

'Global Friends Day' at Merley First School, Poole

Creating a 'Global Friends Day'

In February 2015, the whole of Merley First School was involved in a 'Global Friends Day'. Food, Fairtrade and food waste topics were explored by all classes – from Reception to Year 4. Hayley Pope, a teacher from Merley First and GLP Co-ordinator for the school, shares how this came about and the impact it has had on the children's learning.

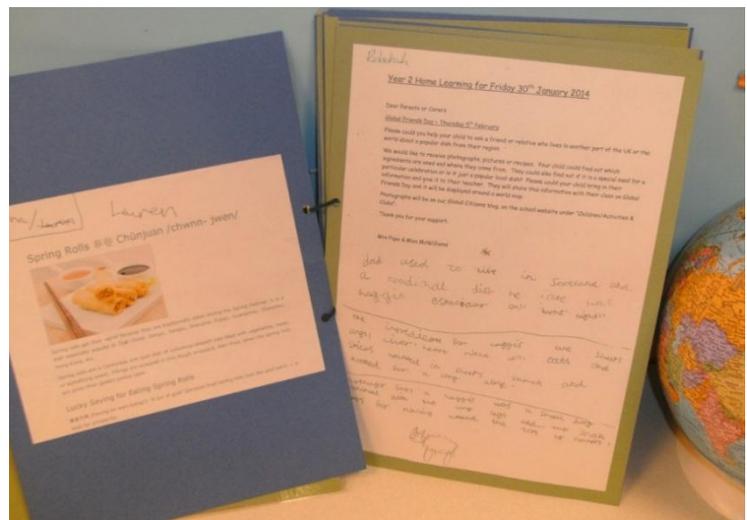
First I invited members of the teaching staff to form a small 'global' team with me to plan 'Global Friends Day'. This comprised three teachers from each Key Stage – each of whom have related subject leadership roles: the Early Years teacher is School Council and RE leader; the Key Stage 1 teacher is (along with me) the Eco-Schools leader; and the Key Stage 2 teacher is PSHCE leader.

Previously our school had held a 'Global Family Day' on a two-yearly cycle. However, following a discussion with the inclusion leader, we decided to change the name of the event to 'Global Friends Day', to help children at our school who are cared for by non-family members to feel more involved.

Preparation

Our first meeting was held to generate ideas for a theme for the day and we decided that this would be 'food'. In previous years, children had been asked to make contact with someone they know who lives in another part of the world and bring their correspondence with this person to share in school. This had proved to be very successful and so we decided to repeat the 'sharing' activity for our food theme. This time, however, we also asked the children to include people they knew from the United Kingdom – as well as other parts of the world – so that we could celebrate our diverse heritage within the UK, as well as our international connections.

At the second meeting, we clarified how the sharing activity would work. The children would make contact with someone they knew in the UK or internationally and ask them for a recipe from that region. They would then bring the information to school on 'Global Friends Day' and share it with their class – some of which would be included in our whole-school Global Citizenship display, our Global Citizenship blog and class displays.



Recipes brought from home

We then decided that we would ask each class to do at least one Global Citizenship lesson during 'Global Friends Day' that could either be about Fairtrade and/or food waste or composting. Each of the teachers prepared a couple of activities for their Key Stage, and the Eco-Schools leader prepared some activities for all Key Stages.¹

Download the [teacher-created resources](#) available for free on the GLP-E website below.

To access all teacher-created resources and more, **register your school** at www.glp-e.org.uk

In addition, the Early Years teacher invited the parents of a couple of EAL children to visit the school. They brought some food with them for the children to taste, read them a story in their first language and then some of the children watched *Bob the Builder*² in German.

To give the teachers some time to think, be inspired and plan the activities for our 'Global Friends Day', we invited Development Education in Dorset (DEED) into the school to provide a bespoke curriculum planning session.³ Each year group took away at least one resource provided by DEED to use on the day. The teachers were very pleased with the session, as each of them was able to find ideas and resources appropriate for the age range they were teaching. The head teacher was even able to plan her assembly for 'Global Friends Day'.

