

The Reading Spine

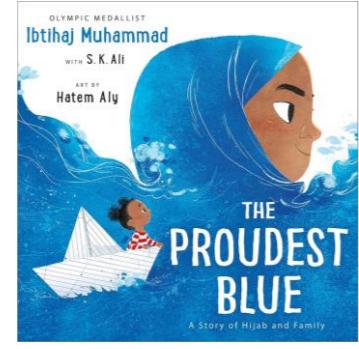
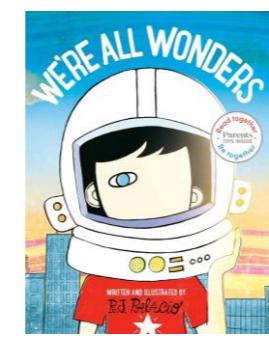
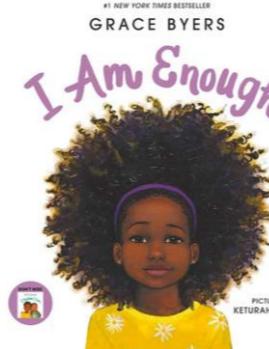
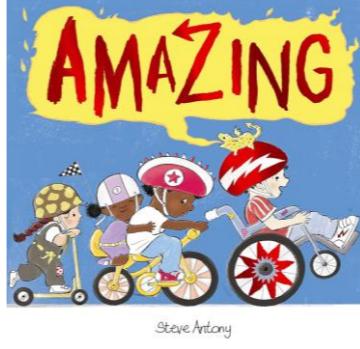
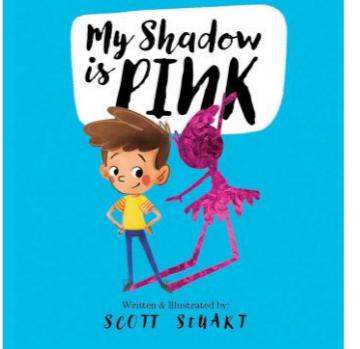
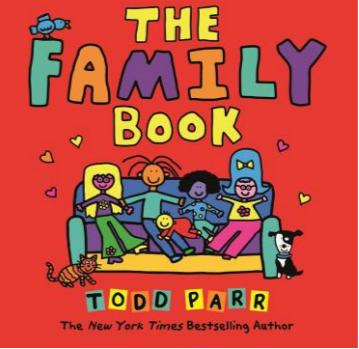
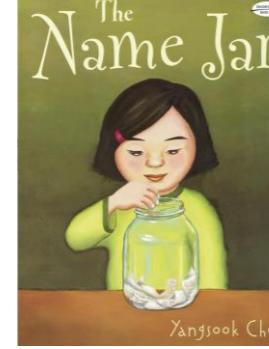
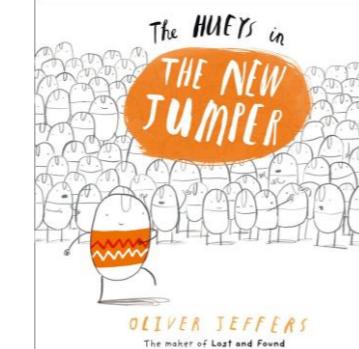
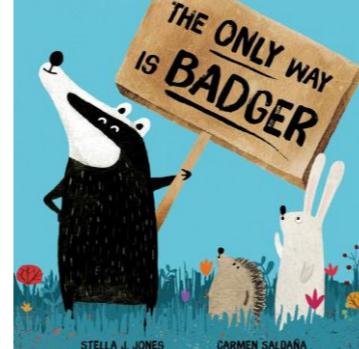
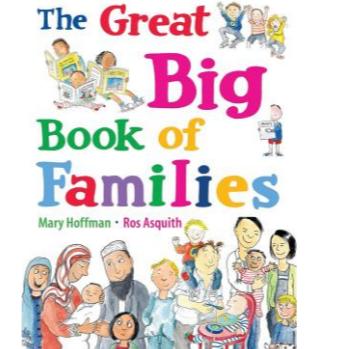
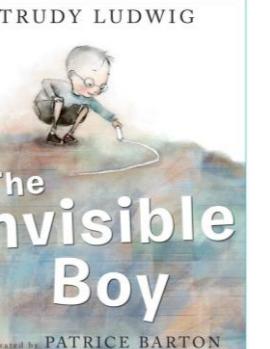
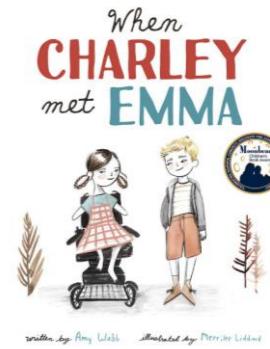
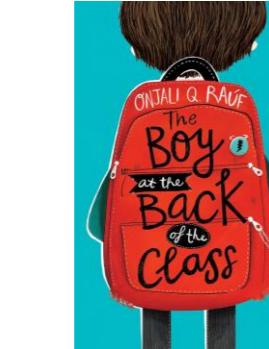
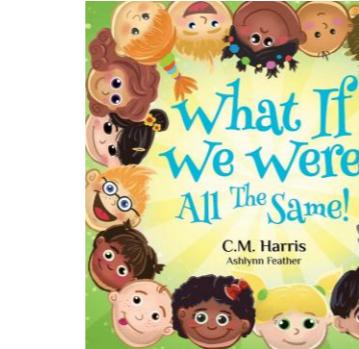
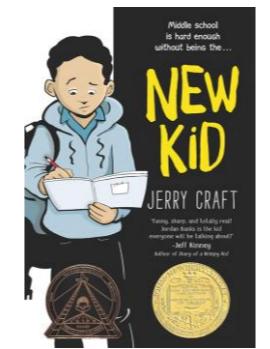
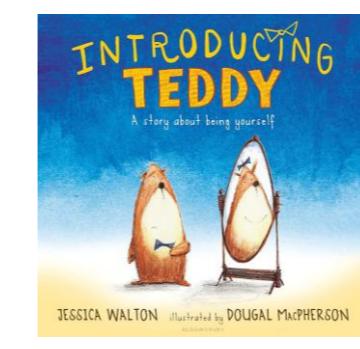
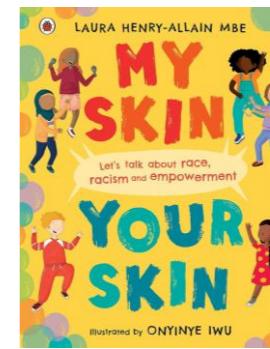
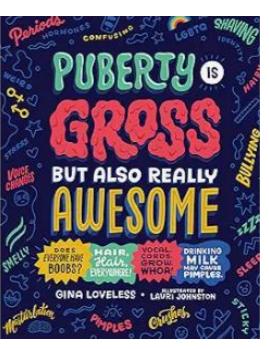
We developed our Reading Spine to help us learn about ourselves and others through stories.

