



MARKEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL
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To all Parents/Carers,

Monday was the first post-lockdown day for our FS2 and Y1 children and it seemed to go very smoothly! My biggest worry was drop off in the morning and how they would react to the new lining up system and saying goodbye in a different way but, for the most part, they handled it extremely well! They loved the new playground markings and, more than anything, loved seeing their friends and teachers for the first time in ages. Thank you for adhering to our new one-way system and following the guidance we have put in place. Unless I am told otherwise, this was a big tick for everyone involved so well done.

#BlackLivesMatter

As a school community, we are deeply shocked and saddened by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the 25th of May 2020. Indeed, on our first day back the Y6s wanted to talk about this more than anything else and I know they have welcomed the subsequent class discussions; which were already planned. That said, it is something we want all of our children to discuss and understand (those in school and those at home) so please visit your child's learning grid on the school website (under 'Our Learning') from next Monday for further details. The activities for all year groups are scheduled over two weeks and we would encourage you to work alongside your children and take time to discuss the events together. The activities are chosen to stimulate discussion and understanding in a variety of ways and we would love to see and hear about the work they inspire.

Other links which we feel are really useful include:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52813673>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52893017>
- <https://equaliteach.co.uk/how-to-talk-with-children-and-young-people-about-race-and-racism/>

Homework for the children... 'in light of this event, what message would you give to the world to make it a better place?' Please email me with your messages and I will put them on Twitter.

Any new Government announcements?

In case you missed it, Boris Johnson announced that Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 will not be coming back before September as originally planned. This was not entirely unexpected as all schools, including Markeaton, knew that this was not possible under the current restrictions and social distancing. We are sad that so many children will be missing school for such a long period of time but we hope this big 'Summer Catch-up' program, also announced the other day, will provide us with some positive news. Up to now we do not know what this will entail but we will keep you posted as and when we get any information.

Remote Learning

Without wanting to commit to anything at the moment, we are looking into what options around Remote Learning are currently available to us as a primary school. Remote Learning would enable your child, plus other children in their class and the class teacher, to be in a virtual classroom at the same time. For now, as a starting point, we would be looking at your child's class teacher maybe reading a story - something pretty low key but fun. I wouldn't say it was imminent, but we are doing some research on this as there are many elements around safeguarding, technology and training which need to be carefully considered. I will keep you updated over the coming week and see if we are able to move forward.

Key worker/vulnerable children group

In case you are reading this letter first, please be aware that the other letter you have been sent about our key worker/vulnerable children group may apply to you and your current circumstances so please read it as soon as possible as there is a deadline to check.

Best wishes and take care,

Mr I. Johnson