



Broughton Primary School

OPEG Story so far...



OPEG

OPEG stands for Our Pupil Equalities Group. This is our logo and slogan, designed by two of our previous OPEG members.

These slides show some of the work OPEG have been involved with in school to promote equalities and diversity.



Our calendar

This is our Equalities calendar displayed in school

We update it every month with celebration days, festivals and equalities events that we research and choose.

The calendar helps us to decide events we want to share at assembly. We also pick out our top events from each month and share an overview of what they are about and their importance.



Assemblies

We are all a member of a MS Team called 'OPEG'

We create our own slides for assemblies by working together, and the P6 and P7 members of OPEG share the slides in our Team so they can be put together ready to share in assembly.

The following slides are from an assembly we led about Chinese New Year.



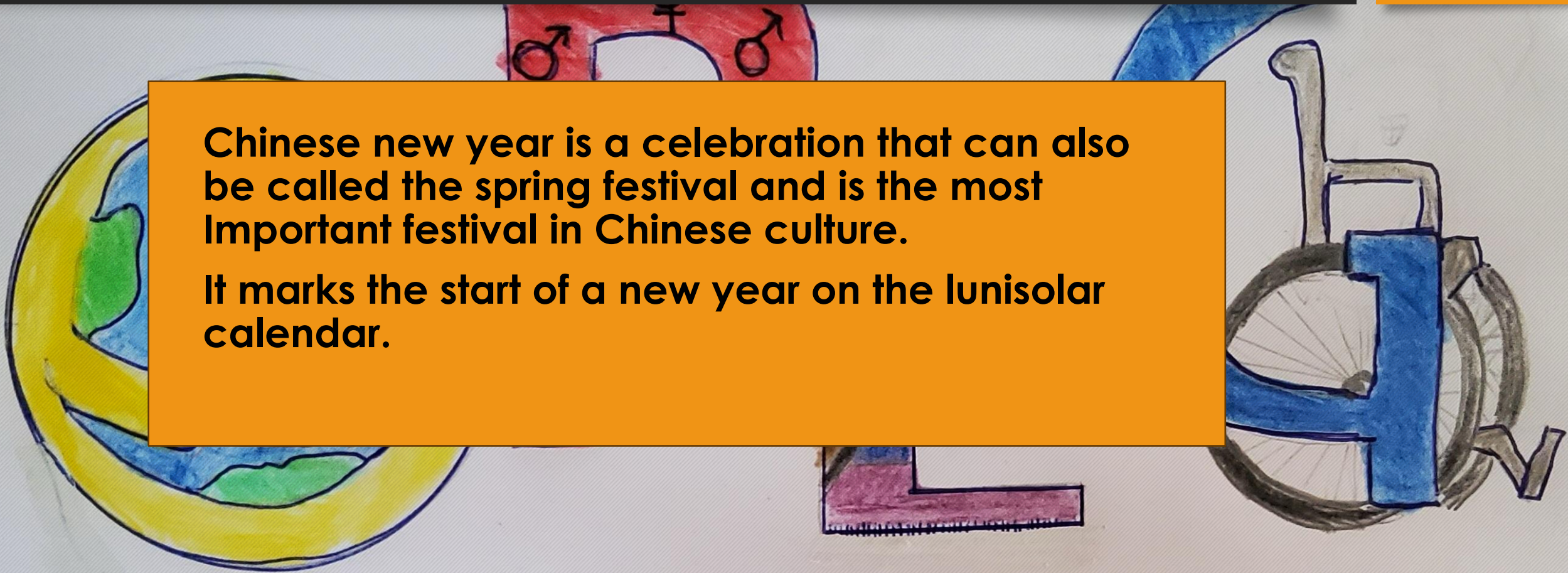
Chinese New Year



What is Chinese new year?

Chinese new year is a celebration that can also be called the spring festival and is the most Important festival in Chinese culture.

It marks the start of a new year on the lunisolar calendar.



Do you know what the
Great race is?

Watch

This year is
the year of
the horse.



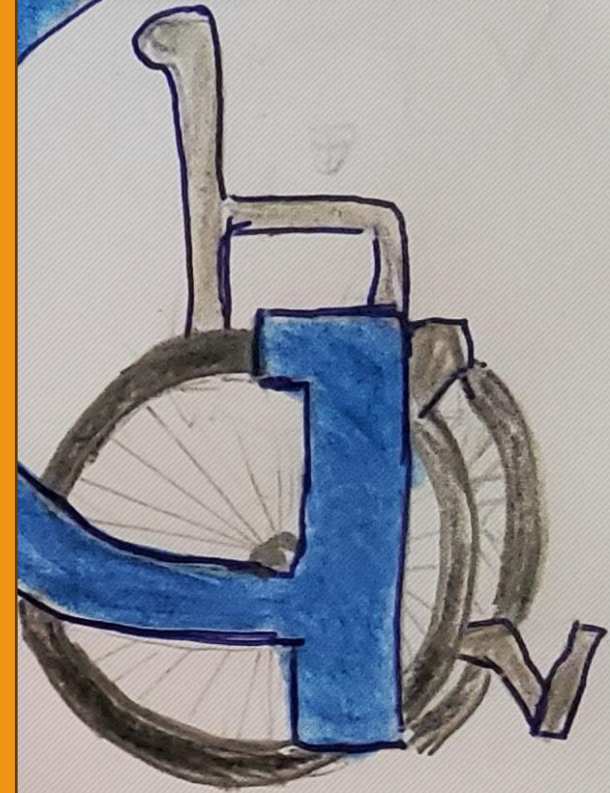
Traditions

Giving money in red envelopes to younger children.

Gathering to eat, play then go out on the streets for the dragon dance.

People put up red decorations and lanterns as they thought it would protect them from the dragon Nian.

Chinese New Year traditions started because of a dragon named Nian. People discovered that he was terrified of the colour red, bright lights and loud noises. This is why people still use red decorations and set off loud fireworks today to keep the dragon away.



Thank you
for
listening



Our top 5 calendar events for March



**Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week
16th-20th**

This week celebrates how differences are recognised and respected.

We think, move, process information and communicate in different ways.

Neurodiversity can be conditions such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Autism and ADHD.

Neurodiversity is about recognising those who think differently. We can all benefit from different thinkers!



International Women's Day 8th

This is a global day to-

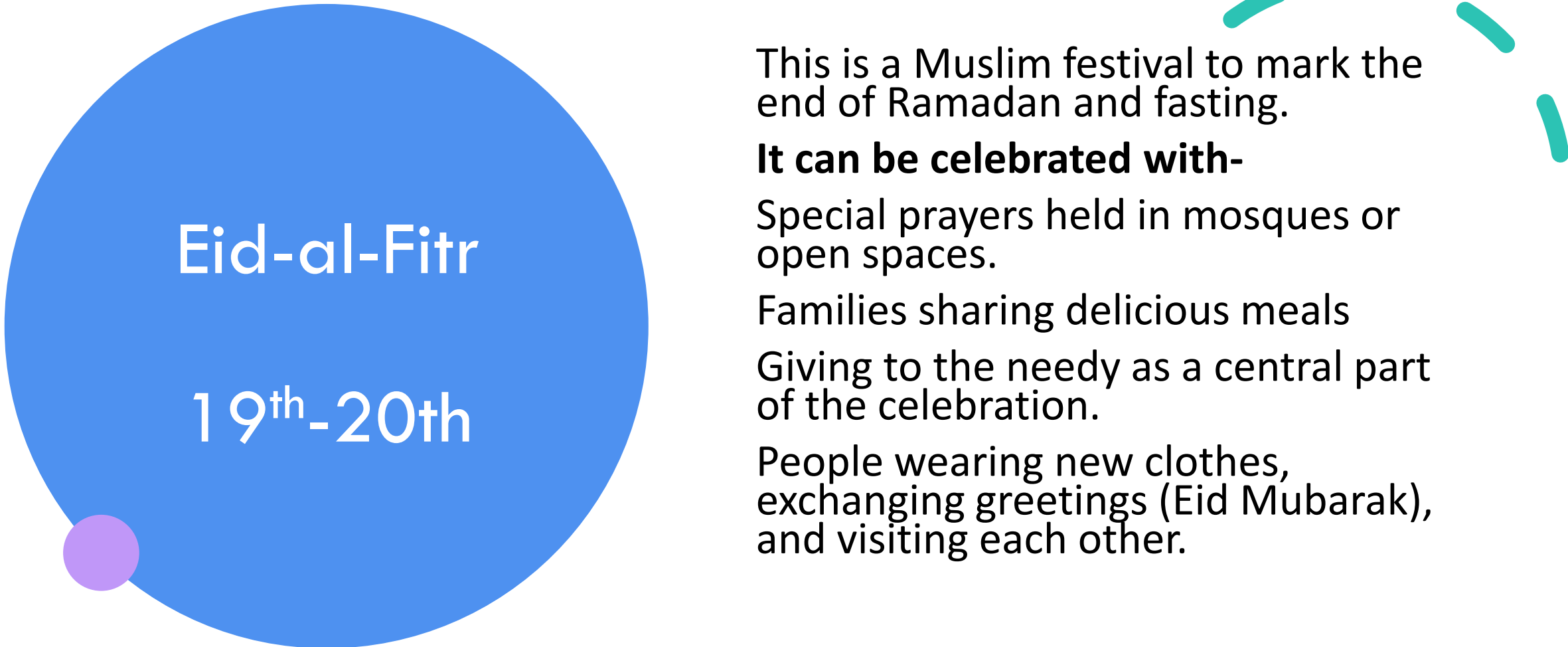
- celebrate women's achievements
- educate and raise awareness about women's equality
- raise money for women focused charities



International Day of Remembrance of the victims of slavery- 25th

This day is about remembering the horrible way that people from Africa used to be bought, sold and treated terribly as slaves by white people.

