Understanding is Our New Value of the Month

Hall Green Infant and Nursery School

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- thanks to Louis who understood how blind people use Braille as it is easy for them
- teach their children this way of reading, but now
- took a long time for other schools to start to
denied how important Louis' work was. It
denied how important Louis' work was. It
- Braille. People who were not blind did not un-
- friends to understand and use. It was called
- own system, which would be easier for his
- different sounds. This was a very slow way to
- night writing, using dots of dots and dashes for
- sent messages at night to each other - called
- Then he found out about how soldiers passed se-
- feel and read each word.
- raised letters. However, it took a long time to
- to read the books were made with very big
- new special books of the school so he could learn
- He was a very clever pupil! There were even a
- made friends
- couldn't find his way round at first but he soon
- a special school for blind children in Paris. Louis
- When he was ten, Louis left his parents to go to
- the class
- besides everything he heard. Soon he was top of
- with the other children, but he remained-
- came to the Village school. Louis couldn't read or
- When Louis was seven, a new school teacher
- learn now by coaching and instructing. He
- had to learn how to do everything again. He
- Louis had to learn to live in a new dark world.
- what would happen to Louis as he became older.
Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a very busy time of year! For many of our children it is a time to celebrate a special festival. In school we like to celebrate together and to help the children appreciate other religions and cultures. We shall be looking at this Value for November and December.
We have chosen the Value:

UNDERSTANDING

There are many ways to talk about this Value. Some of the different ways to be discussed may be:
• to show understanding and empathise with someone else’s feelings,
• to show understanding of different cultures and religions,
• to show understanding of individual differences,
• to show understanding of why we have our school/home rules and laws laid down by society,
• to be able to understand and appreciate others points of view,
• to be able to understand and accept disability.

At home you could also talk about these different aspects of understanding. Children are more likely to understand others if they experience being understood themselves. It may be helpful if there is a regular time set each day e.g. at meal/bed/bath times, when children know that time is fully focussed on them and they can talk about thoughts and feelings. This will help children to experience being listened to and understood, and help them make sense of the world in the company of a caring adult.

Family task
Your child/children could close their eyes and try to describe the person sitting next to them. Think about the detail of the person - open their eyes and see how close they were. Could they draw a picture of something they would miss seeing if they were blind? and why?

Here is a story for you to share and discuss at home, which relates to one aspect of understanding.

**Louis Braille**

This is the story of Louis Braille, a blind boy who became famous all over the world. He invented a way to help blind people read and write as he understood how difficult it was to do this. Louis was born in a small Village in France in 1809. He had three brothers and sisters who were much older than him. He lived in a farm house. They had some land and kept hens and a cow. Louis father made saddles and harnesses for horses. Louis was a bright, happy boy and he liked to help his mum and dad. He wanted to have a go at everything! One day, when he was three, something terrible happened. He was trying to help his father and cut his eye! This made him blind in both eyes as the other eye became infected.

Louis mum and dad were very sad, wondering