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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of the most challenging academic year that we have ever had. The pandemic and the events following the horrific murder of George Floyd have had a huge impact on us as a school staff team. The realisation that such brutality and injustice continues to present itself in all its ugliness throughout our world has saddened, angered and galvanised us.

We have spent the last few weeks discussing discrimination and racism as a staff team and with the children. We are very clear that as a school it is our duty and responsibility to educate children and to ensure that we are actively anti-racist. In order to do this, we must ensure that we challenge any form of racism and we must support the children to understand the crucial role that we all play in helping to eradicate racism throughout our community and the wider world.

At Rokesly Juniors, we are fully aware that there has been and continues to be a disparity in attainment between different groups of children. This mirrors the trend in Haringey and beyond. This is totally unacceptable and is not in line with our school ethos and vision. All children at our school should be able to reap the rewards of working hard, aiming high and learning together regardless of their skin colour, ethnicity or gender.

With this in mind and in light of recent guidance from the DFE, we have been making changes to our curriculum and provision to ensure that there is a consistent and integrated emphasis on how we have all benefitted from the contributions that people from different ethnic backgrounds have made to our rich history.

The children will also continue to learn about different cultures and countries through the studies that they do on their class country.

It is a journey that we have started and we ask that next academic year you actively join us as we challenge racism and work to bring about this crucial change.

We wish year 6 and all the families that have come to the end of their Rokesly Journey the very best for the future. In the last few weeks we have seen that year 6 are well prepared and ready to embark on the next phase of their academic journey.

Thank you to you as parents/carers for your ongoing support. I know that it has been a difficult year for many of you.

A big thank you to the PSA and parent volunteers who have supported the school throughout the year.

Thank you to Toby Bray who has come to the end of his term as a governor and to the Governing body as a whole who have been a tower of strength to the school during this ever changing time.

A huge thank you to the wonderful staff who have readily adapted to all the changes as they have come along and for their commitment to continual improvement.

Finally, thank you to the children who have demonstrated their resilience. Their energy and enthusiasm on the return to school has been uplifting for us all.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and for those of you returning to Rokesly, I look forward to seeing you on Monday 7th September for the start of the academic year and all the developments that it will bring.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Bola Soneye-Thomas

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Headteacher



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