

Rokesly Infant and Nursery School

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At Rokesly...

Our community is warm and welcoming

Learning is fun and fascinating

We celebrate the things that make us special

We challenge ourselves to go further

Dear Parents and Carers,

Monday 22nd June 2020

At Rokesly Infants we strive to promote equality and celebrate diversity in all its forms. With the international coverage of the events following the murder of George Floyd we know that you may be having discussions, often difficult ones, with your children.

As a school, we are committed to being actively anti-racist. Our community is diverse in many ways, and this diversity brings strength and opportunity. As teachers and school staff, we want the very best for our children. We recognise that education is the most important tool in overcoming discrimination, because fear and ignorance fuel racism. By helping children to understand the world, we enable them to be critical and creative thinkers. We want our children to have the knowledge and skills to question racist views wherever they may encounter them. Racism is something that we must all strive to defeat.

Talking about racism can feel uncomfortable, but it is vital that we help our children to understand. We feel it is important to make resources available that talk directly about the issues and can support you in having conversations with your child about race and racism. We have included below some links which you may find useful, many of which have been identified by our Rokesly parents:

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold: This book follows a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcome. This book lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space and they are welcome in their school. A video reading of this book is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc8IEcr1Uwc>

Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Méndez: When a girl is asked where she's from - where she's really from - none of her answers seems to be the right one. This resonant picture book tells the story of one girl who constantly gets asked a simple question – one that doesn't have a simple answer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmRE05s5dTU>

The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad: A powerful story about the first day of school and two sisters on one's first day of hijab. Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad's debut children's book is an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the bond between siblings and of being strong and proud of who you are. A video reading of this book can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2oK6mDz5SA>

A Kids Book About Racism, Jelani Memory: This book gives a clear description of what racism is, how it makes people feel when they experience it, and how to spot it when it happens. A great introduction to kids on the topic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivT1ik02z6U>

My Two Grandads by Floella Benjamin: A story of a mixed heritage family reconciling their different cultures. A wonderful celebration of diversity by a much loved television presenter and personality.

ARTICLES AND PODCASTS

[The Week Junior | Tips for talking about this week's news with your child](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/7xvLw6Q4qbJBnkzki6xm9Z/how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-race-and-racism>

Best wishes

Grant Bright (Head teacher)