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PRESS RELEASE

01793 781485 | MARKETING@ASCENDLEARNINGTRUST.ORG.UK

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Pupils Introduced to the Culture of Fiji

Wellington Lions Primary Academy welcome Fiji day.

With the first of many culture days to come, Wellington Lions pupils have celebrated the rich culture from the Fiji islands. Teachers, family and friends from the island of Fiji were welcomed into school on 10th October to teach pupils all about their culture.

The day began with a lovo, an earth oven. The lovo was invented to cook food for large gatherings in Fiji and would be crafted by the men. Creating a small pit, then using firewood and large stones collected from the riverbed beside the school, an earth oven was created for the pupils of Wellington Lions. The meat was wrapped in tinfoil and placed on mesh wire with a cover over to cook, traditionally, coconut leaves would be used over tin foil in Fiji.

Mrs Liganimeke brought in her bag of artefacts that she had collected from her homeland Fiji. Among the many artefacts was necklaces made of trees and shells, along with a large shell, flower garlands and fans, each class took it in turns to explore and learn about all the items.

The day ended in a celebratory welcoming ceremony, with dances and songs, including the national anthem and a variety of Fijian songs. Kava the traditional drink which is considered an honour, the drink was passed around to all in the welcoming ceremony.



Mrs Handley-Wells, Teacher at Wellington Lions Primary, went on to say “We are so grateful to our Fijian community, within our school and local community, without them this day would not have been possible. It was wonderful to see our pupils so engrossed in all of the days events, even getting involved with singing and clapping along to the music in the final assembly. We hope to welcome more cultures into the school moving forward, with this being our first ever Fiji day the bar was set extremely high.”