

Grove Road Celebrates Diversity

During 'Diversity Day' at Grove Road Primary School in Tring recently, the children welcomed a special visitor: John McCorkell. Physically disabled from birth, John talked to the children about what disability means, and how important it is to treat people the same, even if we can't all do the same things. It may have taken him two years to learn how to score a basket during wheelchair basketball, but John prefers to focus on what he can do, rather than what he can't. We all have things that we find difficult, but using some of our wonderful Paralympians as examples, John explained that if you try hard enough you can fulfil your dreams.

Through workshops during the day, John demonstrated the difficulties facing those with disabilities, and encouraged the children to use his wheelchair, and ask lots of questions.

'Diversity Day' at Grove Road also entailed classes researching and creating fact files with illustrations on other inspirational people who have overcome a struggle to achieve something great. These



are to be put together to form two whole school books. Classes researched inspirational famous people such as Albert Einstein (legendary scientist with learning difficulties); Lionel Messi (international footballer with a growth defect); Ellie Simmons (Paralympic swimmer); Jessica Cox (the first arm-less pilot); Ade Adepitan (TV presenter/Paralympian); Steven Hawkins (scientist with motor neurone disease); and Ben Underwood (blind teenager who sees using sound).

Katie Carter, Year 3 teacher and Curriculum Enrichment leader, commented: "We were delighted to welcome John McCorkell to our school as part of Diversity Day. He helped to broaden the children's understanding of disability and what it means. His words aligned perfectly with one of our school vales: 'respect'. The children are always encouraged to treat everyone the same and to embrace diversity."