



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Black history is part of British history and part of the history of the world. Whilst at Meridian we don't just learn about the achievements of Black people during Black History Month (BHM), October provides a special opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Black Britons who have helped shape our country's history and culture, but whose contributions have often been overlooked.

The story of the Windrush generation is now embedded in our curriculum and is focussed on the long-lasting difference Black Britons of Caribbean heritage made to our country. This year, in collaboration with school governor and academic Seraphina Simmons-Bah, we have planned a unit of work which focuses on Black Britons of African heritage. Inspired by Jeff's whole school assembly, this week the children have been learning about Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) and Chi-chi Nwanoku (1956-present). As developing historians, they have used historical sources to support them.

Samuel was a pioneering British composer and conductor of mixed Sierra Leonean and English heritage. As a child he loved music and, as he grew up, this passion developed into a musical career. He is best known for his composition [The Song of Hiawatha](#) and the children listened to an excerpt of this being played by an orchestra. Having studied a historical figure from over a hundred years ago, the children then went on to explore a notable Black Briton within living history. They discovered that [Chi-chi Nwanoku](#), who is of Nigerian and Irish descent, is a professor of Historical Double Bass Studies at the Royal Academy of Music and founded The Chineke! Foundation, which became Europe's first majority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra.

Do have a look at the children's learning on the pages below. In highlighting the stories of Black Britons in this way, we can promote an understanding of equality and anti-racism. Within our diverse society, we can better enable children to see and understand themselves and others and develop their own aspirations.

In other news...

- We were delighted to welcome both mums and dads to our KS2 parent reading session this week. Thank you for your support in showing children the value and joy of reading.
- Following our FROMS AGM last week, we now have a new committee. They are already thinking carefully about how to engage our school community in both coming together and raising funds.
- Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our consultation meeting on the new RSHE curriculum and [policy](#) this week. Another session will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 5:15pm. Please sign up [here](#).
- **Please see page 6 for information about a holiday club which takes place at Robert Owen and is open to Meridian Nursery and Reception children.**

And finally, the children were delighted to show Ananya Jain, a curator from the Hayward Gallery, around their Arts exhibition this week. Ananya spoke to the children about her job and said, "What an absolutely beautiful exhibition, thoughtfully designed. I particularly enjoyed how I could touch each display and really feel the texture of the fabrics. Each question explored across the installation made me think... It is really incredible to experience what you have achieved as a team." Thank you to Y1 and Y2 parent, Tom, for the introduction.

Best wishes, Jo and Siobhan

Jo Graham, Executive Headteacher, and Siobhan Stanczyk, Acting Head of School.



What have our children been learning about in the first week of **Black History Month**?

B: M 2026

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER



To celebrate Black History Month, **Nursery** and **Reception** children are learning about composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, whose father travelled from Sierra Leone to live in London. To support them in understanding the contribution that Black Britons like Samuel have made to our country, they have been thinking about how our communities become so wonderfully diverse.

This term, the children have discovered that Nursery and Reception families come from all over the world. This week, they have thought more about how people who they know and love have travelled from other countries, including those in Africa, to live in London. Reception parent, Tolu, paid a special visit to talk to the children about why she travelled all the way from Nigeria to live here. The children learned that continents are huge parts of the world made up of many different countries and you have to travel by aeroplane to journey between them.

In learning about Samuel, the children focussed on the concepts of past and present and, using photographs to help them, they found out that he lived a long time ago. They enjoyed listening to an orchestra playing his music and had lots to say about it.



That's Samuel.
Arlo



He's dressed in a suit.
Alex B



My papa was born in Spain and my mum was born in England.
Lucia



I live in London like Samuel.
Mia K



Samuel played the violin.
Judy

I like his music because it's so gentle.
Lila

He was old in that picture, not that one.
Etnik.



