



# William Torbitt Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs Paven Kettory

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Clare Pike

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent's and Carers,

As you may know, the 1st of October marked the beginning of 'Black History Month', during which we will be holding a number of special assemblies to recognise and celebrate the contribution that black lives have made to society both here in the UK and more widely.

This year we have chosen to focus on individuals whose lives had had an impact more recently - an astronaut, a reporter and a negotiator - ask your children, they should soon be able to tell you more about them! However, we also recognise that to do so only for one special month in the year falls short of what we would hope to achieve as a school.

As a result we would like to share with you some of the work we are currently undertaking as we review and revamp our curriculum, with a particular focus on how we are seeking to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their ethnicity, learn about the positive contribution that people from all backgrounds and ethnicities have had, both historically and in more recent times, and learn about individuals both to whom they can relate and who may be very different to them.

- We are reviewing the texts we use at the core of our English curriculum, looking to ensure that they reflect, both in authorship and content, the wonderfully diverse range of our school community.
- We are also looking at our wider curriculum, with a view to ensuring that over its course pupils are taught about the work and achievements of a diverse and representative range of individuals across all subjects and disciplines.
- We are also conducting a particular review of our history curriculum, with a focus on ensuring that older pupils learn not just about the historic injustices of the past and those who fought against them, but also understand the continuing tensions around privilege and disadvantage these have left in our society.
- Our teachers are sharing the stories of their own lives, backgrounds and experiences (both positive and negative) though regular 'Identity Matters' assemblies, helping pupils to see, understand and appreciate the diversity even within our school community.

We would also like to form a 'working group' with parents to help us consider and develop how else our curriculum can promote the ethos of 'black lives matter', and racial and cultural diversity more widely. If you would be interested in participating in such a group please contact the office and leave your details – we will endeavour to get back to you within the next few weeks. We appreciate that discussions around topics such as these can be awkward, embarrassing or emotive, however we also believe that it is by working together we can make the most progress.

Kind Regards

*I. Jeffery*

Mr I Jeffery

Assistant Head (Curriculum & Assessment)

(You may also be interested to know that Mrs Pike (our Executive Headteacher) is leading the Borough's working group in this area, seeking to develop thinking, understanding and practise around this topic in schools across Redbridge)

