



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware this coming month is Black History Month, which we will celebrate the week commencing Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

To celebrate Black History Month, on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October** there will be a special lunch menu. The food options will be emailed to you shortly.

As part of Black History Month at school, each year group will be learning about the exceptional achievements of a black female from the past, highlighting the vital role that they have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities.

Our theme for Black History Month this year is...  
Saluting our Sisters - Sheroes

Our aims throughout the month are:

- To explore resilience, self-care and well-being of black women throughout history.
- To understand the strength and determination of black women.
- To recognise the invaluable contributions of black women to British society
- To honour the achievements and challenge the systems that oppressed black women.
- To encourage children to take care of themselves and their communities.

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### Competition Time

This year, we will be holding a poetry competition relating to our theme;  
Saluting our Sisters.

Children will need to write a poem about a pioneering black woman who has made an impact on a chosen field (fashion, science, music, health care, sport, politics etc.), explaining why she is an inspiration to you.

Remember, the poems do not have to be about someone famous; they can be about members of your family, women who have inspired you in your community, or even about yourself and your experiences as a women or young person.

The deadline for the competition is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. Please display your **name** and **age** at the top of the poem.

All entries must be handed to myself or the class teacher by this date so that I can enter them into the competition.

Here is an example of a poem:

I was raised by strong black Jamaican women. We like Jamaica were likkle but  
TALLAWAH!

Fierce, determined, hardworking, nurturing and kind. Whenever I doubted myself, they believed in me and blessed over me. They gave me a name that translates to with God! This in turn gave me a belief that has took me through to today as I knew no matter what I was not alone.

Whenever I wavered or perturbed, they would send a circle of protection to engulf me and lift me up. They would be my phoenix allowing me to rise from the ashes of doubt.

The sacrifices made by these fearless women for their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren paved our way to ensure we supported one another along the way.

I am thankful for my tribe, my people, my family for without these women I wouldn't be the woman I am now!

On the following pages you can find details of the person your child will be studying in class.

Kind regards,

Miss Sauka (Humanities Coordinator)

### Reception (Music and D & T link)

In Reception the children will be learning about Claudia Jones, who helped organise the first 'Notting Hill Carnival'. They will have the opportunities to create their own Caribbean mask and listen to Caribbean steel drum music.



### Home opportunities:

- Listen to Caribbean music
- Look at the website below to look at pictures of carnival

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/its-carnival-time>

### Year 1 (Music link)

In Year 1 the children will be learning about Joan Armatrading. They will look at the work of Armatrading. Children will have the opportunity to look at the music she created in more detail. After studying this they will get to create their own music inspired by Armatrading.



### Who was Joan?

Joan Armatrading was born in 1950 in Saint Christopher and Nevis. She moved to Birmingham when she was 3 years old, she was sent to live with her grandmother in Antigua whilst her parents and 2 brothers moved to Birmingham, where she later joined them in 1958. Joan was the first British female singer/songwriter to gain international success. She made her name in the 1970's as a black woman with a rock guitar, which had never been seen in Britain. She was honoured an MBE in 2001.

### Home opportunities:

Take the time to listen to some of Joan's music as well as exploring blues music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGdvSSDstZ4&t=57s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK-TtokN-zM>

### Year 2 (History link):



In November, Year 2 will be studying Mary Seacole who was voted *Greatest Black Britain* of all time in 2004. This links to the Year 2 History topic *Bright Lights Big City*. They will investigate how Mary Seacole helped to bring comfort to wounded and dying soldiers before writing a recount as a wounded soldier in Scutari hospital. The children will explore who Mary Seacole was and create a poster about why we should remember Mary Seacole.

### Who was Mary Seacole?

Mary Seacole was born and grew up in Jamaica, but came over to England in 1854. She asked the War Office if she could go help the wounded soldiers who were fighting in the Crimean War, but she was not allowed. So, she raised the money herself and travelled to Ukraine, where she looked after the British soldiers who had been injured. Despite all that she did, not many people knew who she was or the amazing work that she had done. Most people remember Florence Nightingale instead, who helped many people too.

### Home opportunities:

Research Mary Seacole.

