

Dear Katie Harrison,

In our class, we have been reading the book: *The Lion Above the Door*. In this book a girl is mentioned and she has vitiligo. People in the book are racist and we were inspired by the book. We think more people should understand what vitiligo is.

One of the characters in our book '*The Lion Above the Door*', called Olivia has vitiligo which is a special difference making someone have patches that are darker than their skin due to melanin. We have realised a picture news on this topic, vitiligo, draws attention to others as it is not mentioned much.

All of us agree it is horrible. So we would like to make it clear to children that people shouldn't be judged or mistreated for how they look. So please would you allow us to have a say in this topic because it makes some children uncomfortable and insecure for their differences. We learnt about this from our book '*Lion Above the Door*'. We came up with the abbreviation BSR meaning Background, Skin and Religion.

We gathered information on vitiligo: it's an autoimmune disorder and not merely a 'cosmetic' problem; vitiligo affects the immune system which affects the skin resulting in white patches. 70 million people around the world have vitiligo. There are no boundaries of race, ethnicity or gender.

I think we should put more models on some shop apps so people can be inspired to help more people who have vitiligo. In our book Olivia is a girl with

vitiligo and instead of showing them she hides it with her white socks so no one can bully her. I think that she should not cover her patches but she was embarrassed so we believe that in shop advertisements should have models with vitiligo.

In our class, we asked children what they thought of racism. One child said: "It's unfair that people are judged for their background, skin or religion. Another girl in our class explained: "It is disgraceful to human kind!". Our teacher, Mrs Melody, absolutely disagreed with racism and said: "It's horrible and needs to be discussed a lot more."

I hope you consider our thoughts and perhaps do a picture news on racism or vitiligo. Maybe think about how we can prevent and things that we can do to stop it. That can be our picture news question: 'How can we prevent racism?'. Please consider our request and get in touch with Mrs Melody where the message can be passed onto us.

Yours Sincerely,

Children from St Wilfrids in Mrs Melody's class Yr 5/6. PS: Everyone in Year 5/6 loves Picture News.