

Wednesday 22 April 2020

“The tiny seed knew that in order to grow, it needed to be dropped in dirt, covered in darkness, struggle to reach the light.” Sandra Kring

Dear Blackfen students

I have not forgotten you – I just needed you to have some time away from school over the last couple of weeks. We are now back and the new term is 2 days old. Yes, it is the same as last term and yes, it is different but we need to continue to do all we can to follow all the guidance as we cope with this virus. To those of you who have been directly affected, my special best wishes to you and your families and friends at this time.

Normally this week I would be leading a start of term assembly for you all. I had planned, as last year, to talk about today being Stephen Lawrence day. If you cannot remember who Stephen Lawrence was and why today is so important you might want to do some research into this. Perhaps spend some of your time today looking up some of the resources on this website – www.stephenlawrence.org.uk.

Stephen Lawrence Day commemorates the life of Stephen Lawrence who was sadly and brutally murdered in a racist attack in Eltham. The day is a time for us to think about the part we all play in creating a society in which everyone can flourish. It is an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard, make the changes they'd like to see and create a society that treats everyone with fairness and respect. Through Stephen Lawrence Day the Charitable Trust want young people to be inspired about what they can achieve in their own lives. “We want them to get involved in creating the kind of community they want to live in and we want them to have a strong voice in building a fairer and more inclusive society”. This is from the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.

There are key words in this – flourish, fairness, respect and inclusivity. These are key pillars on which we should base our lives and our behaviours as we play our part in building a fairer and better society.

....I also wanted to talk to you about tomatoes!!! The quote above is so true in terms of the journey we are on and the journey my tomato seeds are on (see image below!). For many weeks we have had to struggle to come to terms with unfamiliar ways of working and doing things. We have struggled as we have not been allowed out and we have had to follow strict guidelines. In a sense, we have been in the dark. But during those 4 weeks we have all grown even if that growth has been very tiny – like the very small seedlings you can see in the photograph. What is important now for these seedlings is that they are nurtured, looked after and, of course, sang to every day so that they can build up their strength and produce wonderful fruit. This is where we are on this journey. We need to look after each other at this time, every day. We can't leave it for 2 days because the growth over the last few weeks will have been for nothing – my seedlings would have shrivelled up! So, look out for each other and for your families, nurture each other and help each other grow and, most importantly, sing to each other at the top of your voice because that makes us all feel so much better.

Welcome back to the new term!

With my best wishes to you and your family.
Matthew Brown

