



# St Luke's News

A Christian school that serves a diverse community and works in partnership with parents to develop the whole child.



12th June 2020

Dear Parents

*I suspect 2020 will be a year we will all remember until our time on this planet comes to an end! On top of the terrible impact of Covid-19 we have now seen over the last few years a series of horrific public killings of black men and boys in the USA by the authorities culminating in the horrific murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. But as dreadful as this is, it can hopefully be a force for change.*



This week I have had several chats with the key-worker children around the importance of the Black Lives Matter protests and as ever there is hope in the world if our children have anything to do with it. We talked about the place of slavery in this current situation and the fact that ever since man walked this earth in a semi-organised society, slavery has been used by the powerful to secure their position. The legacy of poison that slavery can leave in some people's minds is what we sadly continue to harvest but this current situation allows us to look at the causes and think how we can adjust our teaching in schools and beyond to better understand those causes and find solutions to hate. We need to head to a place where Josiah in Y5 said that 'All lives matter' - but we are not there yet.

My ramblings are better summed up by Ms Holley from our staff who said:

*"As a Christian school for all, we are called upon to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. He taught us to look after the marginalised and to stand up against injustice in order to respect the human dignity of all. Therefore we stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matters and all who challenge injustice in the world so that we may live in a just and more equal society."*

Thank you to Ms Norcross and Ms Bolaji (Funmi in Y3's mum) who helped to kickstart our thinking on this and please follow the links below for some **high quality book ideas** that you may want to explore with your children around positive role models.





## 30 Picture Books To Promote Black Representation In Children's Literature

and a further list here:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/black-lives-matter>

### More Children Return

We welcomed back Y6 & YR children this week and on Monday it is the turn of Y1 children to come back.

We only have about 40% of each year group turning up at the moment so we may be able to open up to some more nursery children the following week. The



government announced this week what we all knew – that schools cannot get everyone back in before the Summer holidays with all the restrictions that are still in place. I am trying to arrange an outdoor Summer Camp

for the children of St. Luke's in August to give our families some support this Summer. We will try to subsidise it to bring costs down and I will send a Google Form round in a couple of weeks time to see how many are interested.

Although many schools have been open during this time they have not had as many children in as we have when you compare the size of different schools' staff. So, where many school staff from bigger schools have been working 1 week in 3 or 4, many of our staff have worked non-stop since the March 20<sup>th</sup> closure – coming in during nervous times to support our families. I really can't thank them enough and I know you will do so in person when we all meet again.



Socially distanced PE

### Church/School Partnership

St. Luke's School is very fortunate to have the support of St. Luke's Church during these difficult times. Sharon comes on a Thursday to help pack over 60 food parcels and Geoffrey and Rev. Amy come on a Friday to do most of the home deliveries – without their

partnership and support we would find it difficult to maintain all we want to do to support families so we would like to say a huge thank-you to all at St. Luke's Church.

We pray that a better world emerges from these difficult times and we realise that we all have a part to play in that journey, so we can achieve Josiah's eloquently stated hope for a future where all lives matter.

Have a peaceful weekend.

*Matt Hipperson*

*Head Teacher*

