



25.03.22
Urmston
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers...have a lovely weekend...Mr P.

NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK...

This week we have been discussing neurodiversity with our children and the different forms it takes. We've discussed how important it is to respect each other's uniqueness and realise that we all have strengths and differences that we can celebrate. It was lovely that Rob Martin and his husband, Hormoz, (as well as Dusty the dog!) joined our junior children today to talk about his experiences with Autism and how his diagnosis changed his perception on life for the better. He was incredibly inspiring and talked about how our differences enable our strengths and how much better he felt once he realised he had autism and became more comfortable with being himself...as we all should be.

He also talked about his books based on Joe and Dusty. If you are interested in purchasing the book, 'Joe and Dusty Save the World', we have copies available for a price of £10, that Rob will sign. I mentioned in the letter earlier in the week that if you'd like to find out a little more about Rob's books, you can take a look here: <https://www.joeanddustybooks.com/#/>



I also mentioned that I found out about Rob via this brilliant blog. It is an enjoyable and enlightening read about how he felt about being diagnosed with autism. Do take a look if you get the chance...

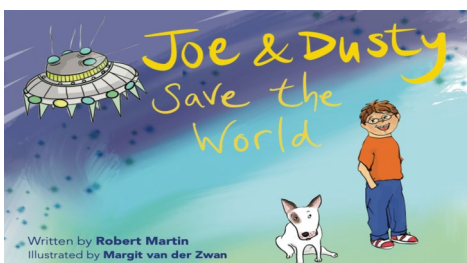
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There has been much interesting debate this week about how different (but the same!) we all are and, understandably, when discussing our inherent differences and similarities, specifically with regard to neurodiversity, many of our children (and we adults too!) will relate to some of the differences and some of the challenges that are faced by those of us who aren't 'neuro-typical'. We have stressed to the children that there is no binary situation here...we are all on a vast human being spectrum of need and difference and we all have different traits and challenges that we face - we just need to learn how to manage these as individuals, respect that others have their own challenges too, empathise, and be a kind and understanding species.

However, the discussions had will raise some questions among our children and it is extremely important that we don't dismiss these thoughts and feelings, but discuss them openly, with the view that we all have unique strengths and differences and all face different challenges that we learn to manage as we get older, more experienced and reflect and learn more about ourselves.

A big thanks also to Oliver, Mrs Hall's wonderful son. He came in yesterday to talk to our upper junior children about his experiences with neurodiversity, how this has impacted him, and how he has learnt to manage this as he has gone through his teenage years. It was great for our children to hear from someone who has faced his own challenges and continues to be proud of the strength and resilience he has developed. Great stuff Oli!

If you relate to any of this and are thinking about how to discuss this with your child, please do contact us at j.helyar@urmstonprimaryschool.com or s.parker@urmstonprimaryschool.com. Furthermore, do please join us on Tuesday at 12.30 for our SEN Forum. It is for this reason that we decided to hold it the week after NDCW. The forum will give us a chance to discuss this...indeed the main reason it was set up was so that we can share in a supportive environment and perhaps offer one another some advice and guidance based on our experiences. We'll be talking other SEN matters too, and what is going on in school, so please join us if you can. The link is here...



[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84372509379?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84372509379?pwd=SIRCZjd1N0x1My94S28wUXo3YnVWZz09)

[pwd=SIRCZjd1N0x1My94S28wUXo3YnVWZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84372509379?pwd=SIRCZjd1N0x1My94S28wUXo3YnVWZz09)

@UPSHandF

Mr Smith, our resident Mr Motivator, continues with our new Twitter page. This week is star jumps! Our children, like Phoebe, are getting involved and you can too! #UPSHandF



VISITING OUR SHABTI!

You should be aware that UPS is currently housing a 20,000 year old artefact from the Manchester History Museum—a Shabti from Ancient Egypt! Do speak to your child and feel free to visit...infants after school on Tuesday 29th and the juniors on Wednesday 30th. You'll find it in the junior library! We hope to see you there!

PARENTS EVENING

Thank you so much for meeting with us this week. It has been great to meet face to face after so long. We hope you found it as useful as we did. If you haven't managed to meet your child's teacher yet, please do get in touch to arrange a meeting. Year 6, we look forward to seeing you on the 6th and 7th.

RND and the PTA Sponsored Bounce

The generosity that you have all shown recently has been inspiring. It was only a couple of weeks ago that we had an overwhelming response to our Ukraine appeal and you've just helped our PTA raise £2480 for the sponsored bounce and £1459 for Comic Relief. Thank you so, so much!

We alluded to this last week...do take a look...

History for Ukraine & Railway History for Ukraine

Historians from around the world are banding together in solidarity to raise funds for Ukraine with a unique [24-hour live stream](#) event – **History For Ukraine 26th - 27th March**.

A host of famous faces will be speaking during the event, including Prof. Suzannah Lipscomb, Dr Fern Riddell, Prof. Kate Williams, Dr Janina Ramirez, and Earl Charles Spencer. They will be joined by professional historians and genealogists from around the world to stage a programme of informative talks and discussions on a huge variety of topics. Attendees will be asked to make donations to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal via a special JustGiving page. The event will be broadcast online via social media platforms. More information about the event is available at <https://historyforukraine.co> and on Twitter [@History4Ukraine](#)

Railway History for Ukraine

Following the 24 hours event, historians working on railways are hosting an evening of 'Railway History for Ukraine' on **30th March, 16.00 - 22.00 BST (UTC + 1)** with talks ranging from Dr Francesca Elliott on Stephenson's 'Rocket' to Dr Erin Beeston on 'heroes, animals and engines' on display at the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Centenary, and railway history buff and TV presenter, Tim Dunn, will discuss Ladybird books and modern transport. Talks vary in depth and tone, with some serious explorations of railways and refugees, to a more whimsical look at the collections of the National Railway Museum, with the aim of educating and entertaining to raise as many donations as we can for the appeal.

Please note, #RailwayHistoryforUkraine will be broadcast on the same YouTube channel as #HistoryforUkraine.