

St Mary's C.E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Black Lives Matter/Anti-Racist Curriculum

In the past month, and in addition to the continuing global focus relating to the Coronavirus pandemic, many countries around the world have embraced the Black Lives Matter movement.

The news of George Floyd's death on the 25th May shocked so many of us to the core. That such brutality and injustice continues to present itself in all its ugliness throughout our world also saddens and angers so many millions of people around the world. This has rightfully re-awakened the global fight against racism.

As a school, we have a platform and a voice which we must use to support our children to understand the crucial role that we all play in helping to eradicate racism throughout our community and the wider world. We also take joint responsibility for helping to ensure that the next generation is more enlightened, informed and educated than the one before. We will speak out and speak up against racism; we are anti-racist.

At St Mary's, we actively promote equality of opportunity **for all** of our children and in all that we provide. We have started the process of reviewing our curriculum offer and our school policies to ensure that we are better supporting and giving a stronger voice to our black and minority ethnic (BME) community. For example, there will be a focus on Black History throughout our history topics during the year, celebrating the many achievements of influential black people from our past and not just for the month of October. The curriculum provision will therefore also take account of the context within which we live and the make-up of our school's population.

Our children need help to understand the history behind black and minority ethnic inequalities and the background to some of the attitudes and injustices that exist within our BME communities. The staff and governors at St Mary's therefore believe that the tragic event that happened in America, alongside protests and other awareness raising events across the UK, has given us a mandate and an opportunity to better educate our children and the wider school community about the need for change.

It is to this end that we have attached a guide for parents to assist you to engage your child in discussions about why the Black Lives Matter movement has grown so significantly across the world. Click [here](#) to access the guide, which will also be added to the school website.

We hope that it will also support with any subsequent conversations that you have with your child about the respective roles that we all need to play to help eradicate racism in all its forms.

Together, we will promote the importance of living, working and playing peacefully alongside each other, having full respect for our many differences and rich histories.

In light of our recent guidance from the DfE, we are preparing for changes to our curriculum which will also focus on recognizing the valuable contributions that people from different ethnic backgrounds have made to our rich history. This, we hope will give our entire school community an ever better understanding of and respect for all people, irrespective of ethnicity and/or skin colour.

To help drive the school forward, we shall be inviting parents to form a steering group in the autumn term in order to help support our work in this important area.

We will write to you in the autumn term to provide you with further details about what this will look like. In the interim, we will also be putting some useful and informative resources on our school website; do share these with your child.

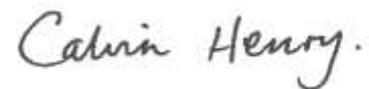
Our thanks to you in advance for your ongoing support,

Steve Baptiste



Deputy Headteacher, Rectory Gardens and BAME Lead

Calvin Henry



Headteacher