It supports our PSHE, British Values and SMSC by teaching us about kindness, fairness and difference, and it helps us Belong, Believe and Achieve while becoming stronger readers.

The colours represent progression through the Reading Spine. As pupils develop and secure key reading skills, they move through the colours, showing increased confidence, comprehension and engagement.

This approach allows pupils to:

- Experience success, regardless of their starting point
- Demonstrate progress
- Access texts matched to their individual needs while maintaining high expectations

PSHE Themes	Being Me in My World	Celebrating Differences	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Relationships	Changing Me
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Blue						
Title and Author	The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad	We Are All Wonders by R.J. Palacio	I Am Enough by Grace Byers	Amazing by Steve Antony	My Shadow is Pink by Scott Stuart	The Family Book by Todd Parr
Synopsis	Faizah is proud when her older sister wears her hijab for the first time, despite facing unkind comments at school. A story of identity, strength, and family.	Auggie looks different from others but knows he's a wonder. A heartfelt reminder to choose kindness and see beyond appearances.	A lyrical ode to self-worth and acceptance, encouraging children to love themselves and treat others kindly.	A boy with a pet dragon shows how amazing they are together, challenging assumptions and celebrating uniqueness.	A boy with a pink shadow explores gender expression and learns self-acceptance with the help of his father.	Celebrates all types of families, big, small, same-sex, single-parent and encourages love and inclusion.
Learning Intention	To understand and respect religious and cultural choices.	To appreciate differences and understand the impact of kindness.	To promote self-belief and respect for others.	To value diversity and challenge stereotypes.	To support gender identity and family acceptance.	To understand family diversity and celebrate differences.
Protected Characteris	Religion or Belief	Disability	Sex, Race	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Sexual Orientation, Sex
British Value link	Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty	Mutual Respect	Individual Liberty	Tolerance of Different Families
Green						
Title and Author	The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi	The Hueys in the New Jumper by Oliver Jeffers	The Only Way is Badger by Stella J. Jones	The Great Big Book of Families by Mary Hoffman	The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig	When Charley Met Emma by Amy Webb
Synopsis	Unhei, a new student from Korea, is nervous about sharing her name. With the help of her classmates, she learns to embrace her identity.	The Hueys all look the same—until one decides to wear a jumper. A funny tale about standing out and being true to yourself.	Badger wants everyone to be just like him. When others are excluded, he learns that diversity makes the world better.	An inclusive look at the many ways families live, eat, work, and celebrate around the world.	Brian feels invisible in class until a new student arrives, and a simple act of kindness changes everything.	Charley meets Emma, a girl with limb differences. He learns that different isn't weird—it's just different.
Learning Intention	To value cultural identity and personal pride.	To explore individuality and respect differences.	To challenge exclusion and promote acceptance.	To understand and appreciate different family types.	To understand inclusion, empathy, and friendship.	To embrace disability and celebrate uniqueness.
Protected Characteris	Race, Religion or Belief	None specific (general diversity theme)	Race, Disability, Religion or Belief	Sexual Orientation, Sex, Race	Disability, Race (implied diversity)	Disability
British Value link	Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty	Tolerance, Mutual Respect	Tolerance of Different Families	Mutual Respect, Democracy	Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect
Purple						
Title and Author	The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf	What If We Were All The Same! by C.M. Harris	New Kid by Jerry Craft	Introducing Teddy by Jessica Walton	My Skin, Your Skin by Laura Henry-Allain	Puberty is Gross, But Also Really Awesome by Gina Loveless and Lauri Johnston

