



HANDSWORTH NEWS

BRANCHING OUT, GROWING TALL
HAND IN HAND, ONE AND ALL



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends.

This week we introduced some of our Year 6 children back into school. Naturally, the children and staff felt a little nervous, however we are confident these small, gradual steps are the best way to bring the children back to school.

We have learnt from this week and can take those lessons into next week. You will see we have posted information for Year 1 parents on the website. Please take time to watch the video and familiarise yourself with the plans. Children will need to bring a named water bottle to school with them.

As for the future, we must continue to wait for Government guidance and the scientific findings in order to make further decisions. I understand this is frustrating, it is frustrating for us too. Once Reception have completed their first week back, we can reflect and look towards our next steps.

Thank you for all you are doing throughout this time, it is great to be making small steps towards our new normal.

We are with you throughout this.

Mrs Nairne

In the last few weeks there has been a huge outpouring of emotion across the world after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in the US. It has made our hearts heavy and we wanted to take this opportunity to reaffirm our values and commitments as a school. The coronavirus has meant that we can't be together as normal, but for us as teachers it has continued to highlight why we do the job that we do. Over and over what we as staff are sharing with each other is how much we love and miss our children. Most importantly, we want the families in our community to know that we are **for them and with them**. Last week, we spoke to you about the work we have been doing with the National Centre for Diversity and how we are actively looking at how to continue to diversify our curriculum. We have also been revising our Behaviour and Teaching and Learning Policies and anti-racism is a value that will remain at the core of this work.

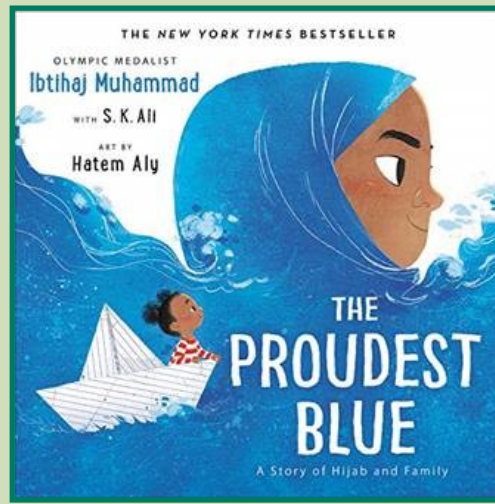
If the last few weeks have left you wondering what you can do to support discussions of race and racism at home, we wanted to recommend some books you might enjoy reading whilst we have a little more time at home. You will see these recommendations with some details on the next page in this newsletter.

#HandinHandOneandAll



Sulwe - Lupita Nyong'o has written a powerful, moving picture book about self-esteem, and learning that true beauty comes from within.

Ages 4-8.



The Proudest Blue - A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school--and two sisters on one's first day of hijab--by Olympic medallist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad..

Ages 4-8.

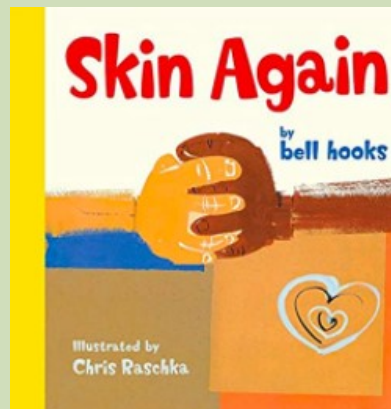


Something Happened in Our Town follows two families — one white, one Black — as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events..

Ages 4-8.

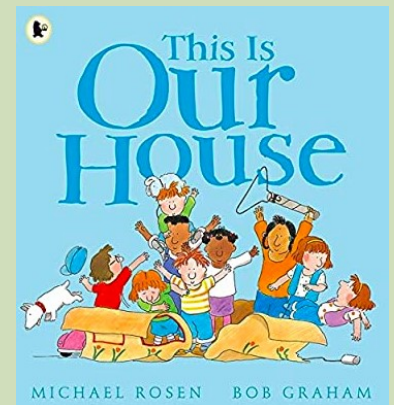


This book is perfect for our very youngest readers. It's Okay to Be Different cleverly delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format featuring Todd Parr's trademark bold, bright colours and silly scenes.



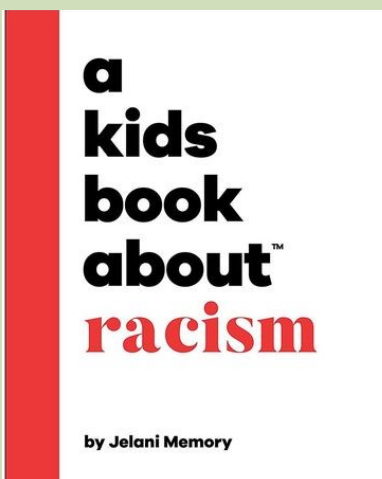
The skin I'm in is just a covering. It cannot tell my story. The skin I'm in is just a covering. If you want to know who I am, you have got to come inside and open your heart way wide.

Ages 5-11

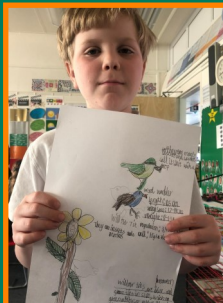
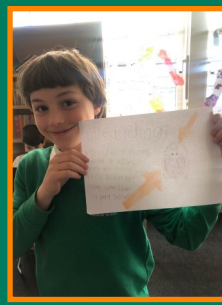
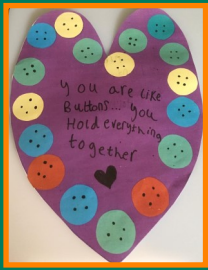


George says the cardboard house is his and no one else can play in it. It isn't for girls, small people, twins, people with glasses, or people who like tunnels. One by one each child is refused access until tables are turned and George finds how it feels to be on the receiving end.

Ages 3-7



A clear, straightforward approach on how to introduce a complex and heavy topic to your child . Written to make a difficult conversation more digestible for little minds, your child as young as 6 can begin to understand what racism is, how it makes others feel, and why it happens.



Well Done