



Democracy

As part of our work on Fundamental British Values, and tied into the Newchurch Core Values, the children looked at Democracy.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/33XqN68Xv0BQ9WfVdV0jxnk/british-values-democracy>

The children watch the link above, which shows two children meeting with Helen Pankhurst. Helen's great-grandmother, Emmeline Pankhurst, fought for women to have the right to vote. Items in the museum shown in the video demonstrate how suffragettes like Emmeline struggled for that right: hammers used to smash windows during protests; belts used by protesters to chain themselves to railings; a newspaper proclaiming 'Let Them Starve' – a reference to the suffragettes' hunger strikes in prison.

During the assembly, we talked about how we can only be truly fair if we listen to other people's opinions, thoughts and feelings and that voting only works if everyone has a voice. The children agreed that democracy is demonstrated at Newchurch but also learned that we must never take our democracy for granted.

Black History Month

Why is Black History Month important?
Black history month was first launched in London in the 1980s, where the aim was for the local community to challenge racism and educate themselves and others about the British history that was not taught in schools.

The month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just African and Caribbean people but black people in general.

As you will see from the rest of the newsletter, the children have been finding out about significant people in black history. The level of discussion has been amazing and we have been impressed with the children's depth of learning in all classes.

The celebration of Black History Month at Newchurch started with the children learning from Horrible Histories:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQezQJKd3oM>

This set the scene for the children as they delved further into their learning in class.



As part of the assembly, the children talked about why footballers 'take the knee' prior to the match.

It was impressive how the children were able to articulate the significance of the act, talking about the death of George Floyd and racism. It was very clear that the children were very knowledgeable about what racism is and that it is not tolerated at Newchurch.

During the month of November, when the school celebrates 'Anti-bullying Week' the children will explore more about racism and the importance of equality and diversity.

Black History Month



The children have been learning about Rosa Parks and how she made a change for black people in America. The children listened to the story and they discussed the reasons why Rosa would want to make a change. In the creative area, the children made buses and drew the people sitting on the bus and in the block area the children built their own buses.

Through art the children have researched Gee's Bend Quilts. These quilts were first designed in the mid-19th century in Alabama, America, passing from generation to generation of Gee's Bend women. These quilts are still made today and are well known for their warmth. The children designed their own patterns using collage and collectively made a class quilt design.



Bella – We listened to the story about Rosa Parks and coloured pictures.

Jaxon – I could make a pattern for the quilt.

The Gingerbread Man



In Reception, the children have been learning about the story of The Gingerbread Man and the different

characters within the story. The Gingerbread Man even came to visit the children: he danced around the room. He delivered ingredients so that the children could make spooky cupcakes and pumpkins for the children to carve. The children made thank you cards, wrote letters and drew pictures for The Gingerbread Man.

The role play area changed into the Newchurch Bakery and the children enjoyed taking orders for food, putting the goods into bags and writing their own menus.

They made their own Gingerbread Men and used them to retell the story, saying, 'Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I am the Gingerbread Man.' The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Gingerbread Man.



Carter- We sent letters to the Gingerbread Man.

Sophie – I liked making the cakes.

Sean Perkins – Author



We had an exciting visit from Sean Perkins the author of the book Oscar and Ben. The children met the characters, listened to the story and the songs.

Jasmine- I liked seeing all the animals in the story.

Lily – Sean read a story to us about the cats.

Black History Month



As part of Black History Month, Year 1 have been exploring the life of **Mary Seacole**. They started by putting on their detective hats by examining a portrait and some clues such as a boat, a toy soldier, a flag, lemons, ginger and a bandage. Using the clues and information given, they predicted what her job was, why she was wearing medals and what made her special.

They then learned all about her life and sequenced pictures of her journey and wrote facts about her achievements.



Cruz: Mary's mum taught her how to make medicine.

Tilly: Mary went to Crimea on a boat to help the soldiers.

Thomas: Mary bought her own ticket to Crimea because she wasn't chosen to go.

They played a true/false game all about Mary to see how much they had remembered and amazed everyone with their knowledge!

