

BLACK LIVES MATTER



Crown Lane Primary School supports BLACK LIVES MATTER

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe. I have written to you quite a lot recently to remind you that as a school we are here for you and for your children during what can only be describe as the strangest time of our lives.

Over the course of the lockdown I have attended many virtual meetings led by Cathy Twist, Director of Education and Learning. The statistics around the impact of Covid-19 on Lambeth residents were quite sobering and left me with a sense of sadness, particularly because residents of Black and Minority Ethnicities (BAME) appeared to have been more affected than other groups.

While planning over the last number of weeks I have met with many staff to look at the various risks associated with reopening the school. Almost all were really excited about returning to school, however for some who are from a BAME background there were higher risks associated with their return to work, as you may have seen widely reported in the news. Despite the risks, in a show of commitment to your families we have been able to successfully reopen the school in no small part thanks to the support of our BAME staff.

Just as we were beginning to see a light at the end of what felt like an endless tunnel, we began hearing disturbing news reports from the United States around the death of George Floyd at the hands of those who should have been there to protect him. We began seeing examples of casual racism, where a woman in Central Park used her position of 'White Privilege' to call the police on an innocent man who was bird watching, simply because of his

skin colour. We then began noticing change in the form of the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement.

Crown Lane fully supports BLACKLIVES MATTER and we will continue to do everything we can as a school to promote equality and diversity in all of its forms. As a school community we are committed to lifelong learning. As individuals when we learn we often have to reflect on who we are, our values and our beliefs. We may need to have difficult or uncomfortable conversations and discussions as we learn in order to make steps forward.

To support your child's learning, we are making resources available that address and reflect the ongoing events across the world. It is very important to stress that the resources below are not designed to be a Home Learning activity for your child to work on alone. In school, we will discuss the events in a sensitive, supportive and age appropriate way, led by the children's questions. We are sharing these resources because we are not able to have these discussions in the classroom with every child since not every child has returned to school.

The following linked resources have been produced by Votesforschools and forwarded to us by Lambeth School services:

[Votesforschools Anti-Racism - KS2](#)

[Votesforschools - KS1 Standing Up](#)

Votesforschools explain the content of their lessons as follows:

'The lessons explore the impact of systemic racism & the changes the current Black Lives Matter protests hope to prompt. We focus primarily on the USA, particularly on the role of protesting, social media, and Government response. While these are serious themes, please rest assured we introduce students to them in an age-appropriate way. They will also be provided with ways that they can safely take a stand through our Call to Action, so we hope they feel empowered to make themselves heard.'

We are keen to stress that we too still have much to learn about the true extent of these issues but hope that we have provided voters with a good grounding in what is happening and why things need to change.

While it may not be a subject that pupils have looked at in depth before, we believe it to be a necessary conversation. Whether it is in the classroom or at home, we hope that the topic will prompt interesting, insightful, and impassioned discussion.'

Here are some links to other helpful resources:

[BAME Books](#)

[Diverse Picturebooks BLM QR Codes](#)

I look forward to seeing you in the near future and if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Gavin Farrell