It was particularly evident that food waste had become an issue, and it was agreed that pupils would be tasked to investigate whether amounts of food waste have changed with the introduction of hot school meals in school. Our plan for covering this topic was as follows:

- Introduce the topic with slides containing facts such as 'one third of the food grown in the world is thrown away – that's enough to feed three billion people'.
- Hold class discussions including the following prompts:
 - Try to imagine what that amount of food would look like.
 - Which countries in the world have three billion people in them?
 - Do you ever throw away food?
 - Where does it go?
 - Why is it being thrown away? (There are two main reasons why we throw away good food: we cook or prepare too much, or we don't use it in time.)
 - What can you do to reduce food waste?

¹ See the [teacher-created resources](#) 'Merley First School_planning' and 'Global Friends Day'.

² To find the video, go to YouTube and type 'Bob der Baumeister Rumpel malt die Stadt an'.

³ To look for GLP-approved courses tailored to your school's needs, go to the [GLP CPD Calendar](#) and use the filter 'content focus'.

On the day

The children were very excited and animated when sharing the information that they had brought in to school. They listened to their peers with interest. All the classes carried out the 'sharing' activity and at least one Global Citizenship activity. Many classes went on to do more than one Global Citizenship activity that was planned originally.

The Global Citizenship activities included:

- visitors from Germany, Norway and Turkey to share food and recipes in class
- bilingual story time and *Bob the Builder* in German
- a 'Find someone who has...' activity
- finding where the ingredients from recipes come from
- locating the source of different foods on a world map
- a collage to help children recognise the Fairtrade label and understand what it means
- a data collection exercise to highlight food waste by presenting the amount of lunch food thrown in the bin in a block graph
- making chocolate crunch using Fairtrade cocoa beans from Ghana
- cocoa farming game (available from www.deed.org.uk)
- a Fairtrade Banana Split activity from CAFOD and a numeracy lesson calculating the cost of producing bananas
- poverty pots game ('Why are people hungry?' activity from RISC's How do we know it's working?)
- reading books such as: *The World Came to My Place Today*, Readman et al., Eden Project Books; *Chocolate* (Charlie & Lola), Lauren Child, Puffin Books; *Honey Biscuits*, Hooper et al., Frances Lincoln Children's Books
- a 'what families eat in a week around the world' activity (using photos such as from the 'What the World Eats series', by Peter Menzel Photography, available online)
- making mini composters
- food waste posters.



'Children's curiosity about people in other countries was evident... Their interest was best exhibited by the children going home and telling their parents about what they had learnt.'

Reception class teacher



'What happens to your food waste?' (left) and 'If the world was a village' (below) displays



Impact on learning

The children were genuinely interested in sharing the information and recipes that they had brought in to school. They were keen to locate places and food on world maps and maps of the United Kingdom. Locating the origins of different food also gave children a purposeful opportunity to practise using atlases. The sharing activity and food theme provided a meaningful introduction to thinking about Fairtrade, food miles and food waste.

'Global Friends Day' enabled the school to explore knowledge and skills linked to interdependence and sustainability. It led pupils to a more action-based, social justice approach and supported the development of critical thinking skills.

'We played the cocoa farming game – it was fun but it really made us think about how we get chocolate. I liked finding out about the food from other countries, it made us feel hungry... We know people in loads of places like Australia, Scotland and Denmark.'

Year 4 pupil

In addition to the food waste work, displays around the school had a global theme, including 'Books at Bedtime' – which made global links to an existing activity in school – and 'If the World Were a Village'.



'Books at Bedtime' display



'Children definitely developed their learning and are more aware of where things come from around the world... One child actually thought you could pick jelly beans off trees.'

Year 1 teacher

'Really helped the children to understand what Fairtrade actually meant and they developed a better awareness of people that they know in other countries.'

Year 2 teacher

About Merley First School

Merley First School is a Partner School to Archbishop Wake Primary (a GLP Expert Centre from 2014 to 2015). The school has been involved with DEED and global learning since at least 2002, and has a strong track record in promoting global perspectives across the whole school. The school website⁴ has further information about how this work has impacted on the school community.

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⁴ <https://merleyworldwidefriends.wordpress.com/>