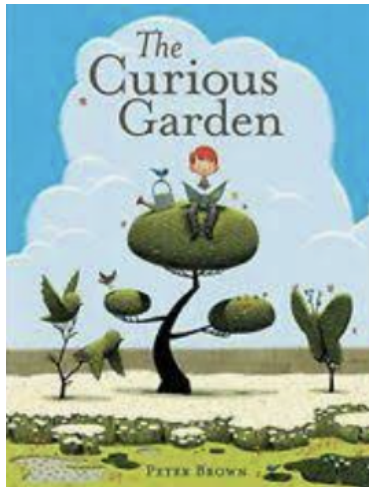


Character Education - Curiosity



During the first week back after half term, Tijen introduced the children to our new Character Strength, 'Curiosity'. At Grange Park Primary School, we believe encouraging curiosity in children is paramount as it fosters a lifelong love for learning, stimulates critical thinking, and cultivates creativity, preparing them to thrive in an ever-evolving world. Therefore, to introduce our tenth character trait, the children explored 'curiosity' through the story 'The Curious Garden' by Peter Brown. The book tells the story of Liam, a young boy living in a dreary city where plants struggle to survive. One day, Liam discovers a neglected garden on an old railway track and decides to take care of it. As he tends to the garden, it begins to thrive and spread throughout the city, bringing colour and life to the urban landscape. Through Liam's efforts, the once-abandoned garden transforms into a vibrant oasis, inspiring others to join in and cultivate their own green spaces. The story beautifully illustrates the power of curiosity, determination, and community in revitalising the environment and spreading joy. After hearing the story the children were asked to consider what message we could take away from the story and Liam.

During the assembly, we discussed the meaning of curiosity: **I have a desire to know and learn new things, I know that asking questions is a good thing, that helps me learn and improves my understanding.**

Together we recognised curiosity, like a tiny seed planted in the fertile soil of a child's imagination, sprouts into a boundless journey of exploration, inquiry, and discovery.

As educators and parents, it is our collective responsibility to nurture and cultivate this invaluable trait in our children. Curiosity ignites a thirst for knowledge, driving children to ask questions, seek answers, and engage deeply with the world around them. Moreover, research has shown that curious individuals are not only more likely to excel academically but also exhibit greater creativity, problem-solving skills, and resilience in the face of challenges.

How to foster curiosity in our children at home

1. **Encourage Questions:** Create an environment where questions are not only welcomed but celebrated. Encourage your child to ask about the world around them, no matter how whimsical or profound their inquiries may be.
2. **Explore Together:** Take adventures as a family to museums, parks, libraries, and other places rich with opportunities for exploration. Encourage your child to observe, touch, and interact with their surroundings.
3. **Model Curiosity:** Children learn by example, so demonstrate your own curiosity about the world. Share your excitement when you learn something new, and be open to exploring topics together with your child.
4. **Embrace Mistakes:** Teach your child that mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. Encourage them to view setbacks as opportunities for growth and discovery rather than reasons for discouragement.
5. **Provide Resources:** Surround your child with books, puzzles, games, and other stimulating materials that pique their interest and encourage further exploration.
6. **Follow Their Lead:** Pay attention to your child's interests and passions, and support them in pursuing those interests. Whether it's dinosaurs, space, or painting, provide opportunities for them to delve deeper into subjects that captivate their curiosity.
7. **Celebrate Curiosity:** Acknowledge and celebrate your child's curiosity. Praise their efforts to learn, explore, and discover, no matter how small the achievement may seem.

By nurturing curiosity in our children, we empower them to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and innovators of tomorrow. Together, let us embark on this enriching journey of exploration and discovery, as we watch our children's curiosity blossom into boundless possibilities.

