

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



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Dear Parent/Carer

25th April 2023

Re: Autism Acceptance Month

As you may be aware, April is Autism Acceptance Month and despite two weeks of April being in the Easter holidays, we have done lots of work in school around this area. We purposefully call it Autism ACCEPTANCE Month as opposed to Autism AWARENESS Month because there is a distinct difference. The work we do in school is around all of us being unique and different and celebrating that fact and accepting each other as being our own special individual person.

The work in school around this topic is obviously age appropriate but includes:

- A whole school assembly to introduce Autism Acceptance Month
- Collective worship about us all being unique and different
- Work in Character Development lessons about understanding what we mean by Autism
- Experiential videos so that children can experience the sensory overload that some children with Autism live with
- Watching You Tube videos made by children with Autism sharing their experiences
- Discussions about how we can help and support someone in distress
- Development of an Autism Acceptance noticeboard in our Reflection Zone to give children help and advice
- Learning about famous people who have achieved amazing things either despite or because of their Autism

I have been delighted to hear from parents that children are taking some of these discussions home and if you would like any further advice or guidance on how to talk to your child about these issues the following website is really useful:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/how-to-talk-about-autism>

We pride ourselves on the fact that we are a fully inclusive school and have an above average number of children on the Special Educational Needs Register. We have a number of children who

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live with the challenges of Autism. This disorder presents differently in every case and there is a saying which is very true: if you meet one person with Autism you've only met one presentation of Autism. It really does affect people in a huge range of different ways and our children were surprised to hear just how many children in school do have a diagnosis of Autism. It is really important that we bust the myth that you can 'see' someone with Autism.

We believe that our school vision and values help all of our children to be accepting of each other and to be kind; to be a good fellow human being to other people and to be confident in who they are as individuals.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher

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