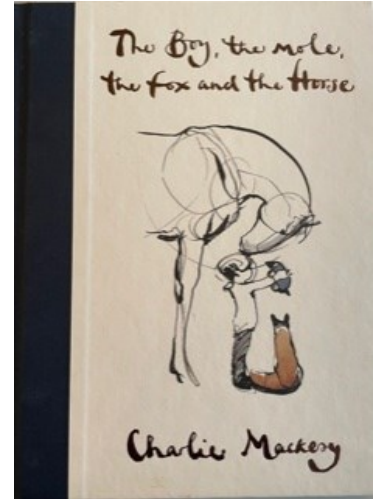


Thursday 4th March—World Book Day

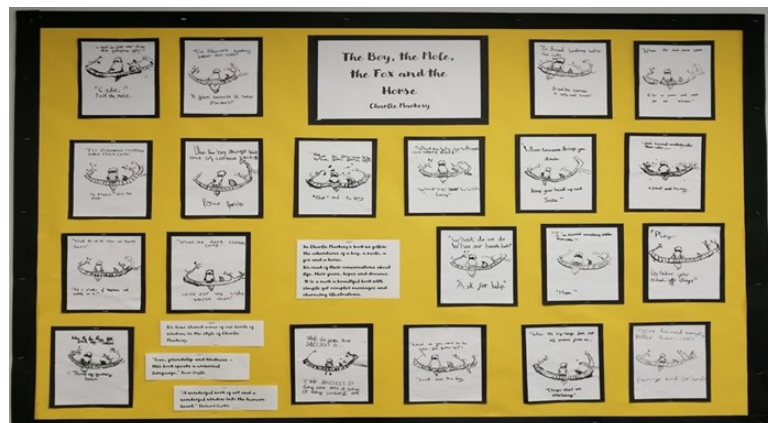
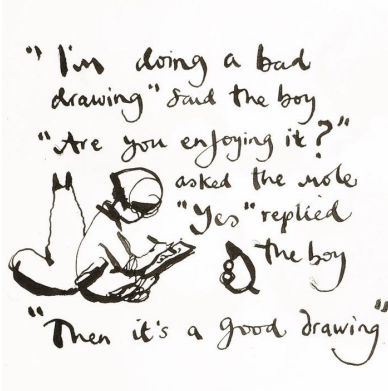
The book we have chosen for our Whole School World Book Day project this year is the very beautiful *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. It's a simple and gentle tale of four friends which has some lovely messages about life and friendship.

Please start off by watching the video on the school Video page, (which will appear on Wednesday night). Talk with your child about how the book has made them feel, which was their favourite bit and why? Talk to them about the illustrations—the book has been made by a gentleman who started off as an artist. What does your child notice about the pictures? Which picture did they like the best? How do the sketches help them to understand the words?



We would then like you to look at the pages from the book on the next three pages of the document. We would like you to talk to your child about each of the pages in turn, discussing what the quotes actually mean to them, and using the quotations as a jumping-off point for discussion about how they see the world, and how they can understand the book's central messages - 'make a difference', 'be kind', and 'love one another'. For the first one ('I'm so small...'), talk about what differences they could make to the world, to their family, at school etc; the second one, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' is a common question for children, but is here answered with a twist—the boy says 'Kind': why did he say that? What is the most important thing to your child—a job, or how they behave to themselves and other people? What kind of person would your child like to be when they grow up? The third picture—'I've found something more important than cake ... a hug' can lead to lots of discussion. Again, most children will say answers such as "my toys", "pizza" , but talk about kindness, helping people, loving people, being a good friend etc, each time asking 'how could you do that?', 'what does that look like?'.

For the follow-up task, we would like you to have a go at drawing your own version of the boy and the mole sitting together on the branch. It does not have to look exactly like Charlie Mackesy's one, but you might like to use pen and watercolour like he does. He, as an artist, believes there are no 'good' or 'bad' pictures; he just thinks it is fun to have a go, and to enjoy painting, so draw or paint your picture in a way that makes you happy. When you have finished your picture, write your own hopeful message around it, using Charlie Mackesy's words as a starter (for example, you might write the mole saying 'what do you want to be...' and the boy replying with your own idea; or the mole might be saying 'I've found something better than cake' and telling the boy what it is, using your own ideas. We would really like you to post your picture on the Blog so that we can make a whole school portfolio.



"I'm so small" said
the mole,



"Yes," said
the boy

"but you
make a huge
difference."

"What do you want to be
when you grow up?"



"Kind," said the boy

"I've discovered something
better than cake"

"No you haven't" said the boy

"I have." replied the mole

"What is it?"

"A hug. It lasts longer."

