



**Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week**

In partnership with



Celebrating our unique strengths and differences

March 13 - 19, 2023

www.neurodiversityweek.com



Agenda



What is Neurodiversity?



Do These Differences Have a Name?



What Is Neurodiversity Celebration Week?



What Can You Do To Help?

What is Neurodiversity?

- Have you noticed that everyone thinks, learns and processes information differently?
- Neurodiversity is based on the idea that everyone has a differently-wired brain and their own unique way

Neurodiversity is about recognising that everyone's brain works differently.



Respecting Differences

- Neurodiversity is about recognising and respecting that we don't all learn the same way.
- Differences in the way our brains are wired means that you may find some things challenging that others find easy.
- You may also find things easy that other people find challenging.

We each have our own strengths
and challenges.

Do These Differences Have a Name?

Some of the different ways of thinking, learning, interacting and perceiving the world have been given labels, such as:

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC)
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Dyscalculia



Recognising Determination

- Neurodiversity Celebration Week is also about recognizing hard work, resilience and determination.
- The school environment is not the ideal place for special educational needs (SEN) students to use and showcase their unique strengths and talents.
- Schools mostly focus on skills SEN students find difficult and may not naturally excel at, such as reading, writing and spelling.
- Doing badly in school can be very frustrating and discouraging, because SEN students often work



Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

- About 4% of the population have ADHD.
- ADHD affects a person's ability to focus. It can cause inattention, hyperactivity and impulsiveness.
- People with ADHD can be some of the most creative members on a team, bringing energy and new approaches to their projects
- Several studies have shown that adults with ADHD tend to be out-of-the-box thinkers and calm under pressure.

**Did you know
Will.i.am
has ADHD?**



**"Music brings control to my
thoughts. I am here to let you know
that you can be anything you want
to be"**

- Will.i.am, Singer / Producer

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**Did you know
Justin Bieber
has ADHD?**



**"Believe you can
achieve"**

- Justin Bieber, Singer / Songwriter

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**Did you know
Emma Watson
has ADHD?**



**"I don't want other people to decide
what I am. I want to decide that for
myself"**

- Emma Watson, Actor / Activist

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Autism

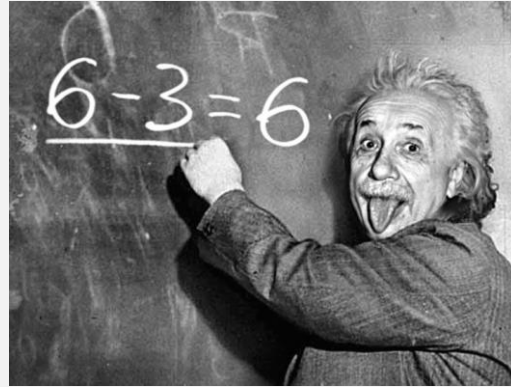
- About 2% of the population is autistic.
- Autism affects how a person perceives the world and interacts and socialises with others, making it challenging for them to pick up social cues and interpret them.
- Autistic people can be sensitive to lights, noise, touch and smells, which can sometimes cause them distress.
- People on the autistic spectrum can be highly logical and can be good at absorbing and remembering facts, attention to

Did you know
that climate
change activist
Greta Thunberg
is autistic and
has ADHD?





Elon Musk



Albert Einstein



Satoshi Tajiri



Lionel Messi



Sia

Dyslexia

- About 10% of the population are dyslexic.
 - Dyslexia is a language processing difficulty that can cause challenges with reading, writing and spelling.
 - It can cause challenges with processing information quickly, organisation, sequencing, spoken language and motor skills.
 - Dyslexic people can be very good at creative thinking, problem-solving and verbal communication.
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- About 35% of entrepreneurs (business owners) are dyslexic.