Synopsis	A new boy joins the class—Ahmet, a refugee from Syria. Through kindness and determination, his classmates help him feel safe and accepted.	A bright rhyming story that celebrates diversity in appearance, personality, and ability.	Jordan, a Black student in a mostly white private school, navigates being different while staying true to himself.	Teddy reveals that she's always felt like a girl teddy. Her friend accepts her fully, showing how easy love and understanding can be.	This powerful, book opens up conversations about race, identity, and difference. It affirms that everyone is unique, valuable, and worthy of respect, helping children understand skin colour, racism, and allyship in simple, safe, and affirming language.	With humour and warmth, this book covers physical changes (genitals, body odour, hair, pimples), emotional ups and downs, identity ("assigned male/female"), and mental health all delivered in an age-appropriate, inclusive tone.
Learning Intention	To understand the challenges faced by refugees and value empathy.	To appreciate the importance of differences.	To explore race, belonging, and standing up against microaggressions.	To accept gender identity and support trans inclusion.	To understand how we can build strong, respectful relationships across racial and cultural lines.	To help pupils understand bodily and emotional changes; to use humour to reduce anxiety and build self-confidence; to foster emotional resilience.
Protected Characteristic	Race, Religion or Belief	Disability, Race, Sex	Race	Gender Reassignment	Race, Religion and Belief	Sex, Gender Identity
British Value link	Tolerance, Rule of Law	Mutual Respect	Individual Liberty, Tolerance	Mutual Respect	Mutual Respect, Tolerance and Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect
Yellow						
Title and Author	The Day War Came by Nicola Davies	Black and British: An Illustrated History by David Olusoga	Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts	Wonder by R.J. Palacio	Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different by Ben Brooks	Being You: Poems of Positivity by Daniel Thompson
Synopsis	A young girl flees war, seeking safety and a new start. Her journey of resilience and hope highlights the struggles of refugee children.	A powerful history of Black people in Britain—from Roman times to today—challenging erasure and celebrating identity.	Rosie Revere loves inventing whimsical gadgets in secret. When her first invention causes embarrassment, she loses confidence, until her great-great Aunt Rose encourages her to embrace failure.	Auggie, a boy with facial differences, starts mainstream school for the first time and teaches others about kindness, courage, and empathy.	True stories of men past and present who defied gender norms to follow their passions	A collection of uplifting poems inspiring self-love, courage, and confidence in a diverse world.
Learning Intention	To build empathy for refugees and understand global inequality.	To understand and value the contributions of Black communities in British history.	To understand that persistence, trial-and-error, and learning from failure are key to achieving dreams; to build resilience and self-belief in pursuing personal goals.	To foster empathy and understand visible and invisible disabilities.	To challenge gender stereotypes and promote emotional expression.	To promote wellbeing, self-expression, and embracing difference.
Protected Characteristic	Race, Religion or Belief	Race	Disability	Disability	Sex, Gender Reassignment	All (holistic inclusion of diversity)
British Value link	Mutual Respect, Rule of Law	Mutual Respect, Democracy	Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect	Mutual Respect	Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty, Tolerance
Pink						
Title and Author	The Island by Armin Greder	You Are a Champion by Marcus Rashford	Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by Rob Sanders	Healthy Me: Mental Well-being and Mindfulness by Katie Woolley & Ryan Wheatcroft	The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander	A Different Sort of Normal by Abigail Balfe
Synopsis	A powerful allegory about refugees and exclusion, where an outsider is shunned by a fearful island community.	Empowering life lessons from footballer Marcus Rashford about resilience, kindness, and social justice, aimed at inspiring young people.	The story of how one man's dream for equality became a global symbol of pride and inclusion.	This accessible non-fiction guide helps readers understand their mental wellbeing.	A poem and picture book tribute to Black resilience, history, and hope, spotlighting important figures and struggles.	A memoir-style illustrated book exploring Abigail's experiences as an autistic, neurodivergent young person.
Learning Intention	To challenge prejudice and encourage compassionate citizenship.	To build confidence, character, and a sense of purpose.	To explore the history and symbolism of LGBTQ+ pride.	To develop tools for managing emotions and stress; to promote self-care and emotional strength.	To honour historical and cultural experiences of Black communities.	To build understanding of neurodiversity and inclusion.
Protected Characteristic	Race, Religion or Belief	Race, Disability (includes learning differences and inequality)	Sexual Orientation, Gender Reassignment	Disability	Race	Disability
British Value link	Tolerance, Rule of Law	Individual Liberty, Democracy	Tolerance, Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty	Tolerance, Mutual Respect	Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect