



King of the Classroom & Queen of the Classroom Derrick Barnes / Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Starting school is a big milestone: the heroes of these two stories are ready for the big day ahead! Each of their days are jam-packed, but they are up for the challenge, taking new experiences in their stride with infectious enthusiasm and kindness.

Kindness

Read 'King of the Classroom' and 'Queen of the Classroom' and discuss all the ways the two main characters show kindness on their first day at school. With the children, talk about how they too can show kindness. You could create a list of kind acts and add to these during the day to celebrate together before home time.

Making Friends

In 'King of the Classroom' the little boy begins to make friends by bravely asking Marie to play with him. How can you encourage friendships? Try placing a large stuffed animal toy into the classroom and introduce it as a friend to anyone who is feeling lonely. Talk about all the ways they could also make the new toy feel welcome in the classroom.

Families

Family is really important in each of these books: they are celebrated through art in 'Queen of the Classroom' as MJ draws a picture of her little brother and in the way the little boy in 'King of the Classroom' cannot wait to tell his parents about his first day at school. This provides a good opportunity to talk about different family structures and the important role our families play in supporting us all. Encourage the children to talk about the people (and pets) who are important to them. They could draw and label these for a classroom display.

Imaginative Play

Read 'King of the Classroom' and explore where the children battle a fire-breathing dragon as part of their play. You can encourage similar imaginative play using:

- Puppets and dolls (you could even create a puppet theatre)
- A role play area
- Dressing up clothes and costumes
- Taking toys outside to develop play in different contexts e.g. a teddy bears picnic
- Encouraging children to set up their own small world scenarios.

Get involved and join in too!

Creative Art and Design

Ask the children to create their own crowns and become Kings and Queens of their own classroom. How would they decorate it? What would they use?