The day also remembers the law being passed in the UK making slavery of people from Africa illegal.



Eid-al-Fitr

19th-20th

This is a Muslim festival to mark the end of Ramadan and fasting.

It can be celebrated with-

Special prayers held in mosques or open spaces.

Families sharing delicious meals

Giving to the needy as a central part of the celebration.

People wearing new clothes, exchanging greetings (Eid Mubarak), and visiting each other.



International Women's Day- 8th March

**This is a global day to-
celebrate women's
achievements**

- educate and raise awareness
about women's equality**
- call for positive changes to
promote gender equality**
- raise money for women
focused charities**

Assemblies

We have led assemblies on-

- Black History Month
- Diwali
- International Women's Day
- Ramadan and Eid
- Chinese New Year



Mural Project



- Last year Anna York, a local artist and one of our parents, applied to Leith Chooses for funding to create a new mural at the front of our school.
- The mural is designed to reflect the school values and diversity of families in our school, so OPEG were invited to meet with Anna to share some ideas for the mural.

Free Book Donations

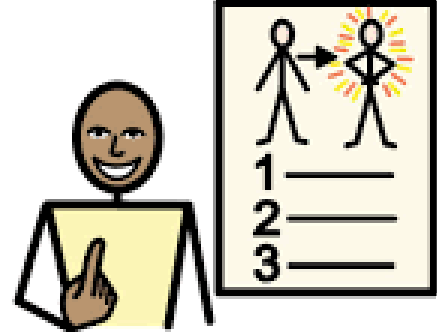


- We have been lucky enough to be sent donations of beautiful free books for all ages by Sarah, who works for a local publisher.
- OPEG help by sorting the books, choosing which class/stage should receive them, and delivering them to the classes for their libraries.

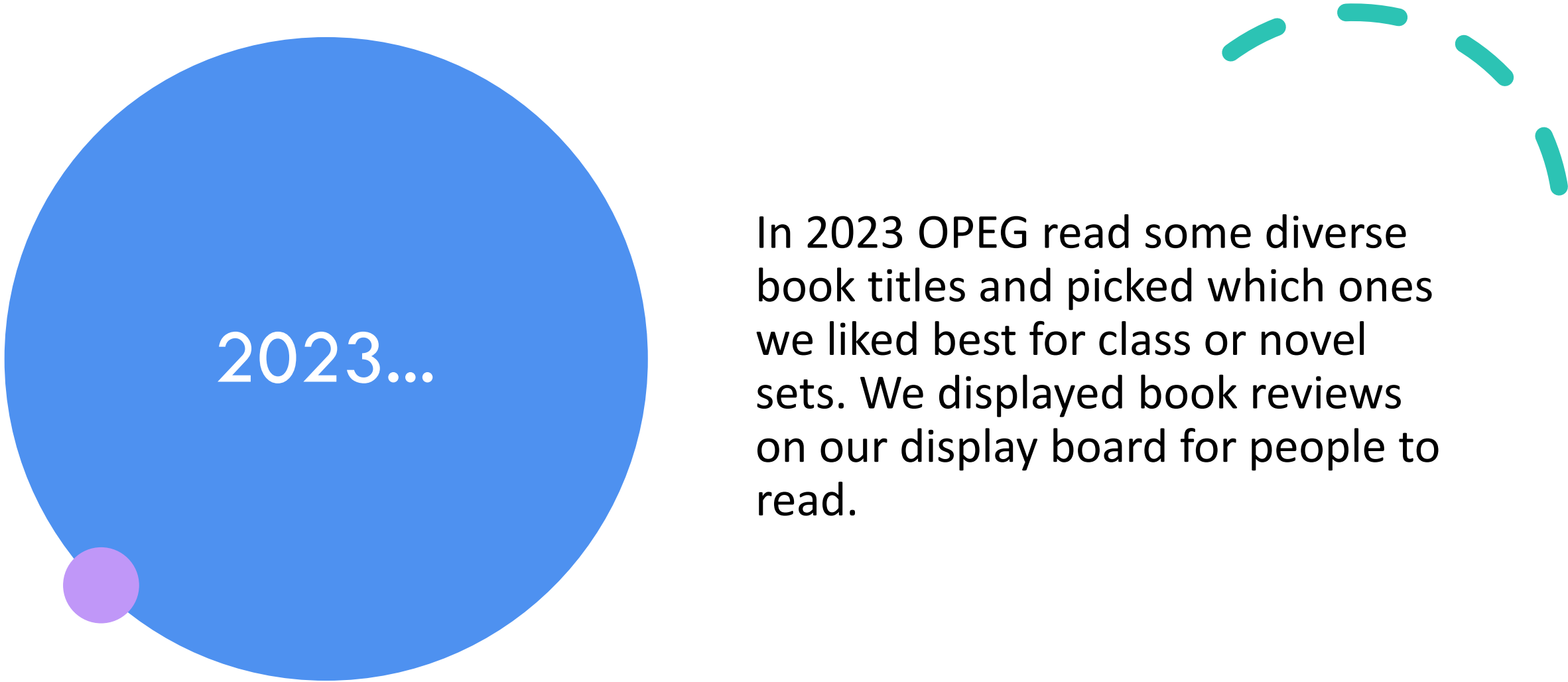




Our Diverse Books Project

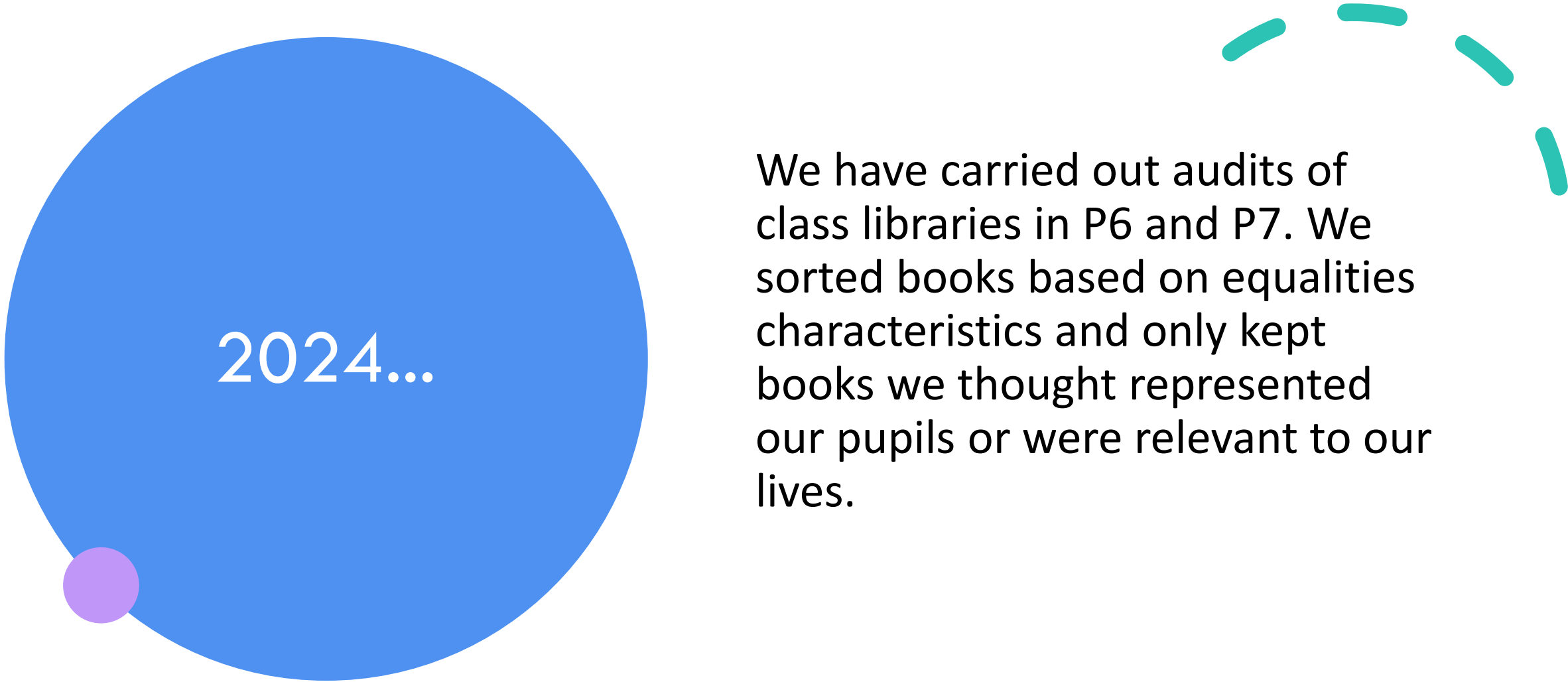


29 I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment



2023...

In 2023 OPEG read some diverse book titles and picked which ones we liked best for class or novel sets. We displayed book reviews on our display board for people to read.



2024...

We have carried out audits of class libraries in P6 and P7. We sorted books based on equalities characteristics and only kept books we thought represented our pupils or were relevant to our lives.

Here we are carrying out a library audit...





2024 contd...



We created a MS Form for children in P4-P7 to ask them if they see themselves represented in the novels and books they use in school.

These were the results...

