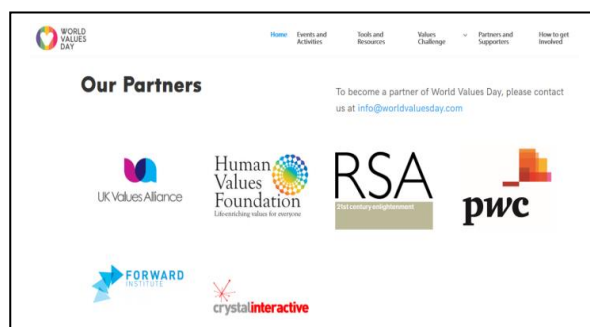




NEWSLETTER 47 - Autumn 2019

WORLD VALUES DAY 2019

This year the theme for the global campaign to celebrate World Values Day (WVD) was *Values and Wellbeing* – and the closing date for our 4th ‘Stories on Values’ competition for children coincided with the actual Day, 17 October.



As a WVD Partner, we benefitted from a terrific boost to our profile, particularly through the social media exposure; the WVD potential reach on Twitter was estimated to be 28.3 million globally.

The team behind WVD, including our Chair, Charles Fowler, felt that the breadth and depth of activities around the world on 17 October made it possibly the best celebration yet, even though the reach of the social media campaign was down on last year because of being heavily hit, particularly across Europe, by the unexpected announcement of the Brexit deal on the morning of the 17th.



Nevertheless, the importance of the link between *Values* and *Wellbeing* was energetically taken up in many thought-provoking blogs and videos published on the WVD website. The campaign was marked by a multitude of special events and activities across the UK and around the world organised by all kinds of organisations ranging from huge multinationals like Volvo and Bosch, to local businesses and community groups, universities, schools and hospitals, all centered around the values and wellbeing theme. We have long been raising awareness of the influence of values on the health and wellbeing of the whole school community, including teachers and other staff, children, parents and carers.

THE BIG THINK PROGRESS

Following the summer launch of our programme **The Big Think** - designed to progressively empower children aged from 4 to 11 with core social and emotional skills so that whatever their academic abilities, they can flourish, create and maintain rich relationships, be happy and enjoy using their talents to the full, driven by their individual passions - the feedback from teachers, children and parents alike has been very promising.

For example

- a **headteacher** commented that, *“As a teacher, The Big Think resources are engaging and I feel the kids would benefit hugely from discussing the issues you tackle so beautifully. Other PSHE [Personal, Social, Health and Economic education] resources I have looked at cover the objectives but seem so dull compared to what you offer.”*
- an **8-year-old** told us, *“The stories often show us ways to handle something I find hard.”*
- the **Pastoral Care Manager** at one of our pilot schools said, *“I can’t think why any school wouldn’t want to do it!”*

WHY THE BIG THINK IS SO TIMELY

In June the Department for Education published its new Education Inspection Framework setting out expectations for schools in England so as to better balance what has been an intense focus on high-stakes academic outcomes with a more rounded education that properly prepares young citizens for life in modern Britain and the next phase of their education careers. Taking account of the pressures on teachers’ workloads, compulsory Relationships Education in primary schools (Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools) and Health Education has been postponed to September 2020. This means that for the next few months, school leaders will need to devise strategies and policies, train staff, identify teaching materials and plan the implementation of their whole-school approach to achieving the new statutory curriculum areas.

Research over the past two decades has shown that quality, systematic values education:

- is essential to effective schooling
- positively impacts all the important educational measures
- is a worldwide, contemporary phenomenon
- fits well with updated brain and pedagogical research
- is a means to holistic student and teacher wellbeing

and so we are optimistic that **The Big Think**, with its 88 practical, carefully structured, interactive, values-themed lessons that help to address, in safe, supportive classroom environments, many of the contemporary subjects, concerns and issues facing today’s children, will become an increasingly useful resource for schools. School leaders currently using the programme are already praising the power and depth of the ready-to-teach modules and how they ease the burden for regular, timetabled lessons within PSHE programmes of work.

OUR 2019 STORIES ON VALUES COMPETITION

This year we were delighted to receive an incredible number of exceptional, imaginative and inspiring stories and pictures from children from Europe, India, Africa, Asia and of course from the UK. As we had received a considerable amount of artwork in past years, we introduced a second category for the competition. In addition to the existing category of stories written, open to children aged from 7 to 11, we added prizes for values-themed, standalone illustrations open to children aged 4 to 11.

Our judges were Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-Operative UK, Dr Paquita de Zulueta, honorary senior clinical lecturer at Imperial College London and James Minter, an environmental activist and author of the children’s ‘Billy Growing Up’ series of books on bullying. They are all very aware of the power of positive values and much enjoyed reading the children’s stories. Galia Durant, the main illustrator and musician for our new programme **The Big Think**, was impressed by how the children managed to vividly communicate different values through their detailed, creative drawings and super, punchy, bright, eye-catching graphics.



Kindness Is My Magic – a winning illustration by Sofia aged 6

The judges found narrowing down the well-deserved winners in both categories a pleasurable but extremely difficult task. On 29 November the winners were announced on our website and social media platforms and the children were notified through their schools.

