

Headteacher's assembly 2nd March 2026

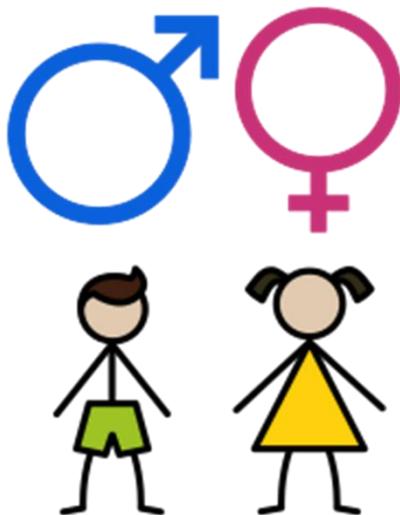
Women's History Month – The Notorious RBG

The children had these photographs to consider whilst coming into assembly:



Unsurprisingly, none of the children or staff knew who this person was! It is **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, a Jewish American who, from humble beginnings, rose to the one of the most important positions in America. She was our focus to celebrate **Women's History Month**, an inspirational figure who fought **discrimination** and for **equality**.

Born in 1933 one of her early experiences of inequality was when visiting her local synagogue, she did not think it was fair that men could read from the Torah but as a female she could not participate in the same way.



We then discussed what we understood discrimination to mean. Children discussed this in talk partners and fed back. There were some excellent answers about how discrimination meant being treated unfairly based on characteristics such as religion, race, gender, marriage. We also linked them to our British Values.

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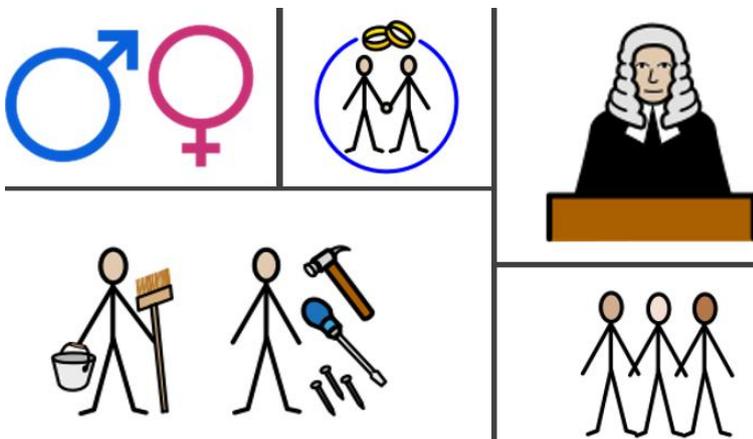
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After working hard at school, Ruth earned a place at Harvard Law School, a prestigious Ivy League University. There were over 500 students in her class but only 9 women! And one of the teachers told them that it was wrong they were taking 9 places that could have been given to men – evidence of discrimination. By this time, Ruth was also a mum and caring for her husband who was very ill. But she continued her own studies as well as doing her husband's work during this time and was a top student. She would not be beaten!

Following studying at Harvard, she moved to Columbia Law School, another Ivy League University. Here she finished top of the class! But despite her incredible achievements, she still struggled to find work because employers discriminated against her for being a woman and especially a mum – people didn't think it was possible to work and be a mum at the same time. But Ruth proved them wrong and went on to become one of the most famous lawyers in American history.

Ruth went on to win landmark cases and change the course of human rights. She fought for equal rights involving gender, race and same-sex marriage and many other examples of discrimination. In one particular case, she successfully fought for equal rights for janitors at a university, where she noticed that female janitors were paid less than their male counterparts.



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After a distinguished legal career, in 1993 Ruth Bader Ginsburg was appointed to the U.S Supreme Court, the highest court in the land and responsible for holding the President accountable. She was only the second woman to ever achieve a position on the Supreme Court and the first ever Jewish woman. In one of her most famous interviews, Ruth was asked ‘*When will there be enough women on the United States supreme court?*’ Her answer was when all nine seats are filled by female judges:

"So now the perception is, yes, women are here to stay. And when I'm sometimes asked when will there be enough [women on the supreme court]? And I say when there are nine, people are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that."



Ruth Bader Ginsburg has had many books and articles written about her. She is an inspiration for many, fighting for equal rights and beating discrimination.

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We finished the assembly by reflecting on this quote. Bring people together rather than divide and you will achieve more.