1. When you are reading novels in school are the characters like you or your friends?

Answer	%
Lots of the Time	5%
Sometimes	40%
Not very much	30%
Never	23%

2. Have you read a novel that includes characters which are...

Answer	%
Black or ethnic minority	21%
Disabled	19%
LGBTQ+	10%
Showing different gender roles	21%
None of the above	27%

3. Tick any of the books below if you have read them in school.

Answer	%
Planet Omar- Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian	32%
Planet Omar- Incredible Rescue Mission By Zanib Mian	24%
The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen	23%
A Dangerous Game by Malorie Blackman	15%
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes	3%

What we thought of the results...

- We want these numbers to be higher
- Lots of books don't have an equalities theme- we also noticed this doing our class library audits
- We want everyone to see themselves and their friends in the books they read in school
- We need a wider range of reading books in school!



2024 contd...



We looked through the list of recommended Equalities themed novels and picked some for Early, First and Second Level. This was our wish list of new novels.



2024 contd...



We applied for an Anti- Racist Small Grants Fund to buy the books from our wish list. We were awarded £500 and ordered some of the books from our wish list.



2024 contd...



We launched the new books we bought at assembly and shared the results of the survey too.

Lots of children in the assembly said they were interested in the new books and were keen to read them!

Here we are launching our books!





November 2025 vs May 2026

In term 1 P4-P7 did a survey about reading in school.

As part of the survey pupils were asked if they had read any of the newer diverse titles.

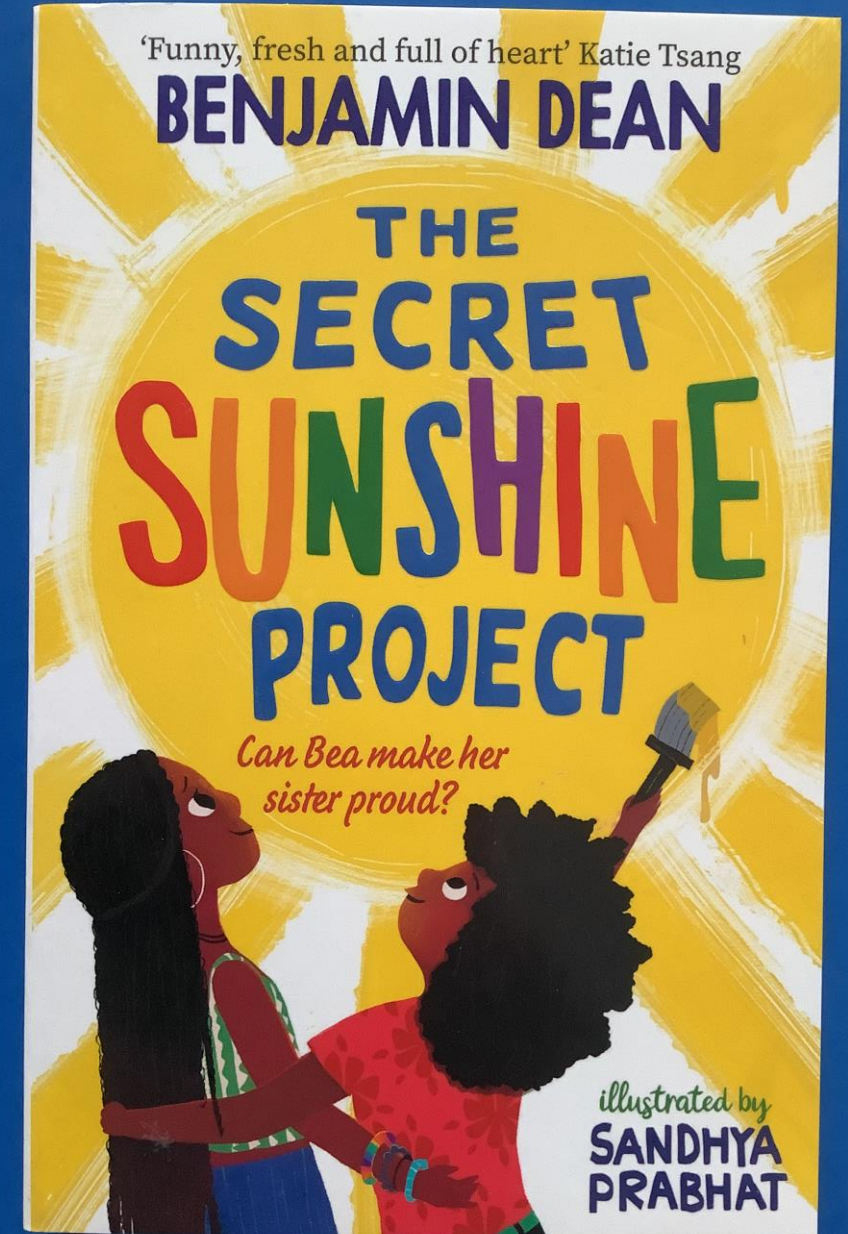
We re-issued the survey in May to see how the engagement in the new books had changed.

Here are how the results compare.

