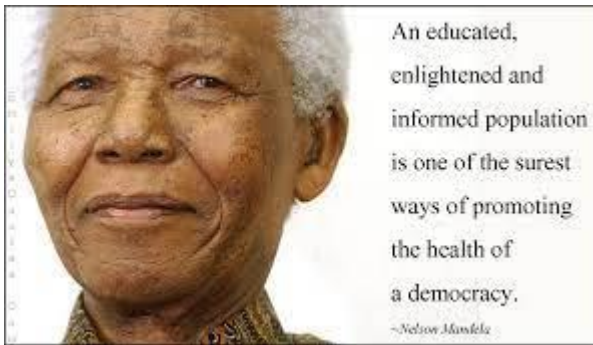


# Shine a light

## on... **Democracy**



1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> October



Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. **1 Peter 2:13-17**

What the bible says about democracy

Democracy means 'rule by the people'. It comes from the Greek words **Dêmos**, which means people, and **krátos** which means rule or strength. This is because the idea of democracy developed in Greece in about 507 BC.

A democracy is a leadership that is run by the people. In a democracy, people voice their opinions by voting on important issues and/or by voting on who they think should lead.

The UK's democracy is a system of government with four special features:

- Protects the human rights of all citizens.
- Allows people a way of choosing and replacing their representatives through free and fair elections.
- Depends on laws, which apply equally to all citizens.
- Encourages citizens to participate in politics and community life.

In school, we have shown democracy by holding elections for school council and the leadership of our houses. All pupils in school have been involved in the decision.

There are several ways you can get involved in democracy. If you would like to share how you've done this, email your class teacher and you will get 5 House Points. It could even be shared in celebration assembly!

Not all family decisions are negotiable, but many of them can be. Why not hold a vote the next time you have a family decision to make. This could be about what film to watch next or what game that you will all play together. Every decision made like this helps to learn skills essential for a democracy, like cooperation, compromise, negotiation, and consensus building.

*Have more than one source of news and information available at home. Exposure to information about the world from a variety of sources, such as newspapers and magazines as well as television, the radio and the Internet, helps us to learn to differentiate opinion from fact – an important skill in a democratic population.*

A key idea of democracy is that individuals seek to improve things for the future. This can be helped by better understanding the world around us. We can start by creating a drawing of “inter-being.” Start by drawing a snack you enjoy, or an activity that you love. From there “draw around it all the things that make that possible. For food: the sun, rain, the earth, plants, farmers, animals, etc.” Include pictures or symbols to represent the companies that package and distribute the snack, the stores that carry it, and the money used to buy it.



Share this story about a girl who did what she could to change her environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxBrz2d90kA>

*In order to expand your horizons and practise defending your own ideas, why not hold a friendly debate over the dinner table. Choose a current event and share your ideas about what has happened and why. Respectfully listen to other's ideas and formulate an opinion on the matter.*