Year 1 put their new found knowledge of Mary Seacole to good use by creating a poem about her. They started by thinking about different qualities that they thought Mary would have had. They came up with some amazing words such as brave, hardworking, brilliant, kind and caring. They then worked in groups and used the words to create a repeating poem about the events of her life.



In art, Year 1 learned about the work of the ladies of Gee's Bend in Alabama who came from a background of slavery and made quilts to keep warm, using scraps of fabric and old clothing. They explored the amazing patterns and colours that the ladies used in their designs and used collage to create their own patchwork square inspired by their work. They then pieced together their work to create a whole class piece of art.



They also used their creative talents to design medals for Mary Seacole to celebrate her achievements.



Black History Month



During Black History Month, Year Two have been learning all about Marcus Rashford. The children already had a pretty great idea about who Marcus Rashford is, especially those who support Manchester United and those who celebrated alongside Marcus during the Euro 2020 games. However, the children quickly discovered that Marcus is not just heroic for his football skills.

The children started off by looking at all of the positive things Marcus does for children all over the country. The children were able to identify what makes Marcus a positive role model and why he should be celebrated.



Darcey: I like how he never gave up. When the government told him no, he kept trying.

Meryn: He didn't want children to go hungry just because they were learning at home.

The children then went on to uncover what has driven Marcus to campaign to help children just like them. They delved into his past and managed to get a better idea about his childhood.



Once the children had a good understanding about all of the positive campaigning Marcus had done during lockdown, conversation turned to how life isn't so easy for this popular footballer. We discussed how he had become so popular during these football games, that people started to be unkind to him because they didn't like the outcome of some of the games. The children showed great compassion and empathy when talking about how unfair it was that people used the colour of his skin against him.



Niamh: It is not nice how he has done so many kind things and people aren't kind to him.

Gee's Bend Quilt

We finished Black History Month by creating a quilt that was inspired by the Gee's Bend Quilt ladies. The children looked at the different patterns and layers that the ladies created and created wonderful patterns of their own.



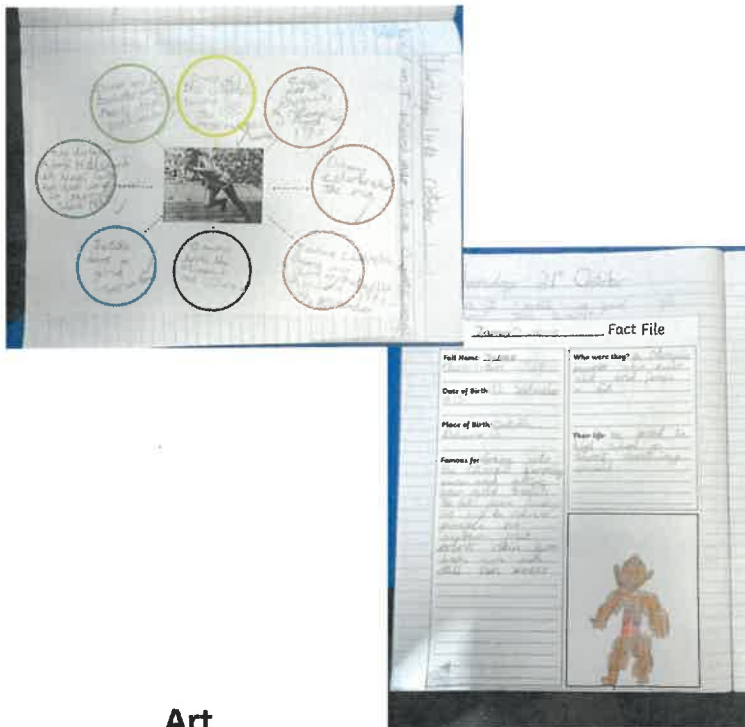
Black History Month

History

As part of Black History Month, Year 3 have been looking at the life of James Cleveland Owens or as he is better known, Jesse Owens. The children spent time finding out who he is, how he lived his life and why he is still such an influential role model in the present day.

They started by researching, gathering information and creating a fact file all about his life, what he believed in and how he went on to win 4 gold medals in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.

Luna – I learnt that Jesse Owens was an Olympic athlete who won 4 gold medals.



