

Shine a light

on...

Democracy



Autumn 1 Half term

Democracy is "government of, by and for the people".

Abraham Lincoln

What the bible says about democracy

"Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you." Deuteronomy 1:13

The strength and richness of democracy lie in the harmony of diverse voices, not the dominance of one.

— Aloo Denish Obiero



This term, children have been introduced to the idea of democracy, which means 'rule by the people'. The word comes from Ancient Greece, where democracy began over 2,500 years ago.

In a democracy, people have a say in how things are run by voting — whether that's choosing leaders or making important decisions. In many parts of the world, people have worked hard to gain the right to vote. For example, in the UK, women were only given the right to vote just over 100 years ago, and in South Africa, black people were allowed to vote for the first time in 1994. In some countries today, people still don't have the right to vote, so it's important to understand how valuable this freedom is.

To explore democracy in action, pupils have taken part in elections for our school council and house captains. Every child had the chance to vote, showing how everyone's voice can be heard and how shared decisions can be made fairly.

But why does it matter? Learning about democracy isn't just about history — it helps children develop important life skills. By taking part in voting, pupils begin to understand fairness, respect for others' opinions, and how to make choices that affect a wider group. These are key values that support both learning and personal development.

How can you let your light shine through democracy this week?

Democracy is one of the key British Values that schools promote, alongside mutual respect, individual liberty, the rule of law, and tolerance of different beliefs. These values help children to grow into thoughtful, responsible citizens who care about their communities and understand the importance of working together.

Our newly elected school council and house captains will soon begin their roles. They will be sharing ideas from their classmates, helping to organise events, and working with staff to improve school life. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to grow as thoughtful leaders — showing responsibility, compassion, and respect, and helping others in a spirit of service and care.

These values reflect the spiritual heart of our school, where every child is encouraged to use their voice and gifts to make a difference. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make as they lead with kindness, courage, and a sense of purpose.



Homework activities

Choose one out of the 2 homework activities given below. It is to be handed in Friday 10th October.

Experience democracy in action by involving the whole family in a fun and meaningful activity! You could hold a family vote on something enjoyable — such as what to have for dinner, which film to watch, or a weekend outing. Every family member gets one vote, and the majority decision wins!

Alternatively, try a family debate. Choose a light-hearted topic like "Should school start later?" or "Should pets be allowed in classrooms?" Give everyone a chance to share their opinion and explain their reasoning. After the discussion, reflect together on how important it is to listen respectfully and to ensure that every voice is heard — key values in any democracy.

Afterwards, write a short paragraph telling us what you did and what you learned. You could even include photos of your family taking part!

Imagine you are running for a position on the school council. What would you stand for? What changes would you like to see in school? What ideas do you have to make school life even better for everyone?

Your task is to write your own mini manifesto — a clear and persuasive statement of your promises, goals, and values as a leader. You might want to include:

- A short introduction about who you are
- What qualities make you a good leader
- The key issues you care about
- The changes or improvements you would try to make
- Why others should vote for you

You can present your manifesto as a written speech or design it as a campaign leaflet with headings, bullet points, and even drawings or slogans to make it eye-catching.

Be creative, confident, and convincing — just like a real candidate!