Paloma Faith



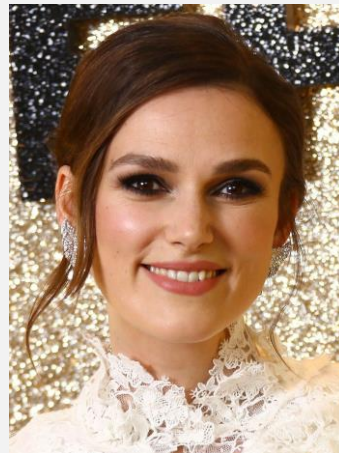
Jamie Oliver



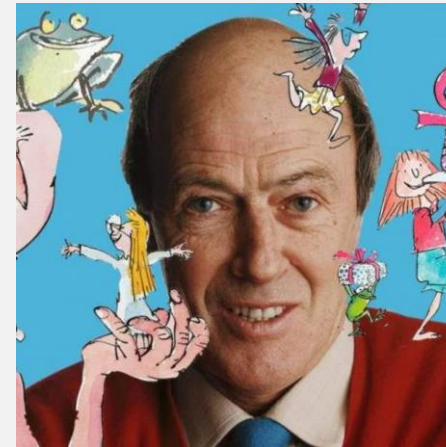
Daniel Radcliffe



Walt Disney



Kiera Knightly



Roald Dahl

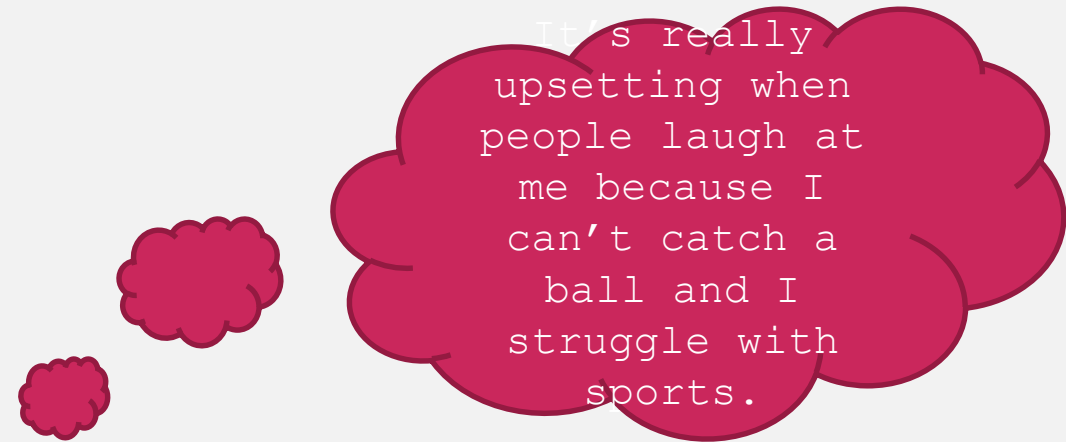
Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD, Dyspraxia)

- About 6% of the population are dyspraxic.
- Dyspraxia affects your physical coordination.
- Sometimes dyspraxia can be misperceived as clumsiness.
- Dyspraxia can affect your fine motor skill, such as your handwriting, ability to tie your shoes and doing up buttons.
- It can also affect your gross motor skills, such as being able to catch and kick a ball, run and ride a bicycle.

Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD, Dyspraxia)

