Millfields Mag

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2020

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Millfields Learning at Home and at School

Well, this is the week that we would have been electing our new Millfields prime Minister, and although this obviously wasn't able to happen this week, all of you have been very busy learning about democracy, with an emphasis on the right to have your voice heard. This has been particularly important in light of the recent tragic death of George Floyd that you will undoubtedly have heard about in the news over the last week or so.

In light of this, many of the discussions and debates this week on Zoom sessions have been around equality, anti-

racism and protesting - being heard. The children at Millfields, as always, have been very vocal, very animated, intelligent and empathetic in their views that they have shared. They have also been very busy making posters, writing reports and letters and thinking about how we can all help make the change that is needed for a better future that is fair and equal. Thank you to you all for getting so involved and working with your children and talking with them this week as we marked 'Democracy Week'. The success of the whole week was down to the brilliant planning and organisation from Emma -such fantastic engagement from the whole school community. There has been no campaigning, hustings or election of a Prime Minister at this time, but we are hoping that this will be something we can do in the Autumn term if and when we are all back together. In the meantime, a big 'thank you' to our current PM, Rosa Jenkins, for her inspiration and ideas this year and for taking the time to speak to you all at the beginning of the week via video link

I too, have been thinking about the effect that recent worldwide events, on top of a world pandemic, will have on the children at Millfields and beyond - the Black Lives Matter movement, debate on the removal of racist and offensive TV programmes/media content, as well as the removal of statues of people in the past who should never be revered and the need for a total revision of the curriculum that we teach in school. We, as a school, need to work with our children and families to ensure that they all feel supported, valued and connected to their communities. Their sense of belonging is paramount right now and I am sure you are all dates updates and the mean to reinforce this means and the means the means and the means and the means and the means are supported.

doing whatever you can at home to reinforce this message. Children and families will have a range of emotions they are dealing with as this hateful injustice will quite rightly spark concerns here as well as abroad. Please <u>click here</u> to see the Mayor of Hackney's message which marks Hackney out as a borough that actively works to be Anti- Racist.

We have already been doing some work as a staff this academic year around 'Unconscious Bias', 'Equalities' and 'Cultural Capital' so we are already on the way to thinking how we at Millfields can make sure that the experience, including the curriculum,

Jane

reflects and celebrates our diverse and inclusive community. There is a link on the school website to a range of recommended books that you may want to read with your child if you have not already. I also hope that you will have watched this week's brilliant assembly prepared and presented by Vicky and her son, Sam, that focuses on tackling racism and being the change for a better future.

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire that was sent out last week, and a big thank you for all the lovely comments, and also for your suggestions for home learning moving forward, and possibly into September. If you haven't already responded, please do so before the end of Monday 15th June and we will then be able to publish and share some of the stats and comments with you. On that note, I would just like to add that in terms of wellbeing and safeguarding for all our pupils, there are lots of things going on daily 'behind the scenes'. We are aware that not all pupils had access to IT devices at the beginning of the closure, but we have had several generous donations of laptops and devices that have been distributed to identified families; we have also been delivering paper packs of work to families who have been finding it difficult to access worksheets; we have been calling parents of vulnerable children, identified by social workers, or who have not engaged with zoom, email or Edmodo; we have been sign-posting families and individu-

als to therapy and support organisations. If there is a child or family that you have concerns about, please do get in touch with me or Debi.

Finally, thank you as always, for all your support and for your good wishes and thanks to all the staff during lockdown. We will be welcoming more children back into school next week, so I look forward to seeing some of you then. Take care, keep well and stay safe.











