

DELAMERE SCHOOL CELEBRATE RUGBY

During Rugby World Cup 2015, with hundreds of schools celebrating the event, pupils at Delamere School in Flixton, Manchester, desperately wanted to be part of those celebrations.

Delamere School is a delightful little primary special school for pupils with physical, cognitive and complex needs. As the children at the school are unable to physically play the game of rugby, different ways of being part of the nation's festivities were explored.

All the classes adopted one of the competing nations, and were given a task to find out all about their country's culture, geography and art. The children designed T-shirts in their adopted country's colours, with a lot of thought, hard work and marvellous hand painting. As many children are physically unable to hold paintbrushes, hands became the tools, messy, covered in paint but lots of fun, and creativity was evident. The T-shirts were displayed together with other donated flags and banners in the designated Rugby World Cup Fanzone area for all the school to see.

Not only did the school follow the real tournament as it progressed, the children took part in different sporting activities including a number of adapted games in which each country competing to win the Delamere Webb Ellis Trophy. On one of his visits to the school, Ken Andrews, RFU Council Member for Lancashire, donated the Try and Conversion game, and was an instant hit. This game consisted of two buckets into which the children could throw bean bags to score tries and then conversions, enabling all the children to enjoy taking part.

Rose Hutchinson, the P.E. Co-ordinator at the school said, "...It was lovely to see all our children take part in our Rugby World Cup celebrations. Whether it was creating the colourful T-shirts with their hand painting skills, or taking part in the activities with the specially made rugby game, the school demonstrated that no matter what a child's ability or disability is, here at Delamere, we can look back and say that we were part of the wonderful tournament and celebrations of the Rugby World Cup 2015..."