Art

On Wednesday afternoon, the children took part in a very exciting 'invite a guess afternoon' where they put their textiles skills to the test by tie dyeing a t-shirt as part of an art project inspired by Matt

Small, which will eventually have portraits of Jesse Owens on the front.

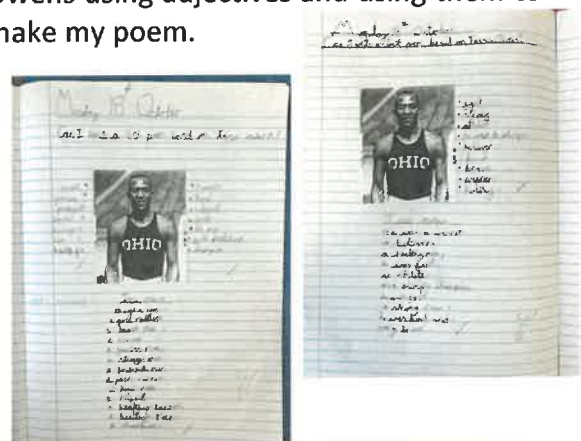
Phoebe M – I learnt how to make a spiral for my tie-dye t-shirt.



English

During English, the children have been exploring list poems on the topic of Jesse Owens. They started by creating a range of vocabulary that they thought best described Jesse Owens and his achievements. They then used the vocabulary that they gathered to create their own wonderful list poems.

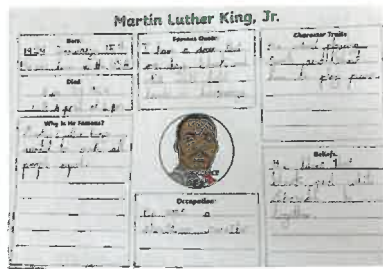
Bobby Mc – I enjoyed describing Jesse Owens using adjectives and using them to make my poem.



Black History Month

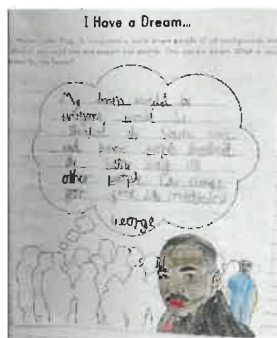
As part of Black History Month, Year 4 have been looking at the life of Martin Luther King Jr, who he is, how he lived his life and why he is still such an influential role model in the present day.

They started by researching, gathering information and creating a fact file all about his life, what he believed in and how he influenced people to stand up for their rights and beliefs, which included listening to his infamous speech which began with "I have a dream."



Sophia – I enjoyed learning all about Martin Luther King and how he stood up for what he believed in.

The children then thought about what they want their futures to be like and what they believe would make the world a better place. Many suggestions of which included: everyone being kind to each other, people helping others that are less fortunate and people looking after the environment so the world was a cleaner and healthier place.



The children had a thoroughly enjoyable time during the 'invite a guess morning' where they put their textiles skills to the test by tie dyeing a t-shirt as part of an art project inspired by Matt Small, which will eventually have portraits of Martin Luther King Jr on the front.

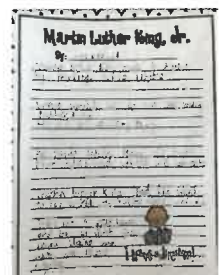
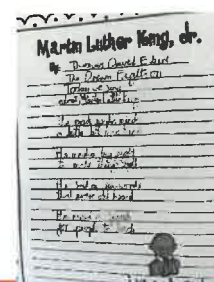
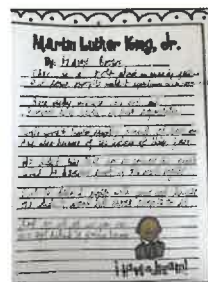


Arda: I liked watching the video and following how to draw Martin Luther King.

Phoebe – It was so good seeing the patterns on the t-shirts when we opened them up.