Here are the winners of the Stories category, each of whom was awarded a personal copy of [The Big Think Stories Book for ages 7 to 11](#), a congratulatory certificate, a certificate for their school and a book token for their school library as shown here:

Name	Age	School	Winners and Prizes
Shaheer	11	Elmwood Junior School, Surrey, UK	1 st - £150 book token
Toby	9	Sri Sathya Sai Spiritual Education, London, UK	2 nd - £75 book token
Grace	9	Living Values Children’s Education Foundation, Nigeria	Highly Recommended - £25 book token
Joy	10	Living Values Children’s Education Foundation, Nigeria	Highly Recommended - £25 book token
Shreyas	10	Samsidh Mount Litera Zee School, HSR Extension, India	Highly Recommended - £25 book token
Pranav	8	NIVE – New Horizon Public School, India	Highly Recommended - £25 book token
Eeshan	8	NIVE – New Horizon Public School, India	Highly Recommended - £25 book token
Lorenzo	9	Holme Grange School, Berkshire, UK	Highly Recommended - £25 book token

Here are the top three artists in the Pictures category. They are equal winners and won a copy of The Big Think Stories Book and they and their schools received congratulatory certificates.

Name	Age	School	Prizes
Sofia	6	Capel Manor Primary School, London, UK	The Big Think Stories Book
Bhavish	9	Samsidh Mount Litera Zee School, Vidyaranyapura, India	The Big Think Stories Book
Ambiya	8	Manor Junior School, Essex, UK	The Big Think Stories Book

Each year we publish a free, online booklet with the best stories and pictures from the competition.

Do look out for the 2019 booklet on the [Human Values Foundation website](#) early next year.

We at the Human Values Foundation would like to thank and congratulate each of the winners and their schools along with all the other children and their schools who entered this year's competition. Well done to them all.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT IDEA!

Our beautiful values-themed stories book entitled [The Big Think Stories](#) would make a wonderful Christmas present for the children in your life, aged between 7 and 11 years.

Included are 44 stunning illustrations for children to think about and at the end of each story are some questions to prompt self-reflection and further consideration of significant points raised in it. Order online from [The Big Think website](#), cost £20, including postage in the UK.



DONATIONS

The development of our new programme and the website for **The Big Think** was an ambitious decision we took in the full knowledge that our bank account would be much depleted and that is the case, so all donations are particularly welcome now!

Next year is our Silver Anniversary. We have reached this milestone only because of all our wonderfully generous supporters. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your remarkable financial contributions that have enabled us to help teachers improve the quality of the lives of a generation of children now and in so doing, the fabric of society. It is vital that young people growing up today are '*values literate*' and therefore empowered with the means of making sound, ethical choices consistently and applying their energy and talents to lead fulfilling lives.

We are enormously grateful to the trustees of The Tony Metherell Charitable Trust for their regular donation, to The Lawson Charitable Foundation that has enabled us to extend our work in Devon, and to the company that recently made a donation via [Work For Good](#), an organisation that encourages small businesses to commit to supporting charities.

Our subscribing Members and Friends have been amazing over the years and we thank you most sincerely for your kindness that makes it possible for us to continue to strive to improve the quality of our young citizens' lives and their prospects. Some donors wish to remain anonymous – for us you are treasures, thank you. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to Alyson Carter, Helen Colbeck, Mike and Ruth David, Don and Mary Greenwood, Rita Jefferies, Linda Jones, Iain Lee, Rosemary Lipscomb, Tim Lipscomb, Mike Roberts, Suparna Sen, Nigel Shamash, Geoffrey and Ann Steinberg, Polly Stone and Maureen Watson – *and all who shop online using [smile.amazon](#) and have nominated the Human Values Foundation as the recipient of donations from Amazon.*

Research shows that quality, systematic values education in schools not only improves social-emotional skills but also increases positive attitudes towards school, positive social behaviour and academic performance and helps to decrease the likelihood of youngsters getting into trouble or experiencing emotional problems.

Our most pressing need now is to fill the Values Education gap in most teachers' training so that they become far more aware of the significance and importance of values literacy. Bearing in mind the concerns about the mental health of so many young people and the need for children to be able to cope well with the pressures they are experiencing, we also need to be able to provide training so that **The Big Think** can be confidently and successfully implemented as a whole-school initiative, with the active, collaborative support of teachers, non-teaching staff, school governors, parents and carers. So please encourage your friends, family members, colleagues and others to visit our websites and support us financially in order that we can go on pursuing our mission of advancing the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning, especially so that children aged 4 to 11 can lay down solid foundations for their lives.

AND FINALLY ...

THANK YOU ALL so much for your remarkable generosity, appreciation, voluntary work and practical support that means we can continue to embed a culture of children's social, emotional, moral and spiritual growth in our schools.

If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas about gaining sponsorship for our various ongoing projects or would like to have some e-materials about The Big Think programme to share with your friends, family members, potential subscribing Friends of our charity and others, please contact:

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Alternatively do ring 01403 259711 or e-mail: yes2values@hvf.org.uk.

The charity's website is: www.humanvaluesfoundation.com.
The Big Think's website is: the-big-think.org.

**The Human Values Foundation team wishes all our readers a happy
and healthy festive season.**

Patrons: Sir Michael Morpurgo, OBE, FRSL, FKC, DL;
Prof Kamran Mofid, PhD; Dr Kevin Auton, PhD
Education Advisor: Sir Anthony Seldon, MA, PhD, FRSA, MBA, FRHisS, FKC