The Secret Sunshine Project by Benjamin Dean

November 7%

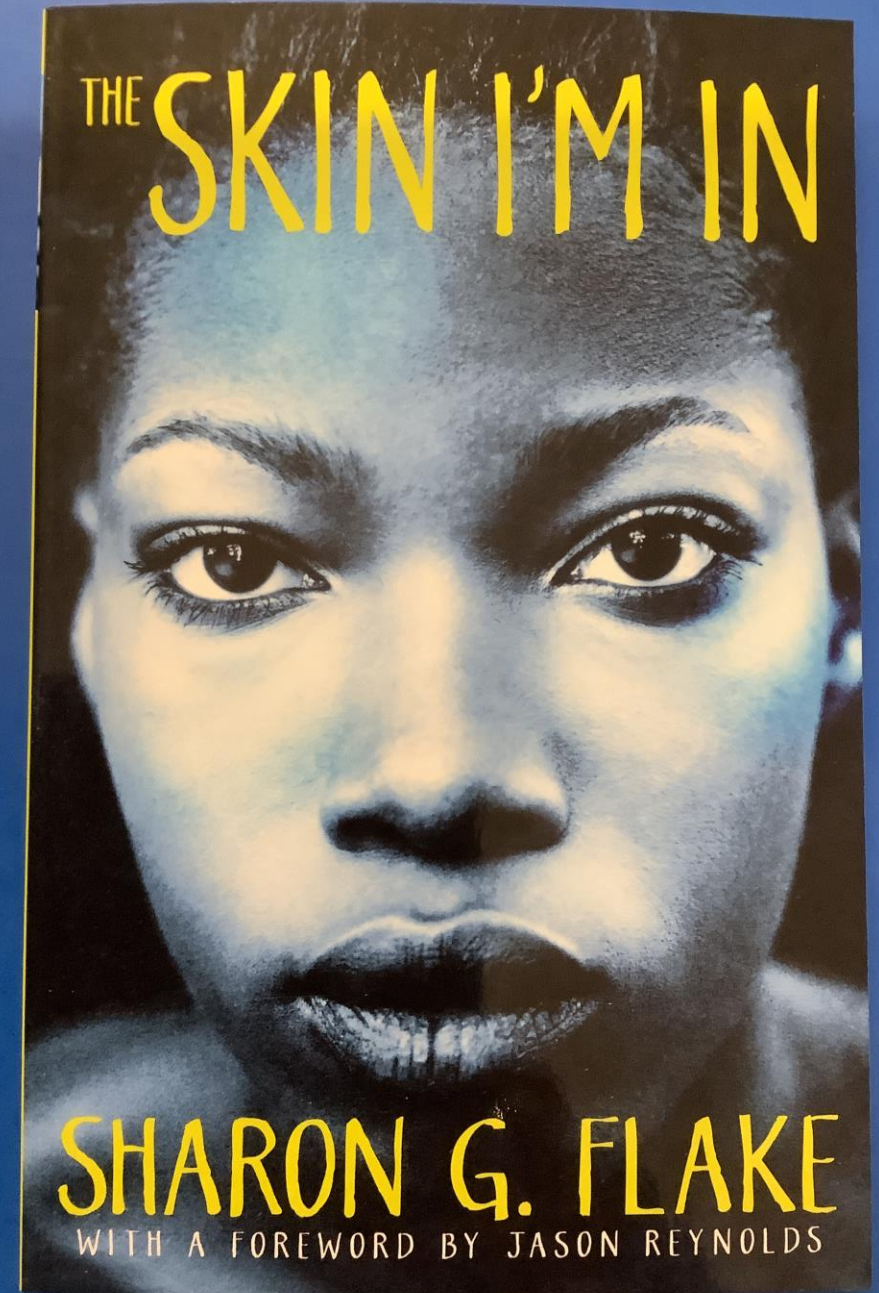
May 19%



The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake

November 16%

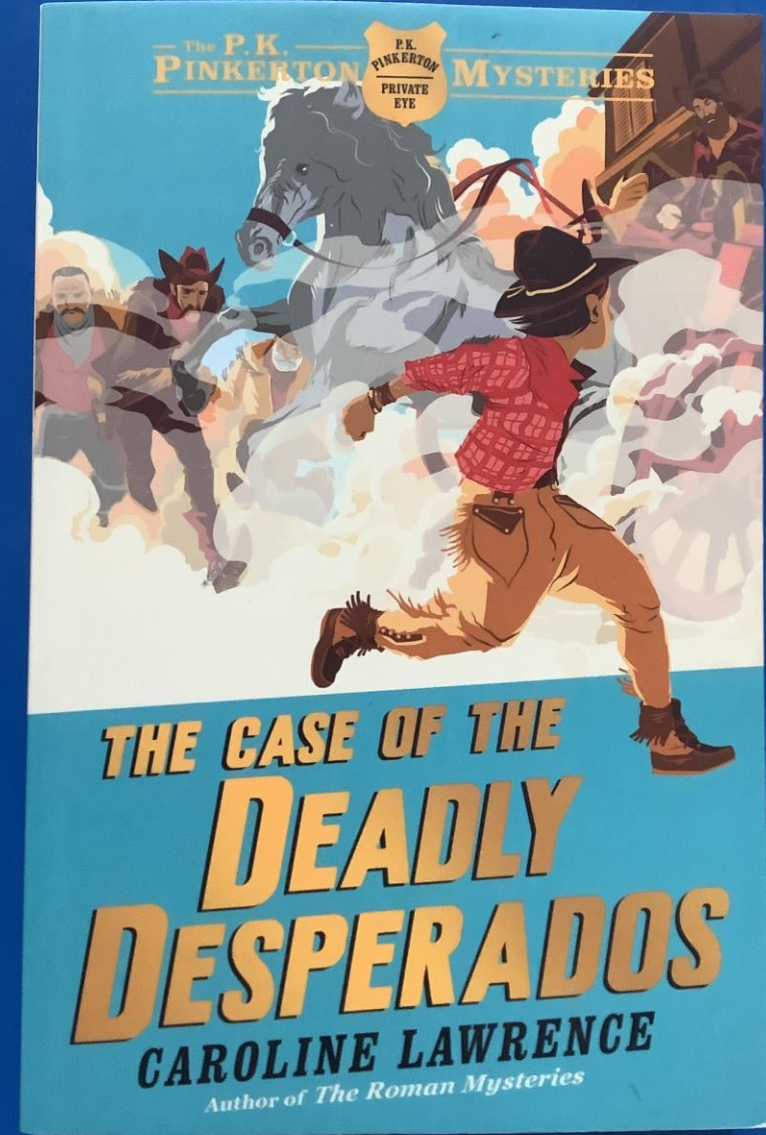
May 19%



The Deadly Desperados by Caroline Lawrence

November 8%

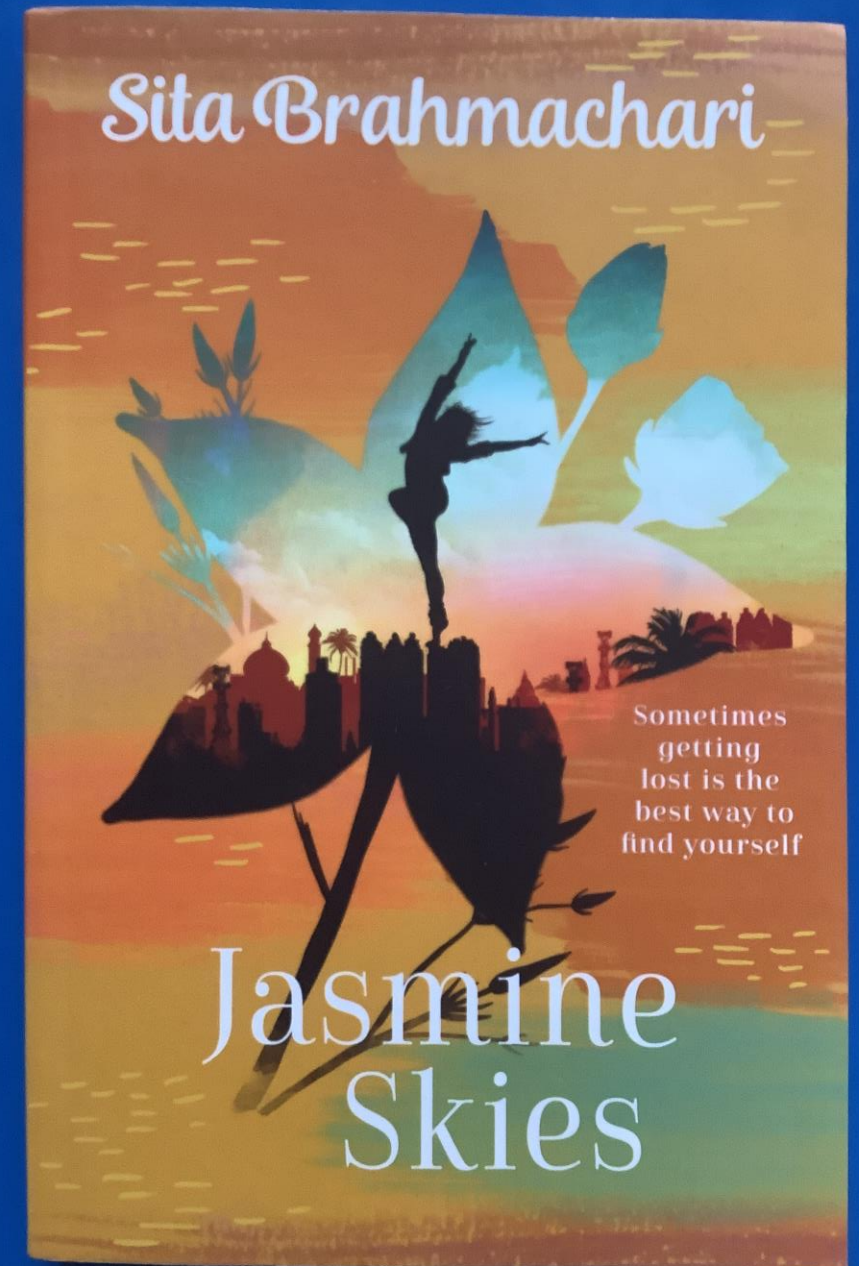