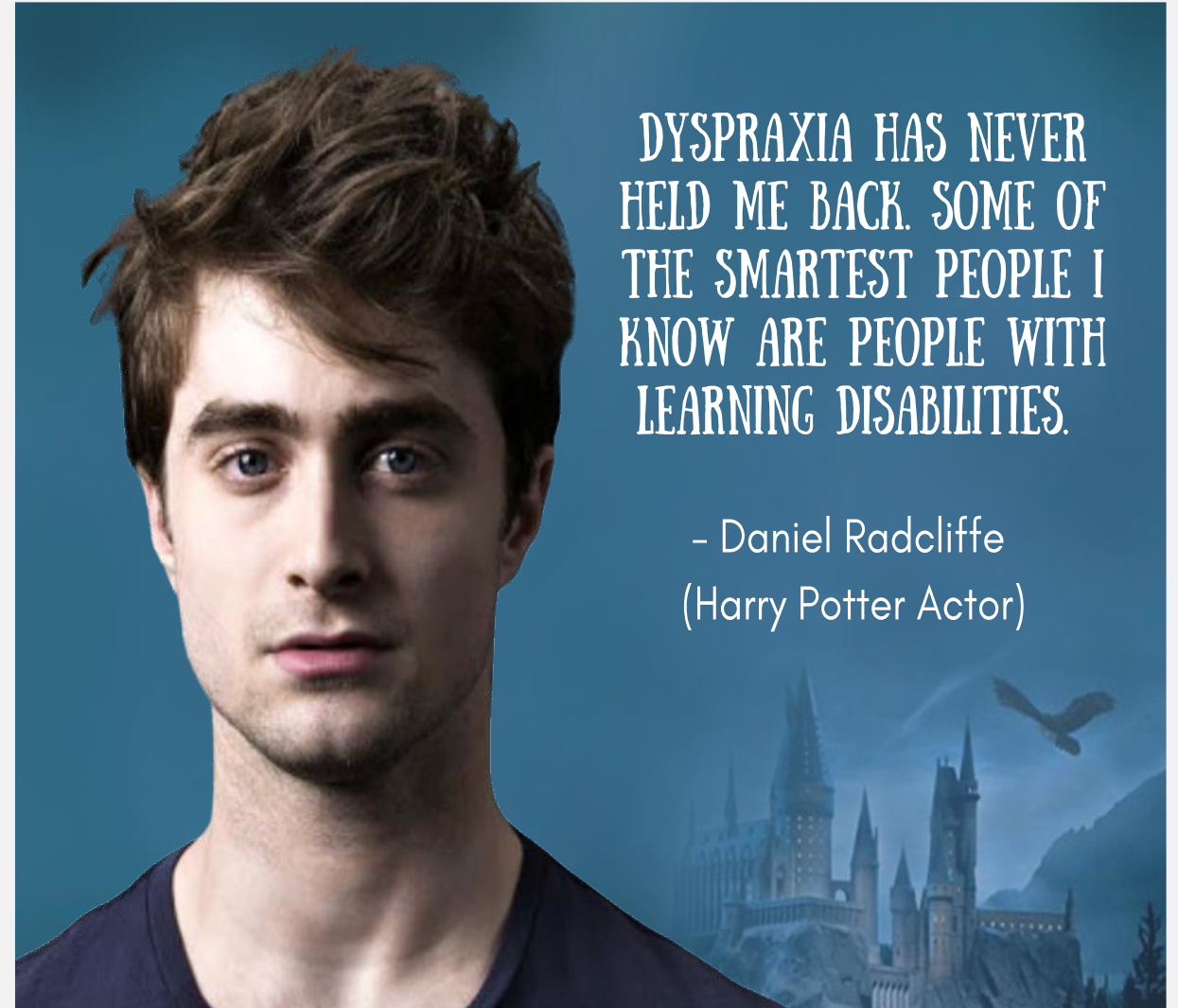
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- Dyspraxia can also affect your ability to organise yourself.
- Dyspraxic people are creative, determined and really good at developing their own strategies to overcome difficulties.





Cara Delevingne



DYSPRAXIA HAS NEVER
HELD ME BACK. SOME OF
THE SMARTEST PEOPLE I
KNOW ARE PEOPLE WITH
LEARNING DISABILITIES.

- Daniel Radcliffe
(Harry Potter Actor)



Dyscalculia

- About 5% of the population have dyscalculia
- Dyscalculia affects an individual's ability to acquire and use mathematical skills
- For some, it affects how they see numbers. For others, it might make symbols difficult to read, or they may have trouble understanding finances, data and using numbers in everyday life
- People with dyscalculia often have strengths such as intuitive and strong strategic thinking, are very creative and have a love of words



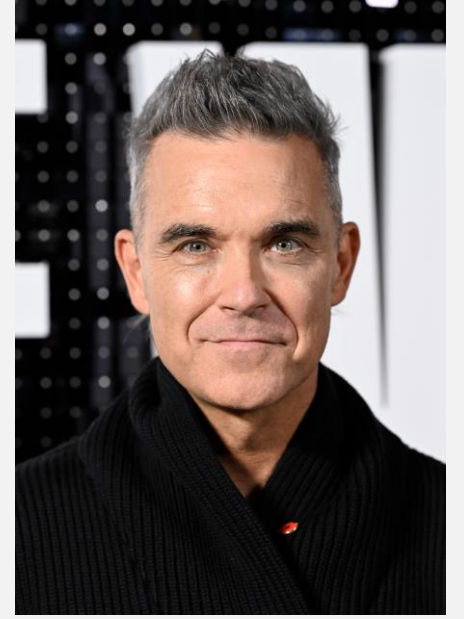
Cher



Thomas Edison



Bill Gates



Robbie Williams

Tourette Syndrome (TS)

- About 1% of the population have Tourette Syndrome.
- Tourette Syndrome (TS) causes sudden, uncontrolled, repetitive muscle movements and sounds called "tics."
- Stressful situations can make the tics more frequent, longer and more severe.
- People with TS can be faster at assembling sounds into words (phonology) and are often high-achieving, creative and empathetic (understanding and caring).





Lewis Capaldi



Jamie Grace



Tim Howard

What is Neurodiversity Celebration Week About?

- Neurodiversity Celebration Week is about celebrating the strengths and talents of people with learning differences.
- Sadly, these students are often misunderstood.
- Neurodiversity Celebration Week is one way of reminding everyone of the importance of being kind, tolerant and accepting of everyone.