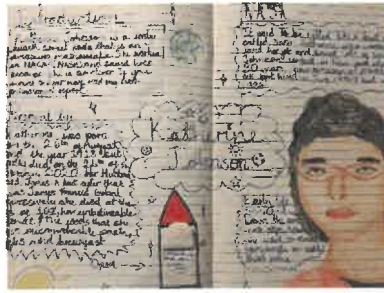
During English, the children have been exploring a piece of poetry about Martin Luther King Jr. They have looked at the vocabulary used and what effect it has on the reader. They have then used the information they have gathered during all of their learning about Martin Luther King Jr and created their own pieces of poetry which are absolutely amazing.

Jack R – I enjoyed reading my poem out in assembly to the rest of the school.



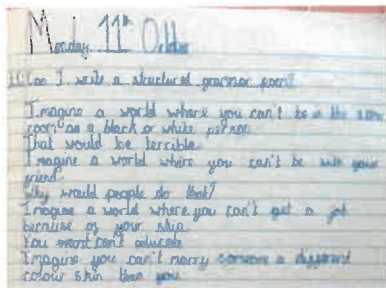
Black History Month

Year Five's robins know that they have the ability to make the world an amazing



place; however they also recognise that this is not available to all. During Black History Month, the children have been looking at one individual whose efforts to make a difference reached literally to the moon: Katherine Johnson.

As part of their unit on space, the children investigated how Katherine was instrumental in America's ground-breaking steps into the unknown, from



putting John Glenn into orbit and landing Apollo 11 to bringing

the stricken Apollo 13 safely back to Earth all through her superpower – **MATHEMATICS!**

Ruby – We looked at an amazing lady called Katherine Johnson who changed the world with mathematics.

Charlotte – I loved learning about Katherine Johnson and her role in space – she saved Apollo 13.

Jonah – I was amazed that someone could do mathematics as well as Katherine Johnson.

Their Black History Month investigations used science, English, history and art as the vehicles of study with the children (and parents)



creating striking t-shirt designs based on Katherine Johnson's



portrait, studying proportion and composition. Their English work included poetry and non-chronological reports which looked through the mathematician's life, from her early dreams to her battle with racism and sexism in science. As ever, Year Five dealt with the challenging subject matter maturely and respectfully.



James – I liked using charcoal to create portraits, even though it was messy.

Sienna – I really enjoyed making the t-shirts because we got to use tie dye.

Alice – I really enjoyed reading the text Hidden Figures and writing a non-chronological report about Katherine Johnson.

Black History Month



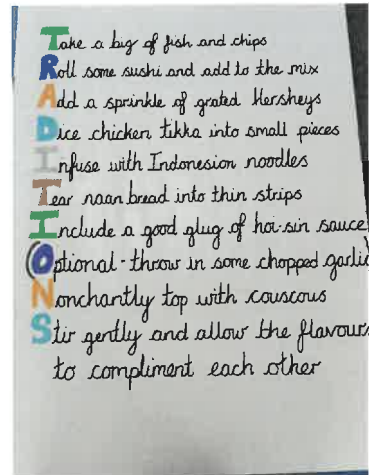
As part of our Black History month celebrations, Year 6 children looked closely at the wonderful achievements of the famous poet, singer-songwriter, author and actor, Benjamin Zephaniah. Our robins researched Zephaniah's work and found out about his origins, education and his inspirations to want to bring change; firstly to his community and then to a wider audience through the medium of dub poetry.



Leighton: *I enjoyed finding out about all of Benjamin Zephaniah's talents. He has achieved so much and inspired so many people.*

Indeed it was dub poetry where he rose to fame and the children thoroughly enjoyed his poem 'The British' where he explained how culturally diverse Britain was as if it were a recipe and from this, our children wrote some beautiful poetry of their own to celebrate this.

Mason: *His style of poetry is really creative and has lots of important messages for his audience. I enjoyed making my own poem about British values and traditions based on his ideas.*



Black History month gave our children the opportunity to see learning and celebration hand-in-hand and this was very evident during the art element of our study as the children produced beautiful tie-dye t-shirts (inspired by the artist Matt Small) which were later finished off with stunning charcoal sketches of Benjamin Zephaniah.

Jess P: *I loved tie dying the t-shirts and then finishing them off with my charcoal design. They looked amazing when they were finished!*



Part of the Year 6 curriculum involves weekly gospel singing sessions. To commemorate some of the inspirational black figures in the transatlantic slave trade, the children have been singing a number of songs which the slaves would have sang to keep their spirits high such as 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' and 'Down by the Riverside'. Their attitudes and respect for some challenging matters, as always, have been of the highest order and we are very proud of their maturity.



