



Dowson Primary Academy

8th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to update you with regards to the lessons I planned to teach in Summer Term and what I will be teaching in Year 6.

You may recall that before school closed in March I wrote to inform you I was going to be delivering the Sex and Relationship Year 5 curriculum which includes understanding and naming body parts, vocabulary, sexual reproduction and contraception. These lessons will now take place in December.

Throughout your child's time at Dowson they have taken part in Circle Time lessons aimed at developing respect, improving social and personal skills and ensuring acceptance and understanding of differences and similarities. We are looking forward to restarting this important work.

October is Black History month and so I always teach this part of the curriculum in Autumn Term, however, due to recent global events with regards to racism this seems to be of greater relevance to our communities than ever. I will be delivering these lessons starting Wednesday 9th September, the first part being focused on "history" including topics such as the slave trade and its abolishment, racism and apartheid. The second part being focused on equality and our colourful life; we will discuss diversity and success amongst people of all colours and backgrounds. These lessons will give our children an opportunity to discuss recent events and help create a united approach to equality and respect.

Later this school year I will be working in your child's class delivering lessons on British Values and how these go hand in hand with Our Personal Qualities to develop our own Moral Code.

These lessons are a necessary part of the Primary Curriculum as outlined in the PREVENT duty which became effective in July 2015. This legislation clearly states school's role and responsibility in developing children's character and resilience in order to equip them to deal with peer pressure and ultimately to safeguard them against radicalisation and terrorism. It defines the expectation that schools will provide lessons to develop a child's understanding, respect and tolerance whilst at the same time providing an opportunity to ask questions and explore their own thoughts and feelings around the topics that they face in the world today that sometimes they feel they are not allowed to discuss.

The rationale behind this is that a lack of understanding and opportunity to discuss difficult subjects can lead to fear and possibly intolerance and hate.

The classroom is a safe and controlled environment that children can comfortably discuss issues such as the refugee crisis, terrorism and historical events like slavery and apartheid.

The children have already shown an interest in such topics, which shows their level of maturity and their need to seek clarification. I am confident that although we as adults might feel such discussions are

contentious issues the children will relish the opportunity to explore their own thoughts and feelings in order to develop opinions that are respectful, non-judgemental and responsible. Ultimately ensuring we are creating a local and wider community that is accepting, respectful, happy and safe.

I am writing to you to inform you of the nature of our discussions over the next few months, should you have any concerns please do not hesitate contacting me in school.

Together we can make a difference - please ask your child about the starfish!

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Ashley, Inclusion Co-ordinator