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*Headteacher: Mr S Parker* ***‘Growing Together. Empowered to be more’***

**BELONGING AT UPS**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write to you to follow up on the initial Belonging Forum we had in March. The discussions were so positive and we agreed that there was much to build on as we attempt to ensure that we are creating a truly inclusive school.

We just wanted to update you on what we have been doing and some plans for the weeks and months ahead.

Since we last met, we have continued to review our curriculum which is now being trialled in some year groups in the summer term before we roll it out across school from September 2021. Our topics have been carefully selected and planned to reflect our school values of being Kind, Happy and Proud, Respectful, Resilient and Responsible but also include themes of equality, faith and belief, leadership and the Arts. We will be making this new curriculum available for parents to view before the end of the academic year.

Teachers have also been allocated money from commission we received from the Scholastic Book Fair, to enhance their class libraries with a range of diverse authors and characters that reflect all of our backgrounds. This has also been done in our main Infant and Junior libraries.

Next steps for us now include reviewing our Equality and Equity Policy, enhancing links with our diverse community (as lockdown eases!), staff development and recruitment, whilst keeping our curriculum and learning environment under review.

To this end, we would like your help. We had almost 50 people attend our initial forum, and we welcome all engagement and participation. We have set up an email address called belonging@urmstonprimaryschool.com that you can continue to give feedback and points of view. It may also help share your views in a way that is not so open and public. In addition, we would like to set up a smaller Belonging Forum that will act as an advisory group to us here at school in the actions that we take in this regard. If you would like to be involved, then please do get in contact using the email above. We hope that this group will include, parents, teachers, governors, school leaders and other members of the wider community. We would expect that this forum would meet perhaps once per half term, with a further wider forum taking place once per half term also.

Finally, we have a request for families who may have come here from other countries or have relatives from different parts of the world. Mrs Strickland, our EAL (Multi-lingual) Lead would like any children’s books, comics or other resources that we could use in school, and we would be most grateful if you could bring these into school. Also, if you do have any photographs of children or their families in different parts of the world, then Mrs Strickland would be grateful to receive them by email on d.strickland@urmstonprimaryschool.com. These will be used for display purposes in school, so please only send these in, if you are happy for the photos to go on display in school.

Many thanks,

Mr Parker, Mr Doherty, Ms Ahle (Diversity Lead) and Mrs Strickland (EAL/Multlingual Lead)