

A representative from Lepra gave a talk to the children of Longwell Green Primary School during their assembly on **Monday 19th January** about the work of Lepra and how the charity looks after and treats children and adults with leprosy.



This is to help develop a wider understanding and empathy with people facing health issues which can often isolate them from their communities.

Between **Monday 19th January and Thursday 5th February** the children will have the opportunity to take part in fundraising to raise funds for Lepra. The children have been given envelopes and have been asked to tell people about the work of Lepra, and collect voluntary donations to help support the charity.

We would like to ask you to support your child by enabling them to talk about their learning on this issue and permitting him/her to collect donations, only from those known to you and your family, or those whom you feel it is appropriate for your child to approach. We do hope that you will feel able to support your son/daughter and thank you in advance for helping to give a life back to the many children and adults who are in great need of Lepra's help.

What is leprosy?

Leprosy is one of the world's oldest diseases yet millions of people are still affected worldwide. Leprosy is an infectious disease of the skin and nerves which, if left untreated, can lead to deformities and blindness.

A curable disease

Leprosy is an entirely curable disease, through a simple course of medication. Every two minutes someone is diagnosed with leprosy, but due to the lack of education and stigma surrounding the disease, some people are diagnosed too late and develop life changing disabilities.

Stigma of leprosy

People are subjected to discrimination and social exclusion simply because they or someone in their family has had the disease. In India there are currently 16 laws which discriminate against people with leprosy such as being prevented from running in elections and leprosy being granted as grounds for divorce. Fear and discrimination of leprosy stem from a lack of education about the disease.

A disabling disease

Due to a loss of sensation in the nerves, people with leprosy cannot feel pain. They may not be able to

feel when they have cut their feet or burned their hand on the stove. Without treatment, these injuries can become infected and if left untreated, can lead to the life changing disabilities many people commonly associate with leprosy.

How Lepra helps

Lepra has been at the forefront of prevention, treatment and management of leprosy for 90 years. We work directly with leprosy affected people at a local, national and international level to ensure they receive the care and dignity they need.

They:

- Train others to recognise and treat leprosy
- Treat complex cases
- Deliver specialist services to prevent disability
- Provide daily living aids and special shoes to improve life for people already disabled

You can change the life of someone living with leprosy.

For more information about Lepra's work, please visit their website:

www.lepra.org.uk

www.facebook.com/LepraHealthinAction

www.twitter.com/Lepra_HinA