May 25%



Jasmine Skies by Sila Brahmachari

November 5%

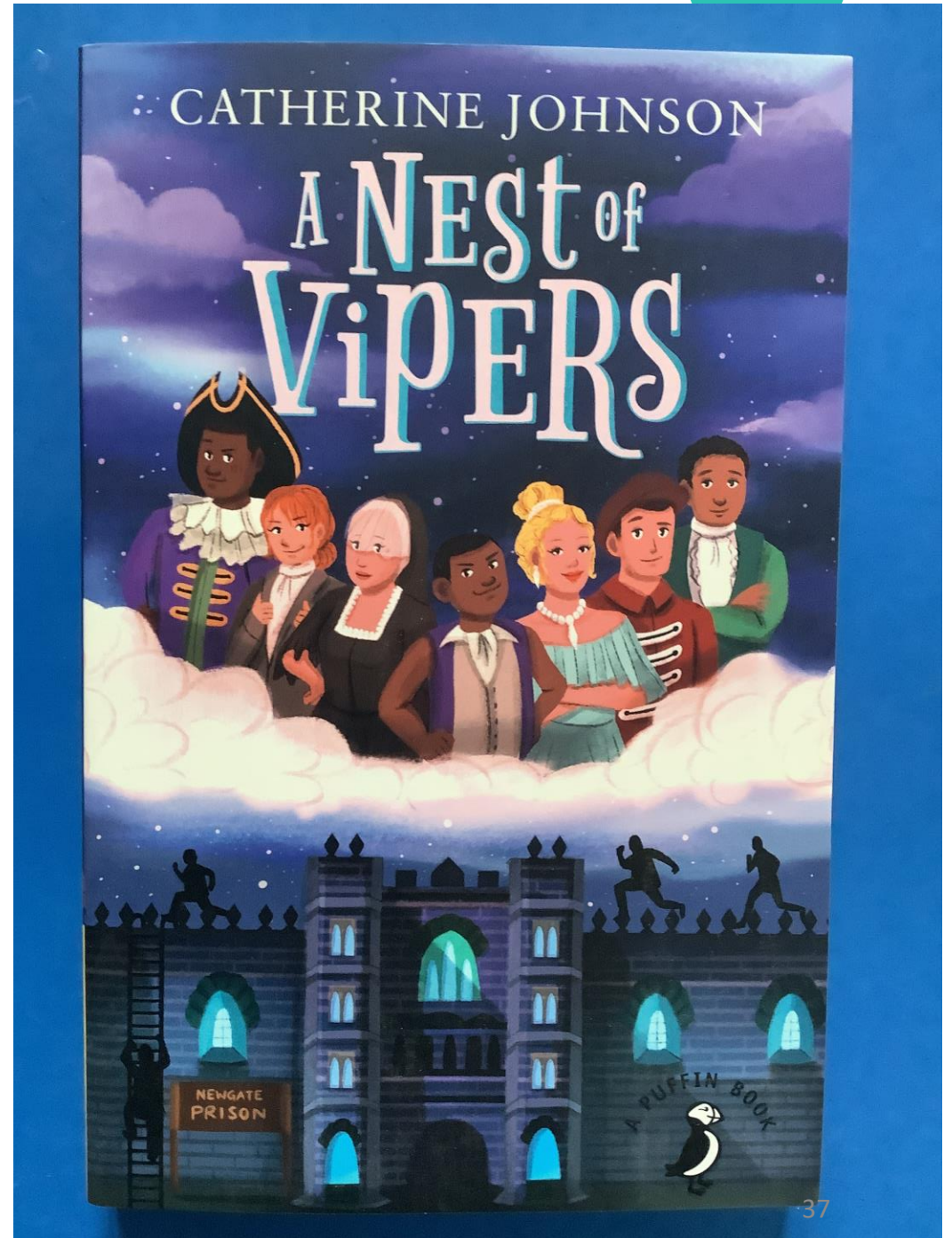
May 5%



A Nest of Vipers by Catherine Johnson

November 7%

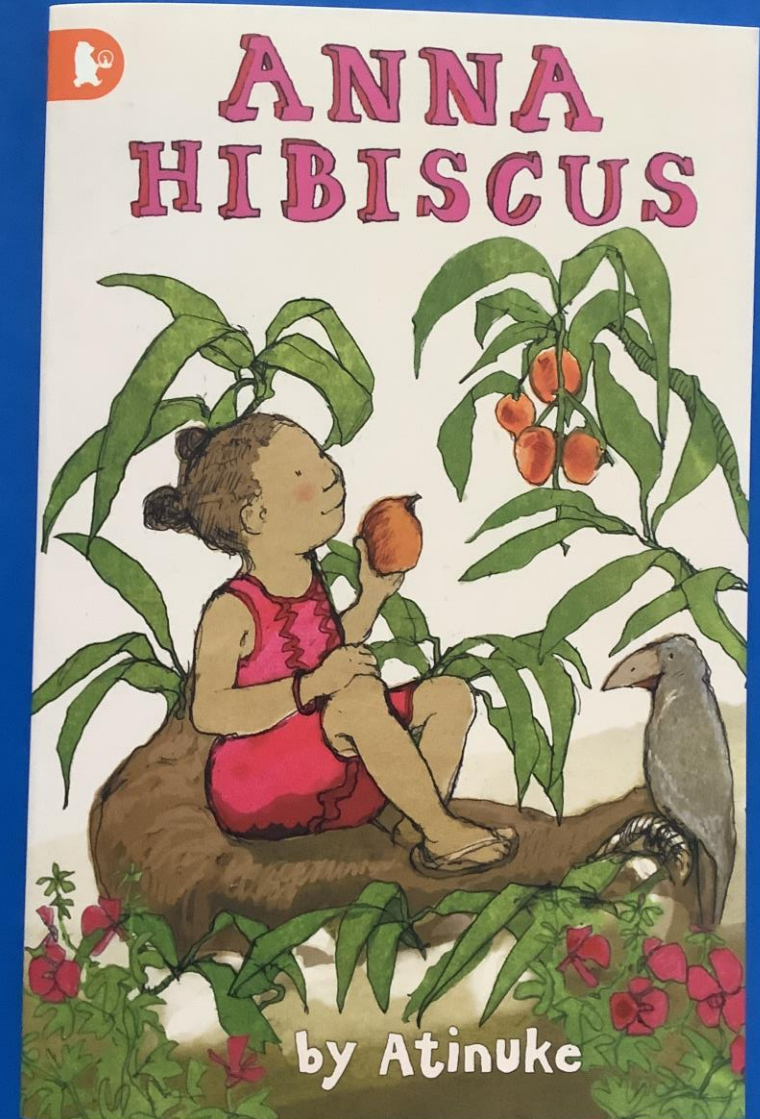
May 41%



Anna Hibiscus
by Atinuke

November 28%

May 44%

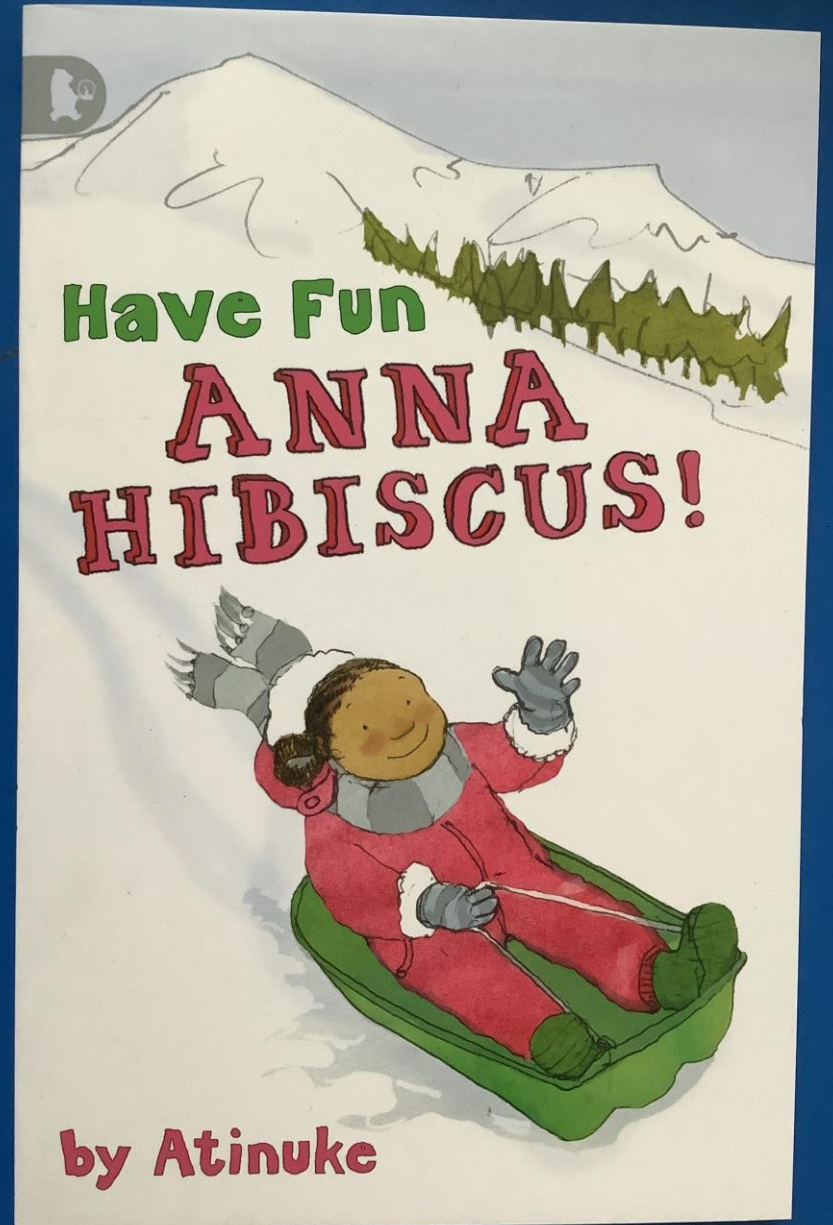


Have Fun Anna Hibiscus!

