

BEECHES GREEN PAGES

Issue 18

28th January 2022

ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE

Our anti-racism drive continues and on the back of this newsletter is something that we have been working on. This is our pledge as a school. The document gives the rationale for our pledge, links to the UN Rights of the Child and some quotes, both from famous people and from some of our own children, taken last year. In the middle, we explain our five strands of our pledge: Listen, Educate, Represent, Stand Up and Speak Out, Celebrate. We have already started using the pledge in our recruitment; all members of staff and governors will be expected to commit to the pledge. As always, if you have any suggestions as to how we can do better in our fight against racism, please get in touch. Thank you for your support.

CHILDREN'S ANTI-RACISM GROUP

On a related topic, we have a very enthusiastic and active children's anti-racism group in school. At present, we do not have any representation from Year 3 in the children's group because we wanted to give them time to settle in first, but they are very settled now and it is right that they should be represented in the group. Therefore, we have had a chat with Year 3 this week and given them an application form to fill in if they want to be involved. They don't have to fill the form in if they don't want to but if they would like to be considered as their class' representative on the group, they need to **return their completed form by Monday 31st January**. If your child doesn't have a form, you can access it here: <https://www.beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk/about-us/anti-racism>

SCHOOL DRIVEWAY

Thank you for listening to our request not to drive onto the site at the start and end of the day. Please do not use the school entrance as a turning circle; this causes considerable inconvenience and danger to children and the community.

LOLA

We are very proud of all our children and the things they do outside of school. From time to time, something comes along that deserves a special mention, particularly when it involves kindness to other people. We have been made aware of some of the things that Lola (5SM) and her family have been up to recently in support of the homeless and people who are struggling to afford life's essentials. Lola has taken part in a few different activities, including giving up some of her time over Christmas; she has helped Santa collect money, delivered items for very young children to families in need and helped out at a foodbank. Most recently, Lola cooked a vegetarian chilli which was given out to homeless people in Birmingham as part of an outreach project. Lola - we are so proud to have you in our school. You epitomise the values of kindness and empathy that we all need to show to people who need it most.

NUMBER DAY

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on Friday 4th February. Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, can-do attitude towards numbers. We will be having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in 'Dress up 4 digits.' Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it. It can be a football shirt, netball shirt, jumper, T-Shirt or even a onesie! You can get even more creative by dressing in a numbers theme outfit you've made. To help raise money for NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £2 through your School Money account. We'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event. On average, a child contacts Childline every 25 seconds. Let's help as much as we can by having fun with maths and donating what we can.

COVID-19 ISOLATION AND TEST REPORTING

Covid-19 cases continue to increase in our school. I am told it is a similar picture in most schools at the moment. We have had more than 80 cases since the start of term. Some of you have faced disruption as a result of this, for which we apologise. Thank you for the overwhelming support we have had. Please continue to report your child's test results - you can do so using this QR code.



PARENTS' EVENINGS

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and the very high case numbers in our school, we regret that February's parents' evenings will be held online and not in-person. We will give you more information about booking appointments and joining online in due course.

FOOTBALL REPORT

Giselle has written about last night's football match: *We played Lyndon Green Juniors and even though both teams, played very well we won 4-0. Our whole team played well; our amazing striker (Hannah) scored all four goals with assists from Lilly (our captain,) Abbie, and myself. Our goalkeeper Ellie and our defenders, Milli and Adana, made sure we kept a clean sheet. We are really pleased that we won and are very excited to play again.*

DIARY DATES

Thu 3 Feb	Professor McGinty visiting Year 3
Fri 4 Feb	Number Day - non-uniform
Tue 15 & Wed 16 Feb	Parents' evenings
Mon 21 - Fri 25 Feb	Half Term
Mon 14 - Fri 18 Mar	Whole school Science Week
Fri 18 Mar	Red Nose Day - non-uniform

TEAM POINTS THIS WEEK

1	Team Malala (Yellow)	313
2	Team Zephaniah (Green)	303
3	Team Cadbury (Red)	290
4	Team Lewis (Blue)	257

BEECHES BRILLIANT READERS

Year 3: Ziya (3SP)	Year 4: Isaiah (4RW)
Year 5: Sofia (5CS)	Year 6: Adana (6IS)

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3AL: Umaiza	4AP: Lily	5CL: Ria	6IS: Joban
3AP: Charlie	4KP: Neveah	5CS: Dolten	6KA: Irfan
3SP: Darla Rae	4RW: Isaiah	5SM: Hamza	6LA: Dhruv

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Beeches Junior School Anti-Racism Pledge



Why do we have an anti-racism pledge? And why now?

The murder of George Floyd was a significant moment. It prompted worldwide reflection that was long overdue and Beeches Junior School was no exception. We know that we have a kind and caring community and our children are our pride and joy. But we also recognise our important role in helping to shape the society and the attitudes of the future, and we recognise that all of us can learn and do better in the fight against racism. It is not sufficient to be “non-racist”; “anti-racism” means taking an active role in the fight against racism, and that is what we strive to do.

We are a proudly multi-cultural school and it is incumbent on us to provide a safe, comfortable environment where all children and adults can feel comfortable and can express their views and let their personalities shine through; where they can set their aspirations high and be supported to fulfil their dreams; where the colour of their skin and their ethnic and cultural background are no barrier to achievement or happiness.

The UN Charter on the Rights of the Child states:

Article 2 - **All children have all these rights, no matter who they are**, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

Article 12 - **Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them.** Adults should listen and take children seriously

Article 29 - **Children’s education** should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should **teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people’s rights, cultures and differences.** It should help them to live peacefully and protect the environment.

Article 30 - Children have the right to **use their own language, culture and religion** - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.

At Beeches Junior School, we pledge to:

- **Listen** to all members of our school community, particularly those who have experienced racism; recognise the reality of racism and the harm it causes, reflect on what we hear and make changes where necessary.
- **Educate** our staff, governors and children, encouraging open discussion, creating a safe environment where everyone can question, debate and explore issues around racism.
- **Represent** a wide range of ethnic groups and cultures through our curriculum, the resources we use and the people that come to our school.
- **Stand up and speak out** where racism occurs and follow up incidents rigorously and fairly.
- **Celebrate** the achievements, successes and positive contributions to UK and world history of people from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including those of our children at school.

“In the future I dream of a world where there’s no need for the saying “Black Lives Matter”

Harleen, Year 6

We are all individual but we stand together. Racism is not cool.

Kadejah, Year 5

To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try.

Rosa Parks

Race and racism is a reality that so many of us grow up learning to just deal with. But if we ever hope to move past it, it can't just be on people of colour to deal with it. It's up to all of us — Black, white, everyone — no matter how well-meaning we think we might be, to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting it out.

Michelle Obama

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

Barack Obama

I am confident that young kids of today will grow up baffled by old attitudes and ways of thinking.

Gareth Southgate

