

Lifting Limits Newsletter

November 2018

*“I think if you give
in and accept
society's
stereotypes, then
you start thinking,
'I cannot dance till
late at night
because I'm 70'”
Yokoi Ono*

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Lifting Limits gender equality pilot – in this newsletter we'll share news, highlight resources and let you know what's coming up next. This term started with inset sessions in each of the 5 pilot schools, followed by delivery of a package of resources to your Gender Champions. We look forward to hearing your views as the pilot progresses.

Featured resources: Discussion Cards

We hope the Discussion Cards are prompting some great discussions in your class – we'd love to hear about them and to hear whether you are finding the accompanying notes helpful. To let us know what you think about any of our resources please contact your Gender Champion.

Take a look at all 3 sets – although we've broadly aimed them at EYFS, KS1/2 and additional cards for KS2 there is likely to be plenty of scope for overlap.



Suffragette being arrested

Is it ever OK to break the law?

- A topic for debate...
- The context provided here is a Suffragette being arrested. Emmeline Pankhurst grew impatient with the non-violent tactics of the Suffragists which by 1903 had succeeded in winning women the vote. She formed the Suffragette movement which became more militant and violent in their campaigning. Law-breaking, violence and hunger strikes became part of their tactics.
- Emmeline Pankhurst said: 'we are here, not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers' – what did she mean by this?
- Comparisons can be made with Rosa Parks who was arrested in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama (US), for violating a law requiring racial segregation of public buses – further information here... <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/rosa-parks>

with notes for staff...

Free external resources

We love Elise Gravel's posters which are free for schools to download and print. See [‘It's OK to feel' poster](#), [‘Some famous scientists' poster](#) and [‘Scientists are people too' cartoon](#).

“Boys will not be boys, they will be adults, carers, fathers, lovers, friends, colleagues; they will be human, like anyone else, and humane, if only we let them be.”
Dr. Finn Mackay

Coming soon

Dates: 21st November and 3rd December parent and carer workshops at Torriano

Resources in development:

- guide to gender stereotyping for parents and carers, available later this month.
- further History lessons – WW1 and Women’s Suffrage for year 6 and Windrush Women for year 4, available later this term.
- role model poster series featuring women and men in a range of non-stereotypical roles – the aim being to increase the range of careers in which children could envisage themselves. Coming next term.

Lifting Limits news



We are delighted to be [supporting Gender Action](#), a new award programme promoting and supporting a whole-school approach to challenging stereotypes. Gender Action will launch early in 2019 and we look forward to discussing with our pilot schools how we might support those interested in accreditation.

Gender equality in the news

‘What are we teaching boys when we discourage them from reading books about girls?’ – [Washington Post article](#). The article asks – do we assume boys aren’t going to like a book that stars a girl? Do we assume that men’s stories are universal, while women’s stories are only for girls?

‘Violence against women starts with school stereotypes’ – [article in The Conversation](#). The article examines how, when gender divisions and stereotypes are perpetuated, young people are less likely to challenge men’s violence against women.

£50 note – have your say

The Bank of England is [looking for nominations](#) for someone who has contributed to science to feature on the new £50 note and many people feel that it should be a woman. How about considering a class nomination? Suggestions include Ada Lovelace, Caroline Herschel or Rosalind Franklin – and see the Lifting Limits Female Scientists resource for profiles of female scientists across a range of fields.

Playground thought

Do children play ‘kiss chase’ in your playgrounds? Rather than turning a blind eye if those being chased are less than enthusiastic, could you use it as an opportunity to teach about consent and that ‘no’ really does mean ‘no’?

Are you starting to think about Christmas shopping?

For help avoiding gifts which reinforce gender stereotyping see the [Let Toys be Toys website](#) for their Gift Guides and [recommended retailers](#).