



HANDSWORTH NEWS

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



In the last few weeks there have been some instances where racist language has been used in school. When this happens, we talk to the children and their parents. It is something that we take very seriously. No child should have to hear derogatory language about their race, religion, gender or sexuality.

At Handsworth, we believe that talking about race does **not** reinforce racism. Adults can sometimes be scared of “pointing out” race to their children, but research widely acknowledges that babies as young as six months can categorise by race. Our aim is for our children to be race-conscious, not colour-blind.

It is important that parents talk to their children about race. Start young and don't limit the conversation to a single talk. Children's sense of right and wrong stems from what they observe in everyday behaviour – the jokes people laugh at, what adults show fear towards and the topics that are discussed around the dinner table. In choosing who they will become, our children will look to us – what we stand for and what injustices we refuse to accept.

As a school you know that we are on a journey of embedding anti-racist practice into everything we do. We have procedures on how we deal with racist language and we continue to work to make sure these are effective. Here are three ways in which you can help us with this.

1. Talk to your children about race: When children bring questions/comments about race to you, make sure they know that you value their questions/comments and encourage future conversations. As a first step, say, “Thank you for sharing that, I'm glad you are thinking about these issues.” Then do some research and figure out how you can continue the conversation.

2. Talk about feelings: Feelings are a huge part of how we talk about race. Explore your child's feelings. Share your own feelings. Think about the impact of the words you use on others' feelings. For example: “The N-word is a terrible, horrible name used against Black people. It is a powerful insult meant to make Black people feel less than human. It is not ok to use when talking to anyone.”

3. Be mindful of what your children are seeing and hearing: Know what your children are listening to and doing on social media. Listen to them talk when they're around friends.

We are fully committed to tackling racism and making sure we educate our children in order for the next generation to know about race and the challenges people face today. We know that this is something that we need to be working on daily so it becomes ingrained into our practice. However, moving towards the goal of being a firmly anti-racist school is a key priority.



[Click here to see more photographs of Sports Day!](#)



Photographs of KS2 sports day will be in next week's newsletter

We all had so much fun!



Working together as a team!



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The purpose of Star of the Week is for us to have the opportunity to celebrate every child in our community specifically. We encourage everyone to celebrate what is wonderful about that child. Children do not need to do anything to earn Star of the Week – each child deserves it and they will each get a turn.

If your child is Star of the Week we encourage you to ask them to repeat to you some of the positive statements their classmates and teachers make about them and add your own!