

To the whole of the Riverside School community ... this is our call to action.

You will be aware that October is **Black History Month**, an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the history, achievements and contributions made by black people across the world, over many, many generations.

When we began to think about how we'd celebrate **Black History Month**, we wanted to do so much more than we could meaningfully achieve in just one day, one week or in this one month.

At Riverside School, we are wholly committed to celebrating diversity and challenging racism and discrimination in all its forms. We believe that we have a duty to play our part in building a fairer and more inclusive society, a society in which fear and prejudice have no place.

Following the tragic death of George Floyd on May 25<sup>th</sup>, millions of people across the world have stood united. They have marched together against injustice and communities have come together to grieve, to reflect, and to learn. We hope that the events you have seen unfold across the world have not only made you think about injustice in society but more importantly, made you want to do something about it.

At Riverside School, we believe we have a responsibility to shape and help create the kind of society we all want to be part of. In many ways, the events we have all witnessed have highlighted just how fractured our society can be. At Riverside School, we believe there is no place for racism, discrimination, injustice or inequality and this must cut across everything we do.

Martin Luther King said "The time is always right to do what is right" and we believe that the time is now. Over the years, many of you will have been involved in school events that have celebrated diversity and difference, but we know there is still so much more to be done.

Please stand with us as we explore this further. We want each and every one of you to feel a true sense of belonging and connection to Riverside School, that you can be "you" in all of your uniqueness, beauty and glory. One of our strategic priorities is "to further strengthen a truly inclusive environment, in which the whole school community feel welcomed, valued and confident to bring their whole selves to the school" and we would love you to help us shape our next steps as we embark on this journey together.

Our January staff conference will act as a launchpad for this work and if you would like to contribute in any way to the planning stage, we would love to hear from you. We will be hosting two working parties in November for families and staff and if you would like to be involved, please complete the attached form.

Thank you in advance for playing your part in building a better future.





Name of person / people attending .....

Child's name.....

Please circle your choice from one of the below:

- I would like to be part of the Family Working Party on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.
- I would like to be part of the Family Working Party on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5.00pm.
- I am unable to attend either of the dates but would like to be involved in a different way (we will contact you in this case).

Please indicate which site you would like to go to or if you would prefer to join via zoom and we will do our best to facilitate this. Please circle one of the below and return to school by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020:

Riverside Beckenham

Riverside St Paul's Cray

Riverside West Wickham

Join via Zoom