by Atinuke

November 17%

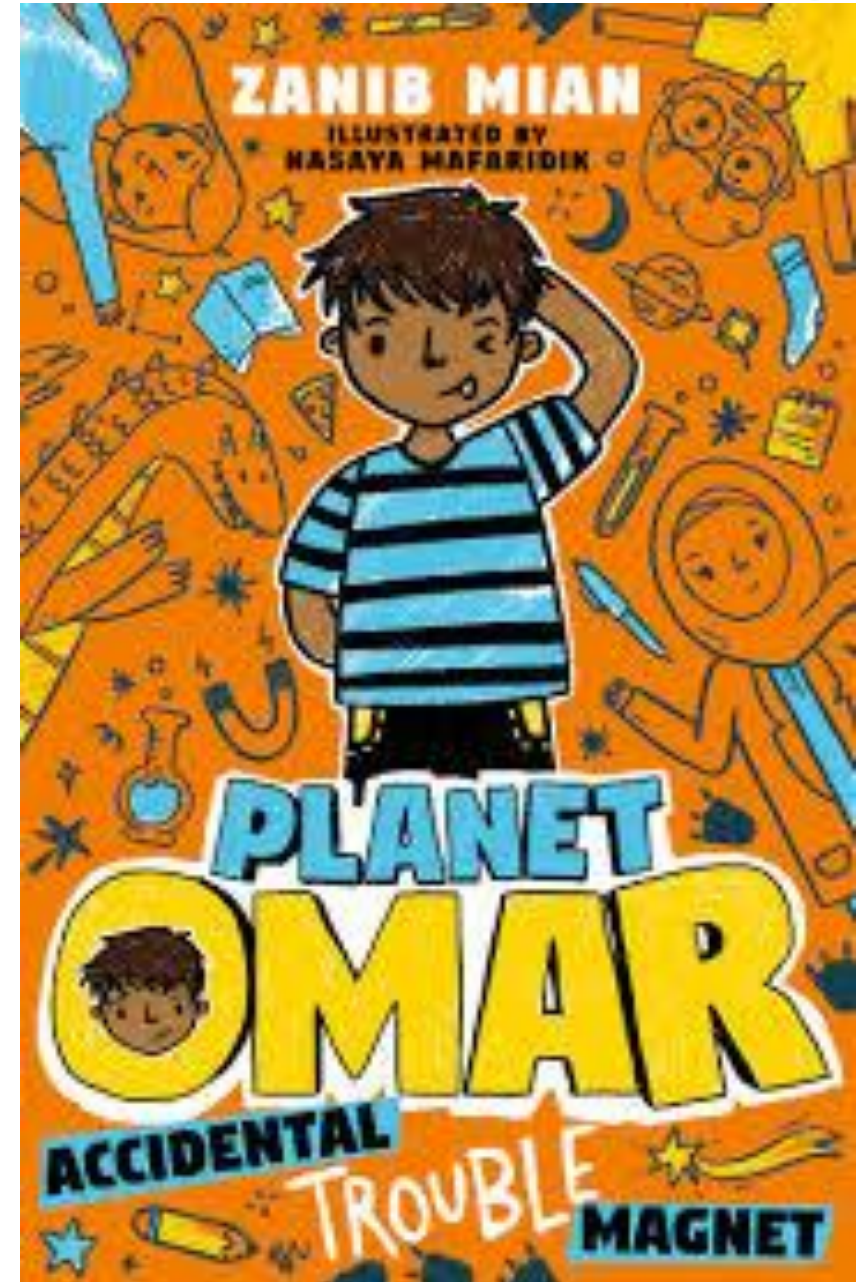
May 22%



Planet Omar- Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian

November 34%

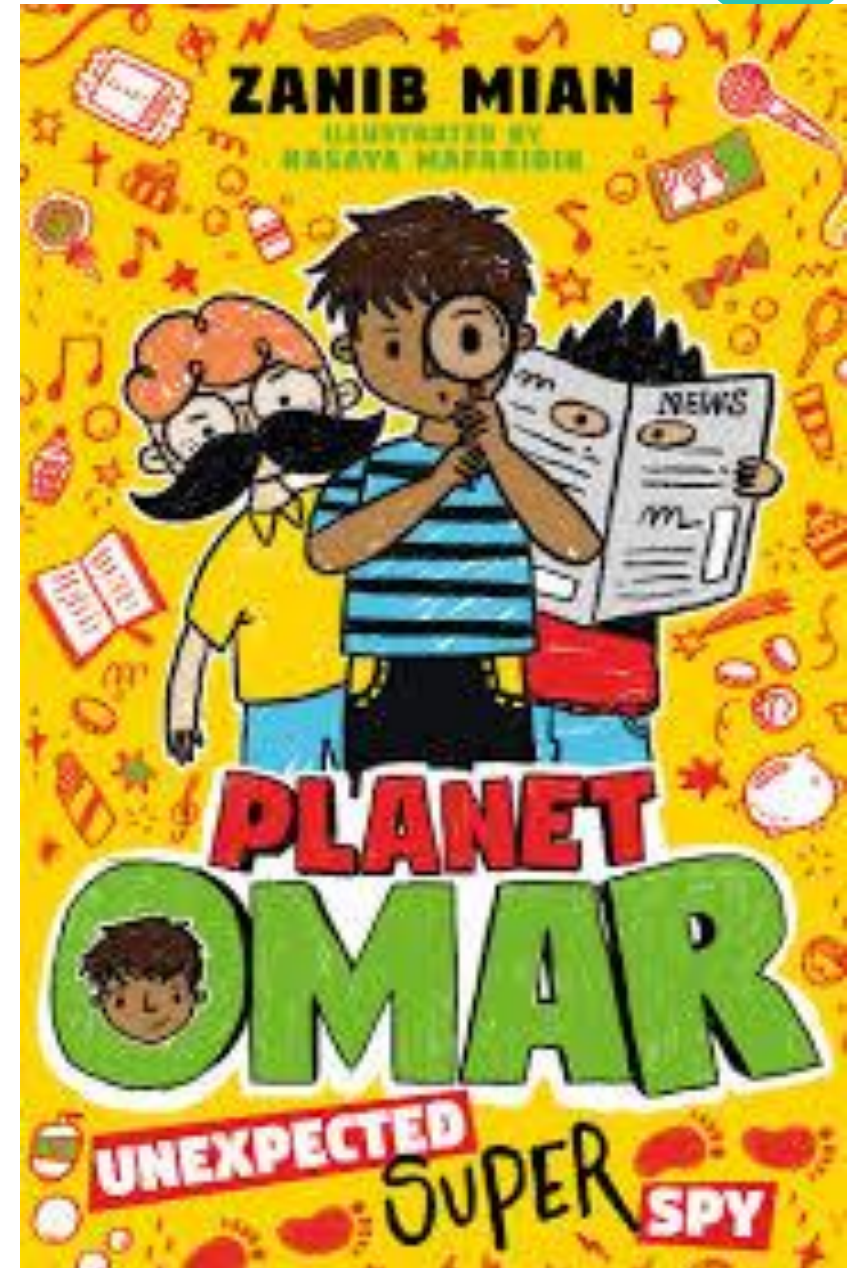
May 53%



Planet Omar- Unexpected Super Spy by Zanib Mian

November 11%

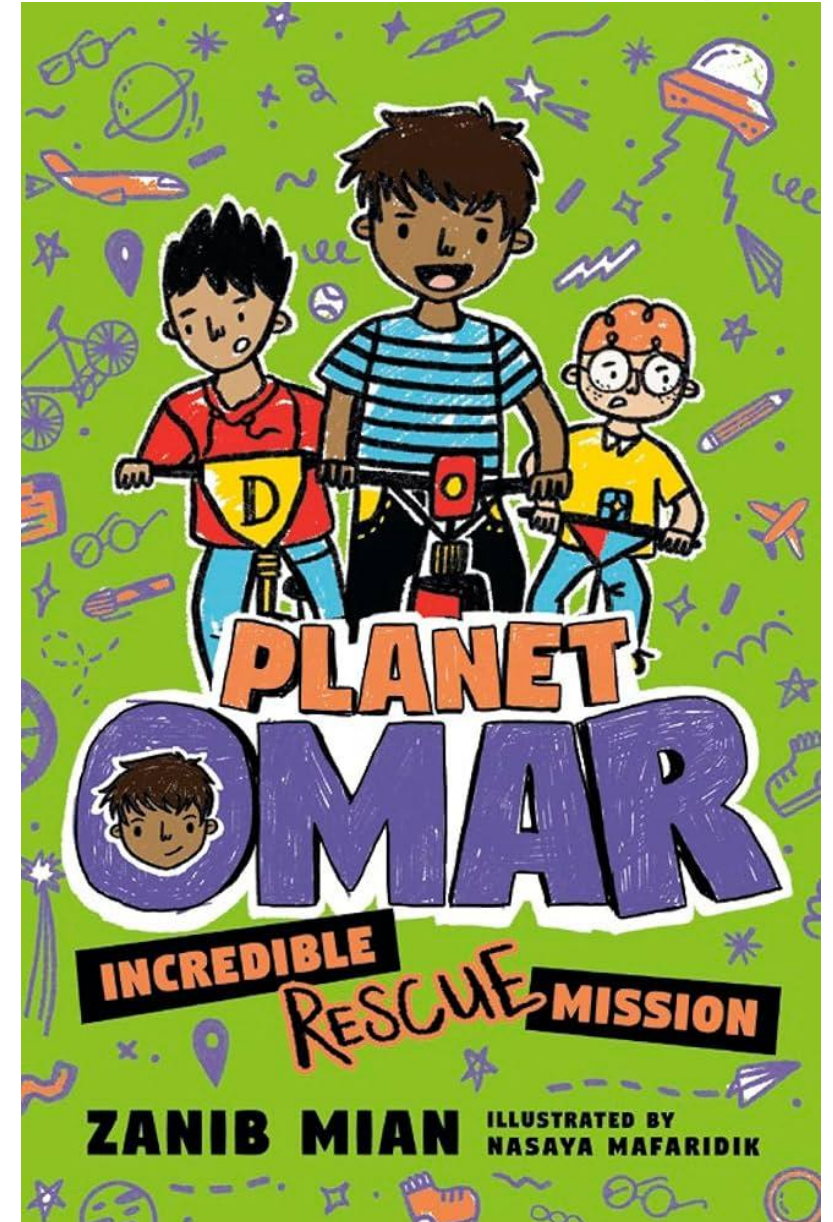
May 26%



Planet Omar- Incredible Rescue Mission by Zanib Mian

November 20%

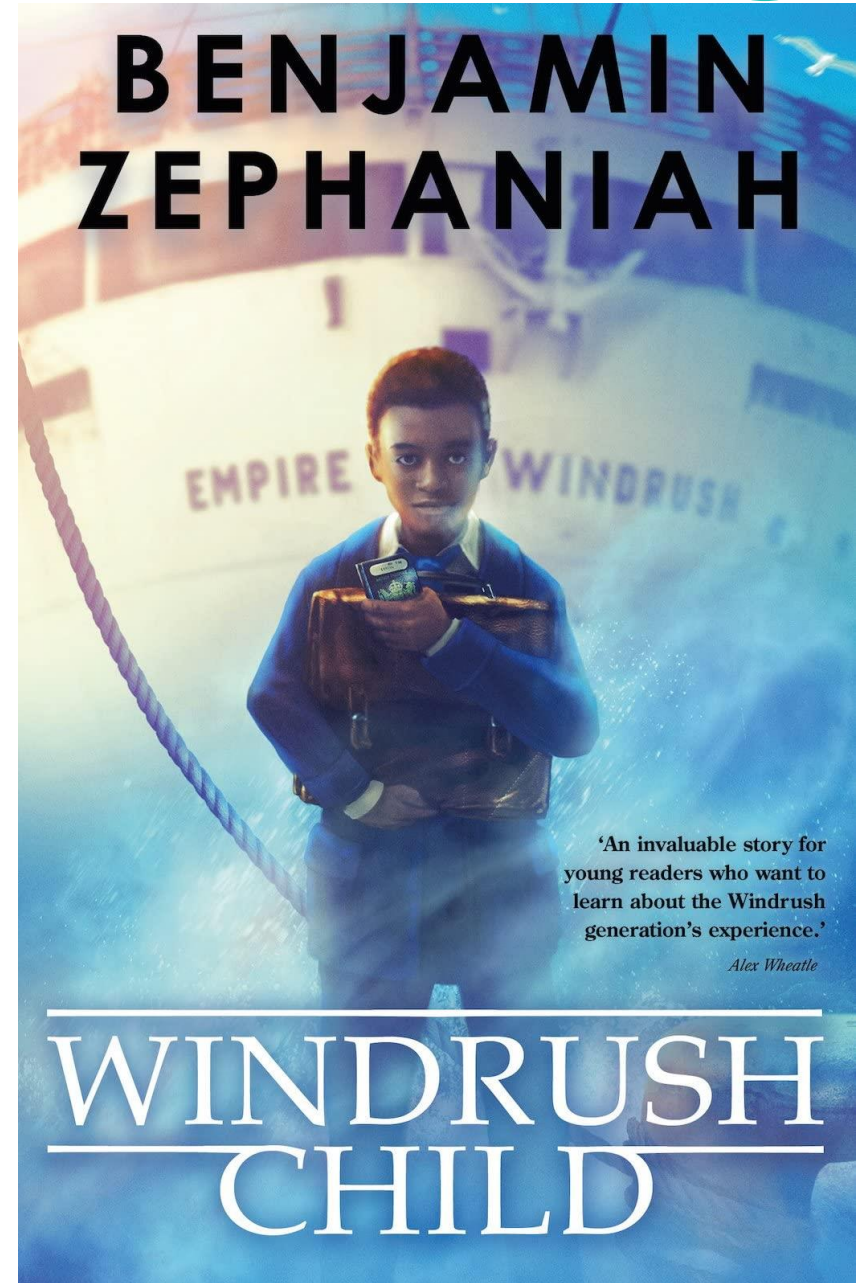
May 26%



Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah

November 3%

May 10%



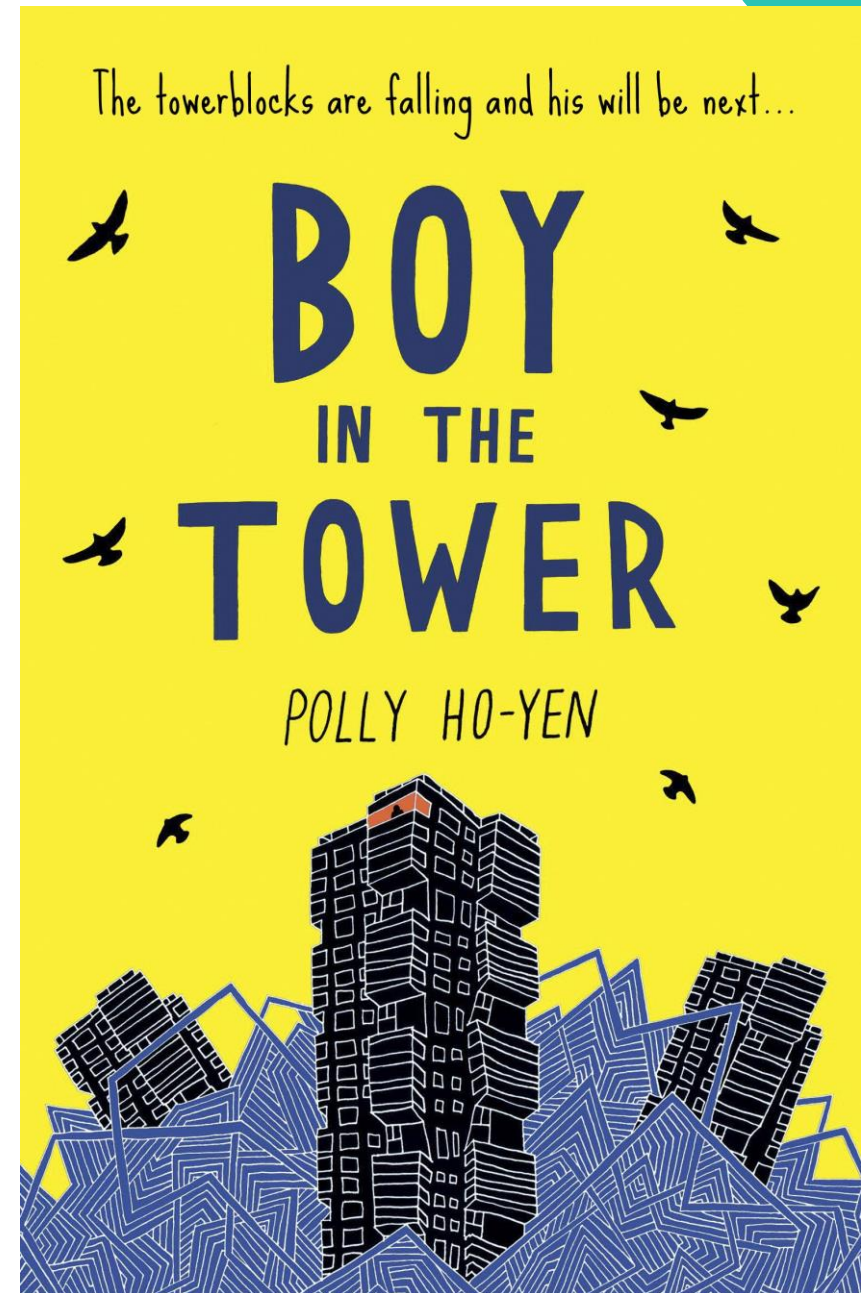
'An invaluable story for young readers who want to learn about the Windrush generation's experience.'

Alex Wheatle

The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

