

Hello Upwey South Primary school students, teachers and parents.



My name is Sol, and I am in Year Three.

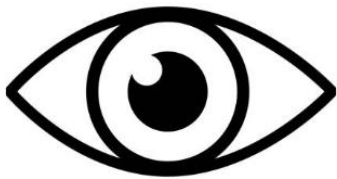


As you might already know, last year I presented a speech during neurodiversity celebration week.



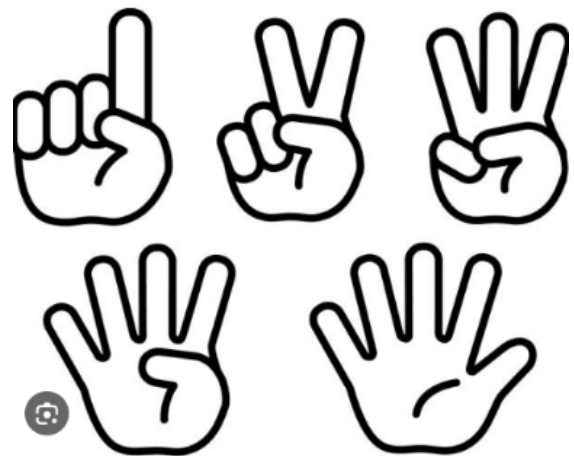
I introduced you to the wonderful world of neurodiversity, specifically my kind - which is autism.

Today I would like to explain how neurodivergent people have shaped the world.



There are many types of neurodiversity, these include

- Autism
- ADHD
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Dyscalculia
- and others such as Tourette's Syndrome.



Neurodivergence has been around since the beginning of the human race, it is not a recently discovered difference - now we just have a nice big word for it!



It is thought that neurodivergent people would likely have been the ones who kept the tribe safe by being extra sensitive and super alert to sounds, movement and changes in environment, which would have helped with tracking animals and the stars for example.



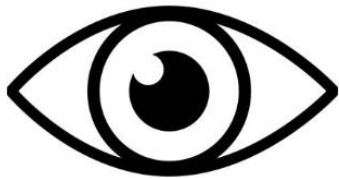
There are some very well-known people who, if they were alive today, would almost certainly be considered neurodivergent.



One of these incredible people was Thomas Eddison who invented the light bulb.

According to records he hyper-focused on his work for very long periods of time.

He struggled with formal education and had an odd way of approaching problem solving.



Another great example is Alan Turing, the inventor of the computer.

Imagine if he didn't exist, well, first of all, adults can't survive a few hours without their phones



and just think about how much we rely on computers and phones for everything in our modern lives!



According to records, Turing's routines were very rigid and he had amazing pattern recognition.

**These are often seen as autistic traits.**



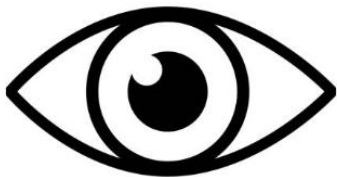
If neurodivergence did not exist, the world would not be the way it is today.



Think of the world as a puzzle, and if neurodiversity didn't exist, then the world puzzle would be incomplete.



There would be no computers, light globes, or Gruffalos.



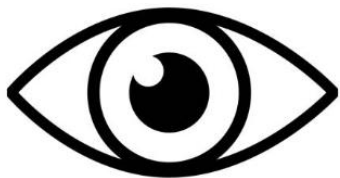
In short, human neurodiversity played a large part in shaping this world we live in today.



We should embrace the fact that neurodiversity is a part of our world, and we should embrace it for the rest of human existence.



We are all special in many kinds of ways, but neurodiversity is just a **special kind of special.**



Thank you.