



Barn Croft Primary School
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Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the current worldwide issue of racism and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Barn Croft is an inclusive school and community built upon our values of COURAGE LOVE EXCELLENCE. We believe that racism has no place in our society and our whole ethos is around teaching and supporting children to be caring of and kind towards everyone.

We are a No Outsiders school, an integral part of our curriculum which addresses issues of discrimination of every kind through wonderful books and stories which help even the very youngest children explore issues of race and identity at an age appropriate level. We are constantly discussing as a staff team how we raise sensitive subjects such as race, gender, disability and homophobia through our curriculum and finding ways to incorporate these into our teaching so that our children grow up having the courage to stand up for what is right and being able to challenge discrimination wherever they see it in their world.

We know there is always more to do. We know how this terrible virus has disproportionately affected our BAME communities. We know that the new National Curriculum in 2014 sought to hide the history of different cultures and so we find ways to ensure that these important topics are covered and taught. For example, we have named our classes after inspirational people who all faced discrimination – Nelson Mandela, Gandhi, Mary Seacole and Alan Turing to name some. We are aware of the need to make sure that the books we read show people of colour. Our assemblies cover racism for example by highlighting the story of Stephen Laurence. We will be looking at the curriculum in detail from September to see if topics need to be altered to cover more black history and culture.

However, during this time of school closure, it is very difficult to tackle these issues directly because we believe that any discussion around these sensitive subjects needs to be done in a safe environment built upon strong relationships between the children and the adults. We will be covering these issues as part of our "Recovery Curriculum" when we return to all being in school together.

Therefore, whilst we are apart, we have worked on planning for the next 5 weeks around the theme of LOVE and using the No Outsiders books. The teachers will make a video of them reading the book to the children and then there will be an activity for the children to do which we hope you will be able to support them with and which will give an opportunity for you to have some good discussions around. Some of the themes in these books are freedom of speech, segregation, difference & being unique, inclusion, integration and sharing our world. These videos will be uploaded onto Class Dojo.

We would love the children to either hold onto these pieces of work or drop them off at school so that we can display them in school along with the wonderful artwork we have seen them producing.

We have a huge responsibility to ensure that children of all races recognise the existence of white privilege and white supremacy. However, we cannot do this alone. All teachers know that before you can support a child to understand something you must ensure you understand it yourself and like everyone else we need time to absorb the current events and make sense of it all. We need parents and carers to talk about diversity with their children. Below are a series of links which might help us in these discussions.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/black-lives-matter-book-lists-ages-0-16/>

<https://mashable.com/article/raising-an-antiracist-child-resources/?europa=true>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

It is not ok for us to just say we don't see colour, it is not ok to aim to just not be racist. We must be, and our children must be, anti-racist.

Take care – best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Tracey Griffiths

Headteacher