November 15%

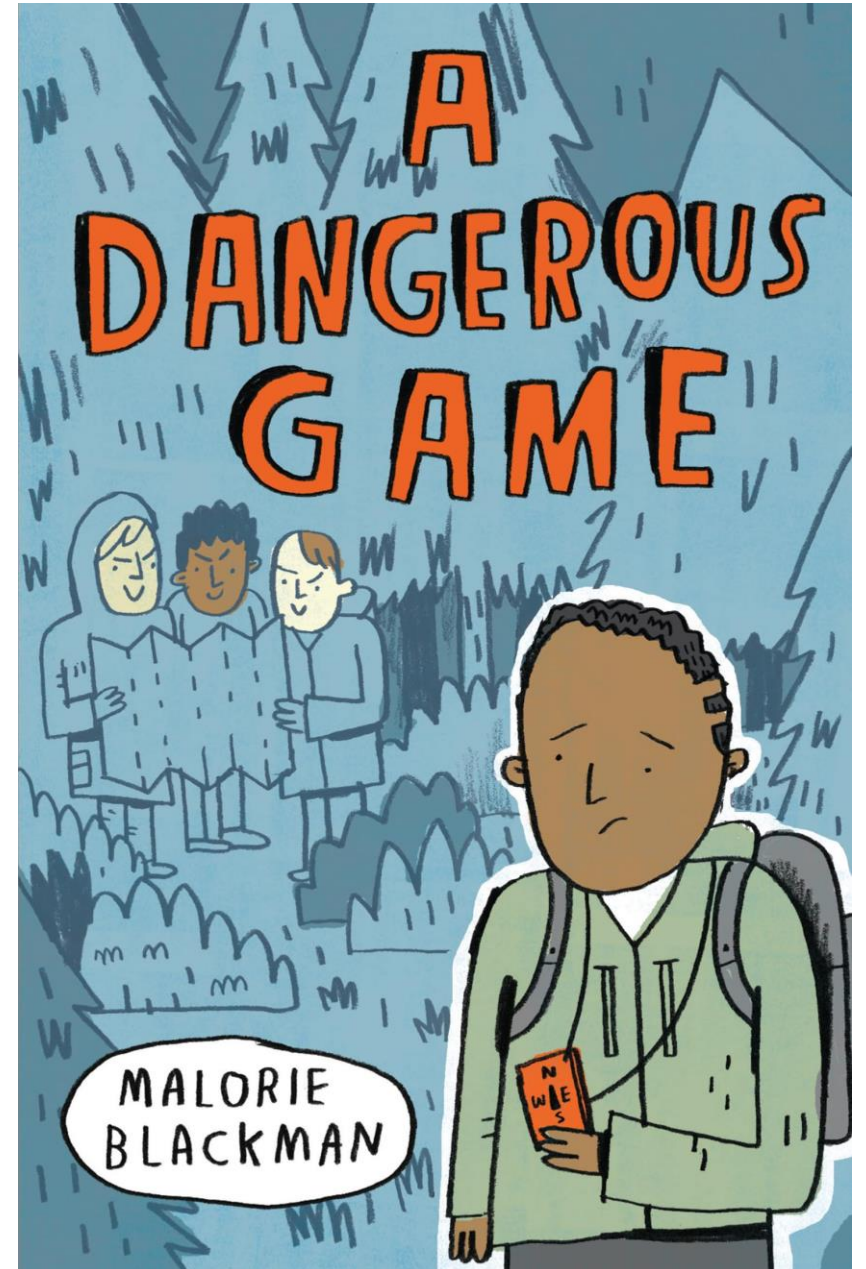
May 34%



A Dangerous Game by Malorie Blackman

November 41%

May 46%





What we did
that we think
helped
improve the
engagement

...

Encouraged our teachers to let us
pick our novels

Re-launched or share the stories
at assembly by reading the blurb

Recommend books to other
friends



Here's an
example of
how we did
that...

- We've asked our teachers to give us more choice when picking novels.
- We've started to relaunch the novels at assembly to try and encourage more children to pick these books.

We read the blurb and shared quotes of praise for the book.

See the following slides for our first example...



Some book reviews...

