



Ark John Keats Academy

11th June 2020

Dear all,

We thought it was important to write to the whole school community in response to the 'Black Lives Matter' protests around the world.

We are saddened by the murder of George Floyd and the deaths of countless others before him which are the direct result of racism. We know that these events will have brought feelings of trauma to our black pupils, members of staff and their families. This has highlighted issues of racism and discrimination around the world. This issue is not just limited to the US, but is also a problem in the UK.

As a school, we stand in solidarity with the black community. Addressing the inequalities that exist within our society must not be left to the black community alone. We are committed to being an anti-racist organisation that challenges not just overt racism, but also structural racism and unconscious bias. In our ongoing work, we will listen, respond and enact changes that confront these racial biases and discrimination throughout all of society, including in school.

As a school we must provide leadership on this. We are all responsible for empowering our pupils to challenge racism, engage in complex and nuanced conversations about race, and live the school values of kindness and empathy.

As part of their home-study, secondary pupils will be provided with age-appropriate character resources to work through. Primary pupils will receive resources to work through with their parents, and Y6 pupils will have character sessions in school. These will be similar to their character news sessions, and should help the pupils to think about these complex issues. Please do speak about them with your children and talk about what they have learnt and what they think about these issues.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact us by emailing info@arkjohnkeatsacademy.org.

As an entire community, we ask that you challenge us to do better, challenge each other to do better and continue to support our pupils in creating a better world.

Yours sincerely,

William Mackintosh
Secondary Headteacher

Amy Baird
Primary Headteacher

Jane Witheford
Executive Principal

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