

Year 5 P.S.H.E.

Week beginning 15th June.

In the last couple of weeks, you may have heard 'Black Lives Matter' and about a man called George Floyd a lot. You may have seen that people are protesting across the world to raise awareness of this.



This resource aims to give you some information about the Black Lives Matter movement, however it is a very important subject which is impossible to sum up on a few pages. I am going to include links to some resources which I would encourage you to look at and to discuss your thoughts, feelings and questions with someone at home.

On the next page is a newspaper report on the death of George Floyd which is suitable for children. You can read it to get a better understanding of what happened and why people are protesting.

Eartha created this beautiful and powerful piece of art to express her feelings and support for Black Lives Matter. You might like to produce your own piece of art, poster or poem too. If you do, I'd love to see



Protests in USA and the World Against Racism



Photo: Protesters in the United States of America.

What is Black Lives Matter?

- Black Lives Matter is a movement which protests against racism and unfair treatment of black people in the US and across the world.
- It was founded in 2013 in the US.

There have been **protests** in many cities across the world. In the US, UK and many other places, people are speaking out against **racism**.

These protests began in Minneapolis, a city in the United States of America, after the death of an African-American man called George Floyd.

George Floyd died after he was stopped by police officers. One police officer knelt on his neck. The police officers who were involved with his death have lost their jobs. One of them has been charged with murder while the others also face criminal charges.

The death of George Floyd has led many people to protest against the unfair treatment of black people, particularly by the police and the **justice** system.

In cities across the US, people have been carrying signs saying 'Black Lives Matter'. Many of the protests have been peaceful but there has been violence at some protests.

People have been protesting against racism in other parts of the world as well. There have been protests in many UK cities, such as Liverpool, Sheffield, Bristol and London.

People have also been raising money for the family of George Floyd, as well as for organisations which campaign against racism in the UK, the US and across the world.

In the UK, many people have also signed **petitions** asking the government to do more to tackle racism.

Celebrities such as Beyonce, Taylor Swift and Rihanna have spoken on social media to protest what happened and to speak out against racism. Tennis star Coco Gauff and Star Wars actor John Boyega have also spoken at protests.

"We must first love each other, no matter what," Coco Gauff said. She added that it is important to "use your voice no matter how big or small your platform is."

Glossary

protests	Organised statements or actions to show that you don't agree with something.
racism	Treating someone unfairly because of the colour, culture or ethnic origin.
justice	The laws and authority of a country.
petitions	A letter signed by many people asking for something to happen.

Black Lives Matter is an organisation that was created in 2013. Their mission is to end violence and unfair treatment towards Black communities. This organisation holds events to educate and inform people of what happens in their communities. Often, racism runs deep in society and in how people are treated.

Racism is treating people differently because of the colour of their skin or where they are from.

It can be calling people names, leaving them out, making cruel jokes, physical or verbal aggression or making assumptions about people based on their skin, race or culture. For example, with George Floyd it was unnecessary to use physical force. People feel that the police officers wouldn't have used physical force on a white person.



Many beauty brands make products only for fair skin, this is not inclusive (providing equally to all people). Most dolls and action figures are fair-skinned, meaning not all children see themselves represented in their toys. Black, Asian and people from ethnic minorities get paid less than white people despite doing the same job.



This has always been and will continue to be an important issue, but the death of George Floyd whilst in police custody has given more focus to the movement, with people around the world being angered and outraged by what happened.

People of across the world, of many different races, are protesting because they want to show their support and solidarity (agreement) for the Black Lives Matter movement, and to make people in power (e.g. governments, corporations, police) take notice and make changes.

What you can do:

If you experience racism, don't retaliate with verbal or physical aggression.

If you feel able to and you feel it is safe to do so, tell the person/people being racist that what they have done is wrong and that you don't agree with what they have done.

If you see or hear racism, racial bullying or discrimination, it is not ok to stand by and watch.

Tell an adult what you have seen and discuss it with them. Talk about how it made you feel. If it happened to a friend, support them—tell them it is unacceptable what has happened and help them to report it to a teacher or parent.

Discuss your thoughts and feelings with others. It is ok to be unsure about things and have questions.

Discuss with your parents how you can show support safely during Covid (it is important to still maintain social distancing and avoid unnecessary travel).

There may be a local peaceful protest, you could put a poster in your window, sign a petition or write to your MP.

Resources:

More information on George Floyd, Black Lives Matter and protests <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52813673>

Kids of Colour—A platform for young people of colour to explore race, identity and culture and challenge the everyday, institutionalised racism that shapes their lives <http://kidsofcolour.com/>

BBC Bitesize selection of videos on how it feels to experience racism and tackling racism <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrhhvcw/resources/1>