

12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. As we face the difficult challenge of responding to COVID-19 our thoughts go out to those affected by this event and we send heartfelt thanks to the healthcare workers, local communities and governments around the world working to contain this unprecedented situation. The most important thing, I am sure I will keep repeating, is that we stay positive and supportive as a community.

These are unprecedented times and I cannot stress that although CPS has chosen to follow the government's guidance as far as possible, every school is different and every Head Teacher and governors will endeavour to make the best decisions for the safety of their school communities. This means CPS provision and offer may differ.

We are saddened that we will not be able to welcome all of our children back this term; we miss them all, but are heartened at the news that it looks positive now for September! No matter how creative we are within the government guidelines as they stand; where all teachers and rooms are in use and staff cannot cross from bubble to bubble, we simply cannot see a way for other year groups to return with social distancing requirements ... which I feel the government themselves have recognised hence their decision.

We recognise how hard it is to balance home schooling alongside the pressure of working from home which is a challenge faced by so many parents. As I am sure you can imagine, teachers are incredibly busy, leading bubbles as well as managing their Google Classrooms; but we are committed to Google Classroom this term and then continuing to use this for home learning moving forward.

Thank you to everyone who has completed returning to school surveys, this was so useful for the team. We had planned to send this survey out to all other parents before the end of term to assist with smooth transitioning; however, it has been suggested that we bring this forward so please complete the attached survey if you have not done so already.



Thank you for the positive feedback re children returning, it is very much appreciated...and also for the positivity around assemblies. I am so proud of our children both at home and at school who have been showing our SCARRF values. I'm also proud of the whole CPS community (that's you too) and how well we have pulled together as a team to support the children's continued learning and well-being in such difficult times. I therefore feel the time is right for one of my special **Jammie Dodger Assemblies!** If you would like to join in at home on Tuesday, please ensure you all have a jammie dodger biscuit at the ready! Monday's value assembly will focus on friendship and that we can be friends no matter how different we are using Buzz and Woody as good examples of this. This touches upon recent events, however should you wish to discuss this further, here are some useful resources:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52893017>

<https://www.parents.com/kids/responsibility/racism/>



What's going on?

There have been several nights of protests and violent clashes between police and protestors as demonstrations have swept across cities in the US and other cities around the world. The protests in Minneapolis began in reaction to the death of a man named George Floyd after he was stopped by police officers. The protests have now spread across the country to cities including New York, LA, Chicago and Philadelphia. While many protests have been peaceful, many places have seen rioting, looting and violence and President Trump has said he will call in the army if things aren't brought back under control.

Question:

What does Black Lives Matter mean?

Listen, think, share

- 🌱 Look at the poster image, are you aware of the protests currently taking place in America and in other cities around the world? Explain that many people are angry about the unfairness and mistreatment of how black African American citizens are treated by the police and in other situations within their lives. They want to raise awareness of racism and are trying to change the opinions and actions of others. As some of the protests have turned violent, they have caused divided opinion. Some people believe that more peaceful methods should be used to help educate and initiate change.
- 🌱 Explain that many people in America feel the police and the justice system treat black people unfairly compared to how they treat white people. African Americans are five times more likely to be sent to jail than white Americans. Does this surprise us? Have we heard of the Black Lives Matters movement? Explain that the recent protests have brought the ongoing movement to the forefront of peoples' attention all around the world. The movement campaigns against violence and racism and fights for equality for black people around the world, starting in 2013.
- 🌱 Read through the experience of American author Shola Richards found on the resource. What can it teach us about the effects of racism on his daily life? Does any of his experience surprise us? Why do you think he wanted to share his story at this time?
- 🌱 On Tuesday 2nd June, millions of people around the world shared a plain black image as part of 'Black Tuesday', a global event to protest against racial inequality. Organisers behind the movement asked people to, post a picture of a black square on their social media account, mute their account for the day and use the time they would otherwise be on social media to educate themselves on Black Lives Matter.
- 🌱 Watch the video (link found below). Do we think Blackout Tuesday was an effective way to raise awareness? What do you think the benefits are for pausing and using the time to learn? Can you think of any other ways to raise awareness about an issue we care about?

Reflection

Black Lives Matter and Blackout Tuesday are movements to both raise awareness and educate people about racial inequalities around the world. Racism is something we can all learn about and find out ways that we can support and promote equality for all.

