to what we *say*, how is what we say important? The children gave some great answers linking liberty to freedom of speech and how we need to be respectful when we speak.

Words are so powerful. I gave the example of just one word: rubbish. In pairs, the children discussed how this made them feel and fed back. I then gave them the word 'chocolate' and in pairs the children discussed the difference in feelings. This was a way of showing how powerful just one word can be. So imagine how powerful lots of words are and how they can make a positive difference.

4 children then came out to the front and read part of the poem 'Human Beings' aloud to the whole school. It was chosen as the poem people would most like to send into space to be read by the Universe! I asked the children to think about what message the poet was trying to get across whilst they listened.

Follow on to read the poem...



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HUMAN BEINGS

Look at your hands
your beautiful useful hands
you're not an ape
you're not a parrot
you're not a slow loris
or a smart missile
you're human

we all start human
we end up human
human first
human last
we're human
or we're nothing

look at your body
with its amazing systems
of nerve-wires and blood canals
think about your mind
which can think about itself
and the whole universe

look at your face
which can freeze into horror
or melt into love
look at all that life
all that beauty
you're human
they are human
we are human
let's try to be human

We discussed their feelings about the poem. Then gave the final message:

The differences between us is tiny compared to how much makes us the same.

We are all human.

Words have power. Use them for good.