Recognising and Celebrating Strengths and Talents

- Neurodiversity Celebration Week serves as a reminder that no matter what our differences and challenges, everyone also has their own strengths and talents.
- Many people who have ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia or Tourette Syndrome and struggled in school, are now very successful.
- Many attribute their success to their unique way of thinking and perceiving the world around them.

There are currently
Over 2,400 schools
Over 1.5 million
students
taking part worldwide

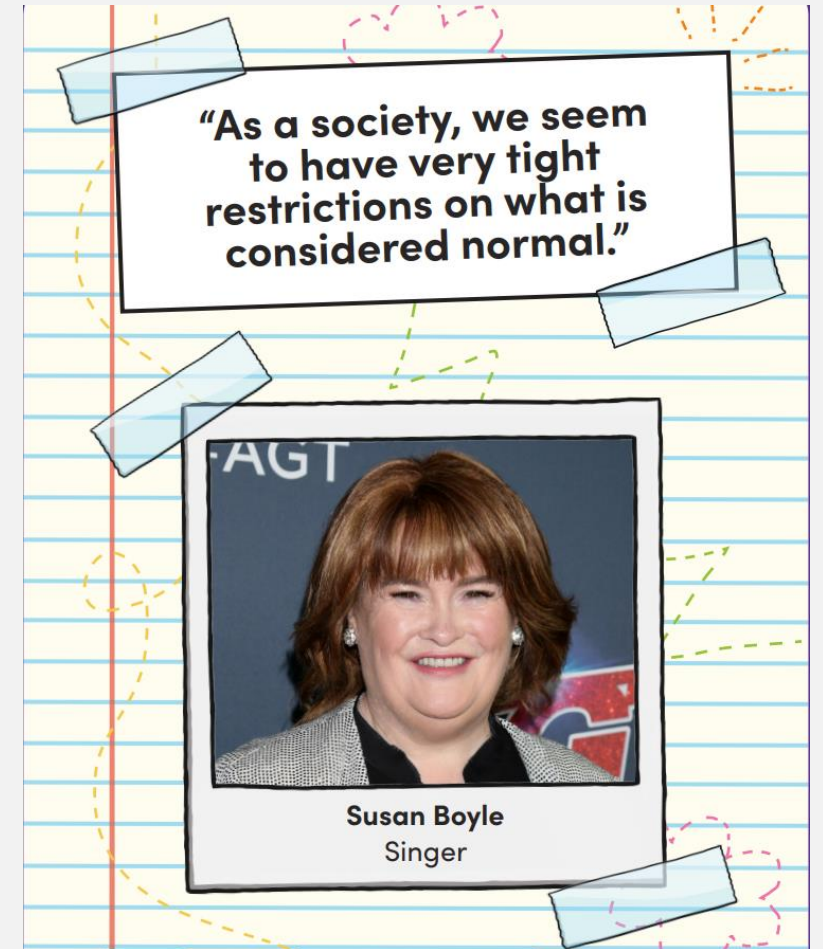
What Can You Do To Help?

- Don't tease or make fun of anyone in your class who is different or who is finding something difficult.
- Instead, be kind, understanding and encouraging.
- Never forget that you have the power to make a positive difference to someone who may be having a difficult time.

Make someone's day by being understanding and kind.

"To change perceptions, we must celebrate all that dyslexic people have achieved, so that young people no longer give up before they have even started."

Richard Branson – Entrepreneur



Beautiful Moment as Crowd Helps Lewis Capaldi Get Through Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJR-8KEPzys>

Neurodiversity Film – St Margaret's PS 2023

- <https://youtu.be/3W28D-fC0FY>



Winner of 2020 Neurodiversity Celebration Week Art Competition

Reflection of Learning Task

Create a presentation of either

a) What you have learned about Neurodiversity and/or the different types of neurodiverse learners,

Or

b) What can you do to help?

Or,

c) What can we do differently in our classroom, school areas to be more neurodiverse inclusive?



Could this be me or someone I know?

- Remember we have been looking at Neurodiversity Celebration Week to consider how we can celebrate, be understanding and inclusive of members of our school community who are or maybe neurodiverse.
- There is a big difference between finding maths difficult and being dyscalculic, finding reading or spelling difficult and being dyslexic. It is more complex than this and involves additional people and assessments to identify these differences.
- However, If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have learned this week then talk to someone you trust – parent or carer, your class teacher or any member of staff.