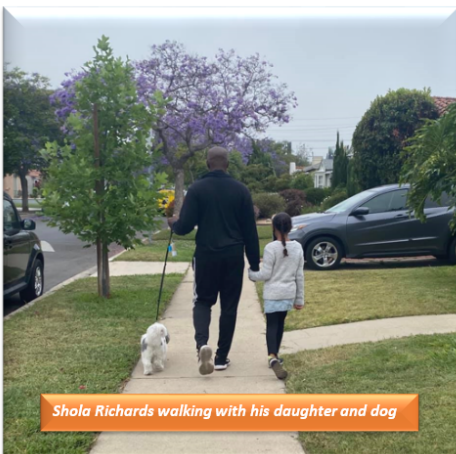
Challenge

Can you find out about and create a fact file from a person influential to the black civil rights movement e.g. Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King?



Resource

Read through the experience of American author Shola Richards. What can it teach us about the effects of racism on his daily life?



Shola Richards walking with his daughter and dog

Twice a day, I walk my dog Ace around my neighbourhood with one, or both, of my girls. I know that doesn't seem noteworthy, but here's something that I must admit, I would be scared to take these walks without my girls and my dog. In fact, in the four years living in my house, I have never taken a walk around my neighbourhood alone (and probably never will).

Some of you may read that and think that I'm being melodramatic, but this is my reality.

When I'm walking down the street holding my young daughter's hand and walking my sweet fluffy dog, I'm just a loving dad and pet owner taking a break from the joylessness of crisis home schooling. But without them by my side, almost instantly, I change into a threat in the eyes of some. Instead of being a loving dad to two little girls, unfortunately, all that some people can see is a 6'2" athletically-built black man in a cloth mask who is walking around in a place where he doesn't belong (even though, I'm still the same guy who just wants to take a walk through his neighbourhood). It's equal parts exhausting and depressing to feel like I can't walk around outside alone, for fear of being targeted. If you're surprised by this, don't be. We live in a world where there is a sizable amount of people who actually believe that racism isn't a thing.

So, let me share some points:

- 1) Having white privilege doesn't mean that your life isn't difficult, it simply means that your skin colour isn't one of the things contributing to your life difficulties. Case in point, if it never crossed your mind that you could have the police called on you for simply bird watching then know that is a privilege that many black people (myself included) don't currently enjoy.
- 2) Responding to "Black Lives Matter" by saying "All Lives Matter" is insensitive. All lives can't matter until black lives matter.
- 3) Racism is very real; it isn't just limited to the extremes.
- 4) In order for racism to get better, it's important we all use our voices and speak up when we see racism.

As for me, I'll continue to walk these streets holding my 8-year-old daughter's hand, in hopes that she'll continue to keep her daddy safe from harm. I know that sounds backward, but that's the world that we're living in these days.

INSET Day: Remains as 10th July: school will be closed to all children.

I know we have had a drizzly week, however here is some advice from Surrey we have been provided to share with you:

‘As summer begins and we experience warmer weather, in these unprecedented times (with the COVID-19 pandemic), it is crucial that everyone keeps well and safe over this period.’

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888252/Beat-the-Heat Leaflet Coping with heat and COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888252/Beat-the-Heat_Leaflet_Coping_with_heat_and_COVID-19.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888247/Beat the Heat 2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888247/Beat_the_Heat_2020.pdf)

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sandra Cunningham

Head Teacher

School Pet Update

Pepper & Patch

Grace (Willow Class) and Ethan (Alder Class) are looking after Pepper and Patch until we all return to school. It looks as though they are all having a lovely time, with lots of cuddles!



Jammie & Dodger

Jammie & Dodger are having a wonderful time staying with Willow (Holly Class). They have developed a love of parsley and as you can see from the picture below - they're very happy!



The Bere / Ribeiro 12 Challenges in 48 Hours

Recently Alex (Aspen) & Nico (Lime) (and their older sisters), organised a weekend of challenges to raise money for the Princess Alice Hospice. Each child had to do 3 challenges over a 48 hour period. They set up their own Just Giving page too!

Alex chose to; run 10k, swim 250 lengths of our neighbour's pool, and spend 24 hours outside with no electronics!

Nico chose to; wash our car, swim 250 lengths of the pool and spend 24 hours outside with no electronics!

Both boys did amazingly well and stuck to the challenges with determination.



So far they have raised almost £400 for the Princess Alice Hospice.

Well Done Boys!

