



What's going on this week?

On the 23rd June 2016, more than 33 million people in the UK voted in the EU Referendum, with around 52% deciding to vote to leave the European Union, while 48% chose remain. The EU is a group of 28 countries who work closely together to trade and have some common laws. The UK has been part of the EU for more than 40 years.

The Referendum has caused many divisions between those who felt very passionately, either about remaining or leaving. To start the formal procedure of leaving the EU, our Prime Minister, Theresa May, needs to trigger what's known as Article 50 (which will mean that we are fully committed to leaving), she has announced that she will be doing this before the end of March.

Main question: Is Brexit worth the divide?

Listen, think, share

Ask the children what they know about Brexit. Talk about how it has been on the news regularly over the last year – why do we think it has been so talked about? Explain that the EU is a group of 28 countries in Europe that work together and the EU Referendum vote led to the start of Brexit – the UK leaving the EU. Explain that lots of people felt very strongly about either remaining or leaving the EU and often for very different reasons. According to many news stories, even in some families the difference of opinion caused huge fall outs. Over the past few months there have been many images of people protesting both for and against the referendum outcome. Ask the children if they think that it's right people should argue or fall out over a difference of opinion? Ask the children to recall a time where they may have fallen out with a friend or family member about something they couldn't agree on – how did it make them feel and how did they act? Explain that one of the reasons why Brexit has caused so many divisions, is because it will have a direct impact on people's lives and futures. Use the examples from the Assembly resource to consider the different people whose lives the vote will impact on both positively and negatively.

Reflection

As we live in a democracy, we will understand that changes may happen that might affect us - we may not have chosen or even agree with these decisions but, as a majority did, we will respect the choice and the changes it may bring.

This week...

We will try to avoid any disagreements with our family and friends over different opinions – instead we will listen to their perspectives and consider things from someone else's perspective.



KS1 Focus

Question: What are opinions and why are they important?

Listen, think, share

Play a simple game of 'Simon Says' but use physical descriptions such as: "Simon says, if you have blue eyes stand up." Ask the children why not everyone stood up every time? Discuss how we are all different. Now use an example featuring an opinion such as: Simon Says: If you don't like playing football stand up. Talk about why this is different from a physical example.

Use the KS1 resource and discuss each of the scenarios – what they would do? Talk about how there is no right or wrong answer as they are our opinions, our thoughts and feelings on a situation. Talk about how these might change and how it's very important to keep an open mind and listen to people's opinions that might be different from ours.

Reflection

We understand that although we may have a lot in common with our friends, family and people around us – we are also all different! We have different thoughts and feelings and it is important to understand that we may not always agree with others but we must respect their thoughts as we do our own.

This week...

We will respect people who think differently from us and try to see things from other people's perspectives.



KS2 Focus

Question: Is it ok to think differently from others?

Listen, think, share

Ask the children to put up their hands if they like Marmite – ask a child who likes Marmite to say why they like it and whether everyone else should like it just because they do! Talk about our differences both in appearance and opinion. Ask the children why they think people have different opinions - talk about the fact that we all have different experiences of life, things we learn from our families, experiences from sport or travel and that as we grow and learn more, we are in a greater position to form our own opinions. Look at the KS2 resource and explain that we are going to imagine standing in someone else's shoes – ask what this phrase means and why we think it is important to be able to empathise with others. Read the post-it comments and discuss possible responses that could be placed at various points on the spectrum. Discuss why people might feel that way. Explain that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and it's important that we listen – even if we don't agree we may learn something new!

Reflection

We will celebrate our differences – it's what makes the world so interesting! We will respect and listen to opinions that are different from our own.

This week...

We will take time to talk with people who are very different from ourselves – to see what we can learn!



KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Pose the question 'Should we stay in the EU?'. Ask the children to list points for and against. Share views and opinions reminding children of the need to respect each other. Show the children how to write a discussion text which considers both points of view.

Maths: Explain 52% of the country voted to leave the EU. What is percentage? How is it calculated? Why do we use it? Ask the children to take part in a quick show of hands poll using questions such as 'Should we have longer playtimes?' 'Books are better than computers.' 'Football is the best sport.' Use the poll data to calculate percentages. Extend to creating their own polls with more than two options.

Science: Consider how everyone in the classroom is different. Not just in their views, opinions and values but physically too. We all have different eyes and hair and we all are different heights. Ask children to bring in photographs of their parents. Discuss ways children may be similar and different to their parents. Introduce the word inheritance and explore in further detail about how certain features can be inherited from our parents.

Geography: Look at a map of Europe in more detail. Find the countries that are part of Europe and name them. Find Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. These countries are not part of the EU. Spend some time researching and considering their economy and why they may have chosen not to be part of it.

History: Research the history of Britain and the EU. Use 'History of the EU' in useful websites to help.

Art: Ask the children to consider emotions we deal with every day. How could these emotions be shown through art. Discuss which colours, shapes or textures could be used to show anger, happiness, frustration etc. Create a piece of work to show how they feel. Ask children to share. Consider how one another feels and what it might be like to be that person (standing in someone else's shoes).

ICT: Create a forum for children to discuss their opinions and views about the EU. Reinforce the importance of putting forward your ideas in a respectful manner.



KS1 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Ask the children to think about some of their physical features such as hair and eye colour, height, ages and some of their personal features such as likes and dislikes, favourite food etc. Create a fact file to share this information. As a class consider how we could present and organise it.

Maths: Collecting data. Ask the children to collect data such as favourite colour, sport or pet. Look at the data and pick out most popular, least popular etc. Explain presenting data in graphs can allow us to see data clearly. We can see how different our choices are and we respect our differences of opinion.

Role Play/ICT: Use an area of the classroom for children to bring in and share things from home that are important to them and are part of who they are. Children could use cameras or I Pads to photograph items or record each other sharing them and explaining why they are important. At the end of the week, share some of the clips and photographs and celebrate how different, unique and special everybody is.

Geography: Ask the children if they have ever visited another country? Find it on a map. What was it like? Is there anywhere you would like to visit? Discuss the fact that some places in the world have different customs and cultures which might be different to ours. The country may also have different temperatures and climates. We can still respect and enjoy other parts of the World even though it is different to our country.

Art/PSHCE: Give the children an A3 piece of paper split into four. In each section record the following emotions: happy, sad, angry, excited. Ask the children to show through sketching, drawing or painting things that make them feel this way. Share at the end of the session, celebrating similarities and differences and showing respect for one another.



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story
bit.ly/2mpYxWF

The EU in 60 Seconds
bbc.co.uk/newsround/35613014

The EU for children
bbc.in/20iXaro

History of the EU
bit.ly/2mIg6RM