‘A life affirming must read’
The Independent newspaper

‘One of the most joyful books
you’ll read this year’
The Bookseller website



‘Joyful, funny and heartfelt’
Katie Tsang, author

‘This joyful book has such heart,
expertly navigating serious
subjects. I’d recommend this book
to all readers. A real tear jerker!’
Stephen Butler, author

‘A joyful and thoughtful
celebration of family, identity and
inclusivity’
Anna James, author



Other OPEG success! June 2024

We were selected to present at a Young People's Equalities Event at the City Chambers in June 2024.

The children presented a summary of OPEG's work to other CEC schools, and attended a workshop called 'Councillors for One Day' where they considered how derogatory language use can be effectively addressed in school settings and allow them to have their own voices heard.

The following slide has some photos of our OPEG reps at this event.



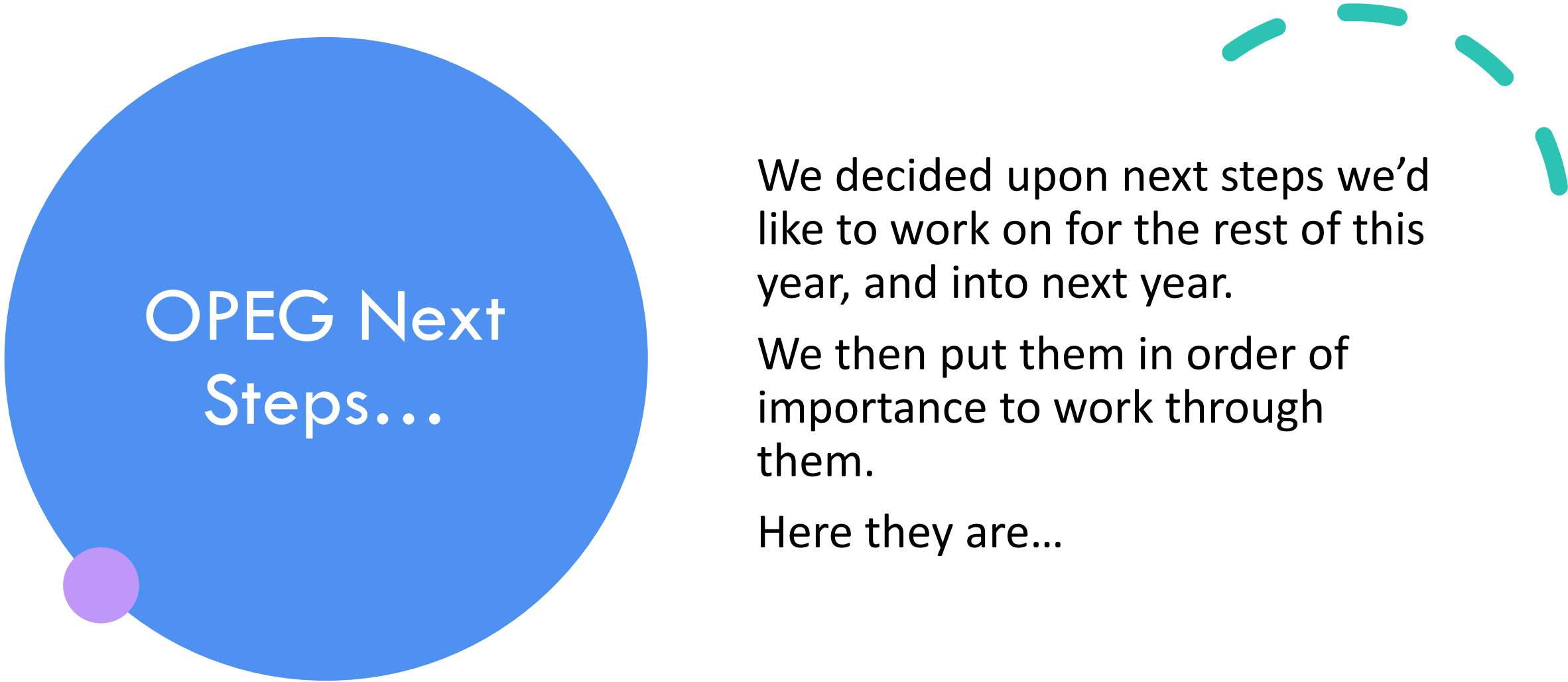
P1 Transition Event

Each year OPEG are invited to attend the P1 Transition event for new P1 families in June.

We have a stall where we can talk to parents and carers about some of the work we have been doing throughout the year and show any resources or changes we have helped make happen.

This gives us a chance to reflect on our work. We are proud to share our ideas with others.





OPEG Next Steps...

We decided upon next steps we'd like to work on for the rest of this year, and into next year.

We then put them in order of importance to work through them.

Here they are...



Help to create a new Equalities policy for our school

Over the course of this year we will be working alongside our classes, staff, parents and carers to create a new set of guidelines on how we promote equalities in our school. We will get the chance to visit or host Abbeyhill Primary School's equalities group as part of this work.



1. Install suggestions trays/boxes in classes

We discussed different ways we can collect the ideas of our class to bring to meetings and decided each class should have a tray or box with slips that our classmates can write down ideas and put in the tray or box so we can discuss them at our meetings.

We'll discuss how P2 can do this with the P2 teachers.



2. Complete class library audits

We have checked and removed books we don't think are suitable from around half the classroom libraries in school, so we would like to continue to check the other rooms now!



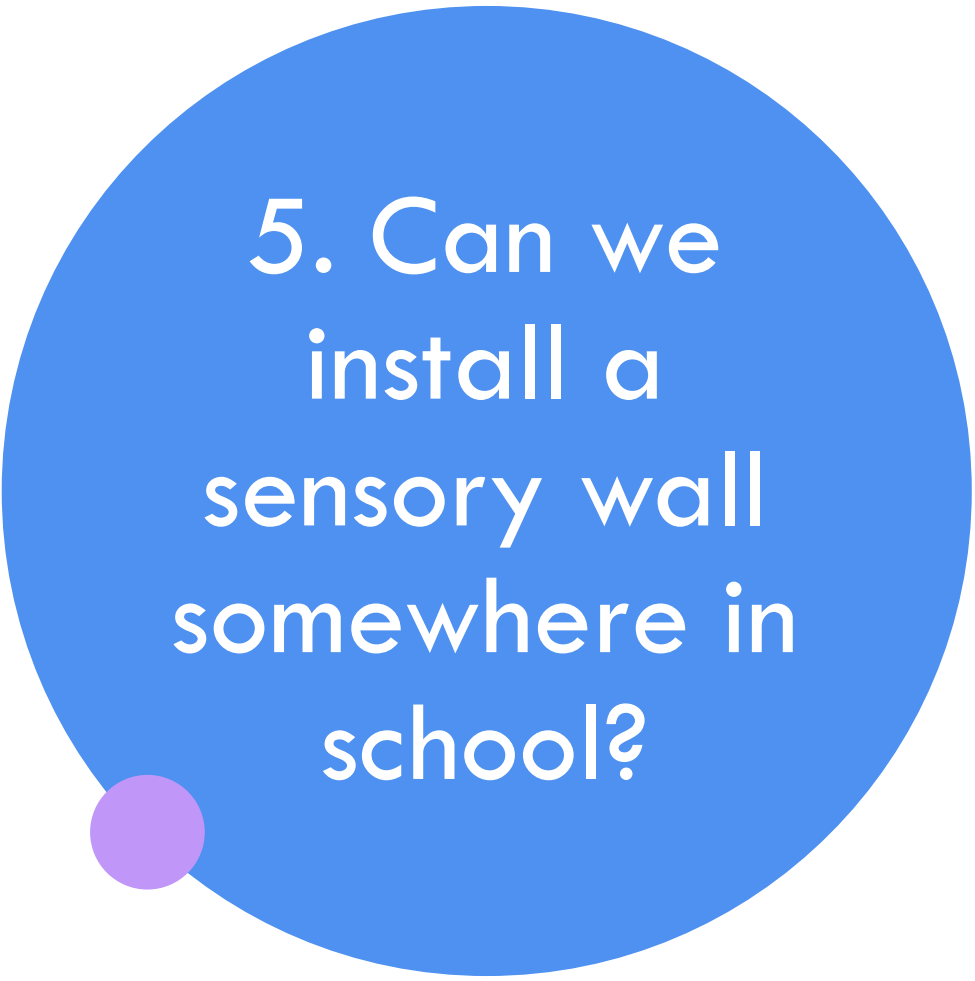
3. Assembly on equality for people with disabilities

We have held assemblies on religious festivals and celebrations, but this is an area we would like to spend a bit more time raising awareness of.



4. Look at ways we can address accessibility in school

Our school is a wonderful Victorian building, with grand staircases, which means lots of steps! We would like to look at ways we can make the school or gym hall more accessible for people who may find stairs a challenge.



5. Can we install a sensory wall somewhere in school?

A sensory wall is an interactive, wall display that helps connect with the senses—mostly touch, sight, and hearing. It encourages children to explore, improves fine motor skills, and can help to calm children who may be feeling anxious or overwhelmed. We would like to investigate if and where a wall like this could go in school.



6. Continue to promote anti-racist messages

Through an assembly we'd like to remind everyone that the things we say and do can affect how others feel, and that we will not accept others to be made fun of or insulted because of their race, culture or religion.



7. Assembly to raise awareness of gender equality

Through an assembly we'd like to remind everyone that people should not be discriminated against just because they are male or female.



8. Assembly on the school value of 'Respect'

Through an assembly we'd like to raise awareness of the importance of respect as a school value, and different ways respect can and should be shown.