

8th June 2020

Dear Kilmorie Families

I am sure many of you will have been upset and outraged by the shocking death of George Floyd at the hands of a policeman, which took place in America recently. The pictures of people protesting against this racist killing and the #BlackLivesMatter campaign has shone a light again on racism, injustice and prejudice in our world. This will have undoubtedly impacted on your family life and you and your children may be feeling shocked, scared, angry and upset. We want to let you know that we are feeling this way here at Kilmorie too.

Last week some year groups included resources to address this important issue. We are now collating more resources, by researching and liaising with other schools, in order to ensure we can support you in the discussions you are having with your children. We would also welcome any resources you have found helpful for your family so please do share them with us.

As you know, the most important thing is to talk with your children and acknowledge their feelings about what is happening and engage them in thinking how we can all fight racism and inequality wherever we find it.

On our website we have included a statement from Lewisham and our own Kilmorie statement (see below). This may be a starting point for addressing these important issues with your children.

Black Lives Matter in Lewisham

A message from Pinaki Ghoshal, Lewisham's Executive Director for Children and Young People and Angela Scattergood, Director of Education.

The Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan has published a statement on behalf of Lewisham Council in response to the killing of George Floyd in the United States. You can read the full statement here:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/black-lives-matter-in-lewisham>

We believe that our schools and settings are key to tackling racism and other forms of discrimination. We will support all Lewisham schools and settings in their commitment to standing against racism and injustice, alongside and in solidarity with the local and global Black community.

Kilmorie Statement

Kilmorie Primary School is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming place for everyone; we believe it always will be. At the heart of our school are our Kilmorie Child Qualities including respect and empathy. The ethos and values of our school community are underpinned by our school rules: to show care and consideration to all and to challenge unkind behaviour. We are always here for everyone, regardless of race, sexuality, gender, religion or anything else that makes us who we are.

Today and every other day, all of us at Kilmorie Primary School stand as one with our black pupils, staff, parents and the entire BAME community in condemning racism. #BlackLivesMatter

'Race and racism is a reality that so many of us grow up learning to just deal with. But if we ever hope to move past it, it can't just be on people of colour to deal with it. It's up to all of us – Black, white, everyone – no matter how well-meaning we think we might be, to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting it out. It starts with self-examination and listening to those whose lives are different from our own. It ends with justice, compassion, and empathy that manifests in our lives and on our streets.'
– Michelle Obama

Yours faithfully
Liz and The Senior Leadership Team