**Enrichment Assembly**

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| Date: | 2-8 May 2022 |
| Theme of Assembly: | **Deaf Awareness Week** |
| Resources: | Ppt of British sign language alphabet |
| Assembly notes: | We can communicate in many different ways.   * What are some different ways that we can communicate with others?   [phone, computer/online (email, social media…), writing/letters, talking, body language, listening]  We use our senses to help us communicate with others. Some people may have difficulty communicating if one or more of their senses are impaired or lost such as sight and hearing.   * Have you ever tried to close your eyes and then walk across a room? I bet you bumped into things. * Imagine trying to join in a conversation if you can’t hear at all. That would be really hard. * Close you eyes and listen. What can you hear?   Maybe you could hear other people breathing or fidgeting. You might have heard noises from outside like birds, the wind, or traffic. We are surrounded by noise most of the time.  Imagine if you couldn’t hear anything any of the time. That would feel very different.  This week is Deaf Awareness Week. So what does it mean when we describe someone as deaf? Deafness and hearing loss can mean different things to different people. People use various words and terms to describe how they view their own deafness or hearing loss.  The general term 'deaf people' can be used to describe people with any degree of hearing loss. So this can include people who experience difficulty with being able to hear, as well as people who are not able to hear certain sounds – high pitch, low pitch, sounds nearby or far away.  People might also have different levels of deafness.  A person who is mildly deaf may find it difficult to follow speech in noisy situations.  A person who is moderately deaf may need to use hearing aids to help them.  A person who is severely deaf will usually need hearing aids and may rely on lip reading or sign language to communicate. Sign language may be the person’s preferred method of communication.  A person who is profoundly deaf may not be able to hear very much at all and sign language may be their preferred method of communication.  Some people are born deaf and have hearing loss for their whole life. Some people may lose their hearing due to an illness. Some people lose their hearing as they get older.  Did you know that the ear has two functions? One of those of course is hearing, but our ears also help us to balance and not fall over when we stand up.  Deafness occurs when one part of the ear system isn’t working properly.   * So how do deaf people communicate?   Deaf people can still use written language so they can communicate using email, text, letter the same as a hearing person.  A deaf person may use clues from you to help them understand what you are saying. For example hand gestures or facial expressions. Many deaf people are also quite good at lip reading so long as people don’t cover their faces while talking or look down too much.  Some deaf people use hearing aids in their ears which helps their ear to perform the function of hearing.  Many deaf people also use sign language to communicate without having to speak or hear. Sign languages uses the hands and fingers to form words, or to form numbers and letters of the alphabet to spell things out. It isn’t making the shape of the letter as we would write it, but a specific action. It can also use gestures, facial expressions and body language. Hearing people also use sign language to communicate with their deaf friends or family members.  In sign language, fingerspelling is usually used to spell proper nouns and places or if the person doesn’t know the sign for a word.  Look at the British sign language alphabet (Ppt) – can you spell out your name using your hands and fingers copying the signs on the screen?   * How do you think it might feel to be deaf?   Being deaf can make it very hard to communicate with people. So deaf people might feel isolated and excluded from society. They might feel frustrated and really sad. They might have a lack of confidence, and can also struggle to find jobs once they are older. It can be really hard.   * How can we be deaf aware? [they may have ideas like speaking clearly, not covering their face etc..]   Some top tips for communication include:   1. Make sure you have the person’s attention before you start speaking. 2. Stand or sit in a place with good lighting and speak clearly without covering up your mouth or face, so that you can be lip-read. 3. Try to find a quiet place to communicate with little background noise as this can be distracting. 4. Use your usual voice level. If a deaf person uses an hearing aid it can be very uncomfortable for them and can seem as though you are shouting.   We could also start learning some sign language so that we can communicate well and make deaf people feel seen and included.  In June our Language of the Month will be British sign language so we can learn more about it and learn how to communicate better with people who are deaf. |
| Questioning:  COULD YOU MENTION OUR VALUES?  (Courageous optimism, Boundless creativity, Heartfelt compassion) | Ask the question which of the LIFE values appears in this story.  For deaf people it can be really hard to communicate with people. They find ways to understand and communicate in spite of the difficulties using finger spelling, sign language, lip reading and looking at gestures. This shows both Courageous Optimism and Boundless Creativity  How can we show Heartfelt compassion to people who are deaf and find ways to include them in our communication. |
| Reflection and stillness time: | Remember how we said it can feel to be deaf. What can we do to be more deaf aware and help deaf people to feel seen and included in communication? |