



## **Bessemer Primary School**

*Part of the Bessemer and Keyworth Federation*

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**Executive Headteacher:** Ms Sarah Beard

**Head of School:** Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **Black Lives Matter**

#### **Stand Against Racism**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The terrible death of George Floyd in America and the history of similar tragedies in America, Britain and all over the world have emphasised the uncomfortable truth that we are living in a society that needs to change. As educators and carers of young children we are in a key position to lead and facilitate this change.

At Bessemer we stand firmly against racism in all its forms. We believe that it is no longer enough simply not to be racist ourselves, we must all stand up against racism wherever we see it. If we want to be part of the solution we have to be active, by doing nothing we are part of the problem.

As I'm sure you know, equality has always been high on the agenda at Bessemer. We are a diverse and inclusive school with a zero-tolerance approach to racism and all discrimination. We have always endeavoured to deliver a curriculum and opportunities which are relevant and accessible to all of our children, however we recognize the need for more than this.

As a starting point we are developing some teaching materials for a unit of work based on the Black Lives Matter movement and recent events which we hope to be ready to deliver in the week beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be focusing on the need for change; developing children's understanding of injustice and discrimination, teaching them to identify and challenge inequality and empowering them to fight against racism whenever they come across it.

We hope and believe that all of our families will stand with us in this matter and support us in working towards a fairer future for all of our children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Whitehead".

Elizabeth Whitehead