

Wednesday 30th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know about our plans for Black History Month (BHM) and beyond.

Black History Month takes place every October in the UK and is a time to celebrate black culture, heritage, history and the creative arts from a black perspective. Each year we try to engage children in conversations and learning about important role models and black figures, teach them about black history and culture and explicitly teach tolerance, diversity and cohesion.

The events of the past months show us that no matter how inclusive our world *can* be, there is still a void where the representation of black and ethnic minority individuals should be. If children do not see themselves represented fairly in society they will find it hard to engage with that society themselves, not to mention the negative impact this will have on their self-esteem.

As a school, we have always tried to encourage children to be proud of their heritage and be accepting that we are all different and that these differences are our strengths. However, I feel we must actively go further if we want to ensure that the society our pupils live in and contribute to reflects, promotes and includes them at all levels.

Education is a driver for social change but change can only come when we listen and learn. Unfortunately, the National Curriculum does not include opportunities to learn about black history. Black history is British history and must be explicitly taught as such. Not through the lens of immigration and slavery but in its exciting, complex entirety.

This year we will be welcoming different performers, artists and musicians into school and I hope that children will be inspired by them. However, the ethos behind BHM must be incorporated into school life as part of our culture every day, not just for one month a year. Therefore, in the spring term we will be introducing The Black Curriculum into KS2 History. I can't wait to share more information about this nearer the time. (www.theblackcurriculum.com)

For GT, Black History Month this year is a springboard for further change. As a community, we are determined to better ourselves through learning in order to make a lasting impact on all our children's lives.

I look forward to sharing this process with you.

Yours sincerely,



Verity Carter

Headteacher