Celebrating a World of Books

Promote both cross-cultural sharing and a love of reading - by celebrating a World of Books!

World Book Day is one of our favourite days of the year – and it's always amazing to see schools and their pupils (and often their staff!) celebrating some of our best known books and stories. But as these are normally drawn from Western Europe (and particularly the UK), are we missing an opportunity? This easy-to-employ idea promotes both cross-cultural sharing and a love of reading – by celebrating a World of Books!

Key Stage: KS2

Outcome: increased understanding of fiction from around the world, opportunities to explore different cultures and build cultural cohesion.

Preparation: cut out small rectangles of plain paper (6cm x 3cm is ideal), one per pupil. Or use sticky notes!

Additional requirements: map of the world/globe, paper, pencils, coloured pencils/crayons, sticky tape.

Instructions:

- 1) Ask the pupils to name some of their favourite books. As a group, explore how many of these come from Western Europe and, particularly, the UK.
- 2) Ask the pupils to think of, or discover, a book, tale or character that features in the culture of another country (ie not the UK). You could assign these countries randomly or ask children to explore their own families' cultures.
- 3) Give each pupil a paper rectangle (or sticky note). Ask the pupils to turn these into Book Flags by using them to depict their chosen/dicscovered book, tale or character in words and/or images (including other languages).
- 4) As the flags come in, stick them on the map/globe, in the appropriate geographical areas.
- 5) Once everyone has completed the challenge, why not pick one of the books (one that you don't know) and read it to the class?

