



**THANK YOU AGAIN** for the flags your tutees produced. I have (finally) put them up in the hall and what a magnificent display they make. If ever you're stuck for an activity, we could do with some more, especially Ukrainian flags. This month, we have Refugee Week and World Refugee Day and the theme is 'compassion'. Tying in nicely with this, I can share some exciting news, details below....

### 19th - 25th June 2023



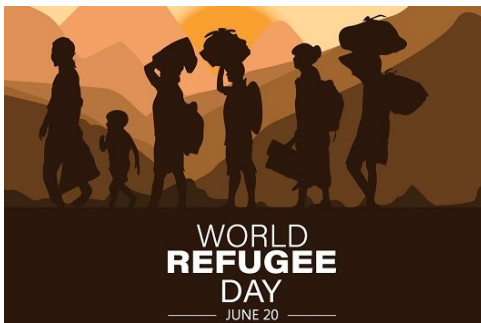
## Refugee Week

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts & culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Founded in 1998 in the UK and held every year around 'World Refugee Day', which is on 20th June. Refugee Week 2023 will be the 25th anniversary.

Through a programme of arts, cultural, sports and educational events alongside media and creative campaigns, Refugee Week enables people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels, as well as encouraging understanding of why people are displaced, and the challenges they face when seeking safety. Refugee Week is a platform for people who have sought safety in the UK to share their experiences, perspectives and creative work on their own terms. Refugee Week's vision is for refugees and asylum seekers to be able to live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can continue to make a valuable contribution.

Ronnie has the following going on in school:

- \* Sharing a Spotify playlist – including songs by refugees and songs about compassion
- \* Lots of podcasts shared, e.g. Asylum Speakers
- \* Competition to design a poster representing this year's theme - compassion



**World Refugee Day** is an international day organised every year on 20th June by the United Nations to honour people who have been forced to flee.

Refugees are vulnerable and in need, are often misunderstood and maligned, and often have very little or nothing of their possessions and little food. They often have to leave their homes with nothing or with what they can carry. They suffer cold, hunger, trauma, despair, disease, violence and loss. The awareness day is to help public understanding of refugees as well as raising support and help.

### Useful links

**Blog: Speaking English as an Additional Language combined with refugee status is a key factor in absence from mainstream classrooms, charity warns.**

This is an interesting article from the Bell Foundation talking about how speaking English as an Additional Language (EAL) combined with refugee status or late arrival into the UK system are key reasons why children are absent from the classroom and not accessing the mainstream curriculum.

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/news/speaking-english-as-an-additional-language-combined-with-refugee-status-is-a-key-factor-in-absence-from-mainstream-classrooms-charity-warns/>

**Some exciting news...** I am starting the process for our school to become a 'School of Sanctuary'. Schools of Sanctuary are places that foster a culture of welcome and safety for people seeking sanctuary, including asylum seekers and refugee families. They educate the whole school community, build empathy and increase intercultural awareness. The process takes roughly a year to build up the evidence required. What's great, is that we do a lot of it already and anything to be improved on will just make us better. More details will be shared as the process goes on.