Discuss the work that she did

Look at the inequalities that she faced.

Facts on Mary Seacole can be found below:

<https://www.maryseacoletrust.org.uk/learn-about-mary/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/mary-seacole/>

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/childrens-article/extraordinary-facts-about-mary-seacole>

### Year 3 (History link to the Olympics):

In Year 3 the children will be studying Nicola Adams making links to the Olympics. They will have the opportunity to research, find and share facts about her before presenting their work in a poster, fact sheet or non-chronological report.



### Who was Nicola Adams?

Nicola was the first woman to win the Olympic gold medal for boxing. Up until 2012, the Olympics did not allow women to compete in boxing, so Nicola was fighting stereotypes to earn her place in the ring.

### Home opportunities:

Help your child to research Nicola Adams.

Facts on Nicola Adams can be found below:

<https://www.teamgb.com/athlete/nicola-adams/13bn3tZOMDAkUsCRZjCoRS>

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp142129/nicola-virginia-adams>

<https://olympics.com/en/athletes/nicola-adams>

Children could watch videos of Nicola Adams competing in the 2012 Olympics.

Other British Olympians you could also look alongside Nicola Adams are Kelly Holmes and Tessa Sanderson.

### Year 4 (Literacy link)

In Year 4 pupils will study Olive Morris. They will learn about what her beliefs were and how she stood up for women and the inequalities that they faced. The children will have the opportunity to discuss the inequalities that occurred during Olive's time and whether any of those inequalities still occur today. The children will then write their own activist speech/poem about the inequalities of the world today.



### Who was Olive Morris?

Olive Morris was born in Jamaica in 1952. Her parents emigrated to London and at aged 9, she travelled to South London to join them just after WWII had ended. Britain was seeking citizens from the British colonies to help rebuild London, many of which were black British citizens from Africa and the Caribbean. At ages 17, Olive spoke up about the racism that she had faced and had seen others face. At the age of 21, she created groups for women to speak up about the issues, one of which was the Brixton Black Women's Group. She spoke up about the inequalities for women, especially around housing and education.

### Home opportunities:

Research and discuss Olive Morris.

Discuss the following questions:

- How will everyone be treated with respect?
- How should you and people all over the world be treated?
- What is the purpose of activists?



### Year 5 (Links to Science and Computing)

In Year 5 pupils will study Mary Jackson and will learn about her significance in the role of NASA. The children will create a presentation all about Mary and her life. They will look at her and discuss:

Why Mary Jackson was significant?

What changes did she make to NASA?

What inequalities did she face?



### Who was Mary Jackson?

Mary Jackson was the first African American female to work for NASA as a mathematician, achieving the most senior engineering position in NASA. Because of segregation at this time, Jackson needed specialist permission to attend classes or different parts of the NASA station. Through her research, she helped astronauts to come back safely to earth, based on the nose angle of the space ship.

### Home opportunities:

Help your child to research Mary Jackson.

Facts and information on Mary Jackson can be found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R80bfQTgWbE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5\\_C\\_sO9rPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5_C_sO9rPE)

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/mary-w-jackson-biography>

### Year 6 (Links to History)

In Year 6, pupils will study Lilian Bader and her influence on the British armed forces during the Second World War. Children will then be creating their own diary entry, empathising with what life was like for Lilian during this time.

In January, the children will be learning about World War II and what life was like in Britain during this time.

### Who was Lilian Bader?

Lilian Bader was born in 1918, in Liverpool to a British mother and a Nigerian father. When her mother died when she was aged 9, she and her two brothers were placed into an orphanage. In 1941, Bader joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). Despite facing discrimination and prejudice from some of her white colleagues, she was eventually prompted to leading aircraftwoman. She was awarded a MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in 2003 for her contributions to the Armed forces and to education.



### Home opportunities:

Research and discuss Lilian Bader at home and her significance during the Second World War.

Facts and information on Lilian Bader can be found below:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-heroes/black-history-month-firsts-lilian-bader/>

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/online-exhibitions/pilots-of-the-caribbean/heroes-and-sheroes/technician-leading-aircraftwoman-lilian-bader/>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205125313>