

# The Gazette



Diversity Day at Grove Road Primary

## Grove Road Primary School

The children welcomed disability awareness speaker John McCorkell during Diversity Day. 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 involved 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 books.

Classes researched inspirational famous people such as Albert Einstein (legendary scientist with learning difficulties); Lionel Messi (international footballer with a growth defect); Ellie Simmonds (Paralympic swimmer); Jessica Cox (the first armless pilot); Ade Adepitan (TV presenter and Paralympian); Stephen Hawking (scientist with motor neurone disease); and Ben Underwood (blind teenager who sees using sound).

Year 3 teacher Katie Carter said: "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 values, 'respect'. The children are always encouraged to treat everyone the same and to embrace diversity."