**Class 4 RSHE with Norfolk Constabulary**

As part of our ongoing learning about British Values and mental wellbeing, in our RSHE lesson this week (15th October 2021) Class 4 joined a large number of Norfolk Schools in a TEAMs meeting with PC Hazel Taplin of Norfolk Constabulary. The main focus of the session was to encourage people to have mutual respect for one another regardless of our many differences. The session was arranged to raise awareness of Hate Crime Awareness week.

We learnt that children from age 10 are considered to have enough knowledge of right and wrong that, in the eyes of the law, they have ‘criminal responsibility’ and can be arrested for deliberate acts of malice. A range of scenarios such as using abusive language and taking things without permission were discussed. Hazel made sure to reassure children that normally if children do carry out such acts it is enough to have a discussion to resolve the issue rather than to make an arrest.

We learnt about what constitutes a ‘Hate Crime’. These occur where people deliberately carry out crimes against people because they are different. These differences could be nationality and culture, race, religion, choices and opinions, sexual orientation, image and identity and disabilities (including those such as autism and ADHD which are not always obvious to see).

We learnt that in law through the Equalities Act 2010 there are protected characteristics that it is considered an offence to aim negative behaviours at. These include:

* age.
* disability.
* gender reassignment.
* marriage and civil partnership.
* pregnancy and maternity.
* race.
* religion or belief.
* sex.

The session concluded with signposting to a range of agencies that are available to help us, including Childline and the Norfolk Constabulary website and emergency numbers 999 and 101.