

UK Parliament Week 2023

“Anyone Can Make Change”

UK Parliament Week 2023 ran from 6–12 November, focusing nationally on encouraging young people to understand Parliament and discover how anyone can make change through democratic participation. UKPW 2023 aimed to build “active citizenship” by giving children the tools to participate in democracy, raise issues and contribute to decisions locally and nationally.

As a school, we explored the official UK Parliament Week online activities designed to help children understand the roles of MPs, how laws are made, and how their opinions can influence change.

Hedgehog Class (EYFS) – “Make Your Voice Heard”

Children used picture cards to vote for their favourite class story. They learned that voting helps groups make fair choices and that every person gets just one vote.

Squirrel Class (Y1/2) – “Who Represents Me?”

Using online UKPW resources, the class learned the difference between local councillors and MPs. They worked in groups to sort real-life scenarios into “local issue” or “national issue”, helping them understand who makes which decisions.

Fox Class (Y3/4) – “Debating Big Ideas”

Pupils watched the UKPW Primary Assembly video and engaged in a structured debate activity about everyday school issues (playground rules, healthy snacks, homework). They learned how to share opinions respectfully and listen to others.

Owl Class (Y5/6) – “Make a Change: Petition Workshop”

Using the UK Parliament Petitions Committee online tools, pupils explored examples of real petitions and then drafted their own. They learned the rules around valid petitions, the role of the committee, and how petitions can lead to national change.

Impact

Children gained a strong understanding that democracy is not just something that happens “in London”, but something *everyone* can take part in. They learned that change begins with having a voice, listening to others and taking action - even in small ways.