Key Dates and Information

September 2021

Dairy of Dates

Date	Event	Class involved
3.11.2021	Lunchtime passport – India	All classes
5.11.2021	Tombola donation for Christmas Fair	All classes
8.11.2021	Sean Reid – author visit	KS2 classes
10.11.2021	Stone Age workshop	Year 3
12.11.2022	Dress Down Day for Christmas Fair – sweet jars	All classes
18.11.2021	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5
19.11.2021 @ 6:30pm	PTA meeting	
19.11.2021	Child in Need Day (wear something spotty)	All classes
19.11.2021	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6
22.11.2021	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception
23.11.2021	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1
24.11.2021	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2
25.11.2021	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3
26.11.2021	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4
26.11.2021 @ 6pm	Christmas Fair	
1.12.2021	Christmas Journey	Year 2
2.12.2021	KS1 Dress Rehearsal (pm)	KS1 classes
3.12.2021 @ 9:30am	KS1 Christmas Play	KS1 classes
6.12.2021 @ 9:30am	KS1 Christmas Play	KS1 classes
10.12.2021 @ 11am	Christmas Tree Festival in church	KS2 classes
10.12.2021	KS2 Dress Rehearsal	KS2 classes
13.12.2021 @ 1:30pm and 6pm	KS2 Christmas Play	KS2 classes
16.12.2021	Christmas dinner, jumper and party day	All classes
17.12.2021 @ 2pm	Christmas assembly	All classes
17.12.2021	School Closes	
2.1.2022	Lunchtime passport – Italy	All classes
1.2.2022	Lunchtime passport – China	All classes
5.1.2022	School Opens	
18.2.2022	School Closes	
28.2.2022	School Opens	

Date	Event	Class involved
3.3.2022	World Book Day	All classes
7.3.2022	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception
8.3.2022	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2
9.3.2022	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3
10.3.2022	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4
11.3.2022	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5
14.3.2022	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6
15.3.2022	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1
18.3.2022	Red Nose Day – World Sleep Day	All classes
23.3.2022	Lunchtime passport – Mexico Donations of Easter Eggs	All classes
25.3.2022 @ 2pm	Thank you service	All classes
1.4.2022	Easter Bingo	All classes
7.4.2022	School Closes	
19.4.2022	School Opens	
19.4.2022	Easter Eggstravaganza	All classes
20-22.4.2022	Kingswood residential	Year 4
5.5.2022	TTRockstars Day	All classes
9-13.5.2022	KS2 SATS week	Year 6
16-20.5.2022	KS1 SATS week	Year 2
25.5.2022	Lunchtime passport – Greece	All classes
27.5.2022	School Closes	
13.6.2022	School Opens	
13.6.2022	Multiplication Checks	Year 4
24.6.2022	Dare to be different day	All classes
7-8.7.2022	Burwardsley residential	Year 2
11.7.2022	Reports sent home	
15.7.2021	Robinfeet	
18.7.2022	KS1 Sports Day	KS1 classes
19.7.2022	KS2 Sports Day	KS2 classes
20.7.2022 @ 9:30am	Year 6 Production	Year 6
20.7.2022 @ 5:30pm	Year 6 Production and award ceremony	Year 6
21.7.2022	School Closes	



We have an attendance reward system for the whole school, which is based on each class's attendance at the end of the week. The system works as follows:

100%	Gold award	10 points
Class with the highest attendance of the week	Silver award	5 points

The class with the most points accumulated at the end of the school year gets a very special treat of a trip paid for by school. At the moment **YEAR FOUR and YEAR FIVE** are the ones to beat who have 15 points.

Point to note...

Obviously, if your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not** send your child in – this will be classes as an authorised absence anyway on the system.

Current attendance figures to date are:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.84%	95.38%	93.14%	94.91%	95.95%	94.41%	96.08%

Our school target is 97%. Currently we are at 95.3%

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**If you have any concerns about Child Protection or Health and Safety,
Please contact school**