



**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## **Talking about Race and Identity**

One challenge that our children face in Cornwall is a relative lack of cultural and racial diversity when compared to other areas of the UK. This can cause race and identity to be discussed less frequently at home and school and, tragically, for racist incidents to become more prevalent. Penpol is not immune to this and I am saddened to report that we have seen a small number of racially offensive comments at school in recent weeks. Invariably, these comments cause significant harm.

At Penpol, we do not tolerate any form of racism. If such behaviour is repeated, it constitutes bullying and any form of racism is against the law. We are determined to provide all pupils with the tools they need to talk about race and identity confidently, positively and respectfully, without causing harm.

We are on an exciting journey to ensure that our curriculum best represents the diversity of British and world history. Alongside this, we are determined to open up the conversation for all.

We are asking for your support at home. Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing resources here in the newsletter and via the website to aid proactive, positive conversations about race and identity with your child. Please do explore these together – we would love to hear of any resources you might recommend also.

A great place to start is BBC Newsround. They have created a number of videos exploring key concepts, some of which are linked below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52965984>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52986346>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52986344>

If you are interested in being a part of this important work at Penpol, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch on [head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk). Thank you for your support.

Building upon our careers fair, we welcomed **MP George Eustice** to school today to talk to pupils in assemblies about careers in politics. They had some fantastic questions to ask – well done all.

Congratulations to **Ruby Hampson** in Year 6 who, last weekend represented Cornwall at a regional tennis tournament. Ruby's commitment to her sport is second to none and is one to watch in the future!

Finally, well done to our **Year 5 pupils** and staff who embarked on their first **school camp** to the Mountbatten Centre in Plymouth. By all accounts, much fun was had by all and the children challenged themselves in so many different ways. We are hugely proud of you all!



Best wishes,

Chris Chislett

Headteacher

[head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr C Coyle-Chislett Phone: 01736 753472 Email: [secretary@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk) Online: [penpolschool.co.uk](http://penpolschool.co.uk)

“Penpol pupils are **curious, creative and courageous** learners. Our school community believes in **authenticity** as the foundations of **deep-rooted** learning. Through our **rich and relevant** curriculum, we nurture **community-minded, forward-facing** international citizens of the future.”