The photos tell us that Samel lived a long time ago because they are black and white.
Rose

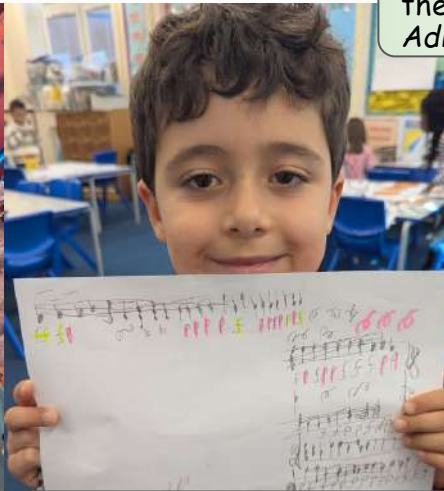
Tolu and Samuel's dad lived close by. Tolu got a plane from Nigeria because it's far away.
Kostie



Year 1 and Year 2 have spent their week learning about the legacy of the significant figures, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Chi-chi Nwanoku. After learning about their heritage, children had the opportunity to listen to the music created by Samuel, as well as watching a video of Chi-chi performing with her orchestra, Chineke! The children reflected on the key life achievements of these figures, listing what they believed were their most notable accomplishments. They then created their very own blue plaque, listing how they believed they should be remembered.

Chi-chi's music makes me feel sad but also relaxed.
Mira

Chi-chi is a great musician and plays the double bass.
Adikat



A musical composition inspired by Ch-chi Nwanoku.



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Chi-chi Nwanoku have a similar heritage to me. I have family in Nigeria and also in Ireland!
Micheal

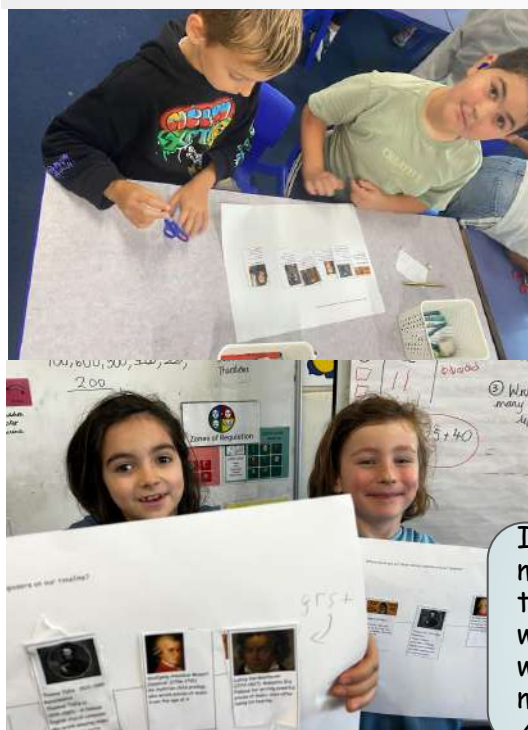
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was good at music and he was so famous that when he died a blue plaque was made to remember him.
Nylah

I want to be a composer like Chi-chi one day.
Mirha



I admire Chi-chi so much. She works in Trinity Laban where I take part in dance classes. I hope to play as well as her one day!
Cleo

Years 3 and Year 4 children explored the world of classical music this week. They began with two simple questions: 'What does a composer look like? Can you name a composer?' Many children drew or named well-known figures such as Mozart or Beethoven. As they created a timeline of classical composers, the children noticed that for many years, celebrated composers were typically white and male. The children then looked at how this is changing thanks to the influence of Black British composers and musicians such as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Chi-chi Nwanoku, who have helped to diversify the world of classical music. When they revisited the question, 'Who can be a composer?' the children's definitions had broadened to include people of all genders and ethnicities. Many of the children have decided they would like to be composers or musicians when they are older, too!



Having people like Samuel Coleridge-Taylor to look up to has really helped musicians like Chi-chi Nwanoku to feel inspired to follow their own dreams.
Noah

I learnt that it's really important for people to see role models that look like them. It helps people to know that they can do it too.
Molly

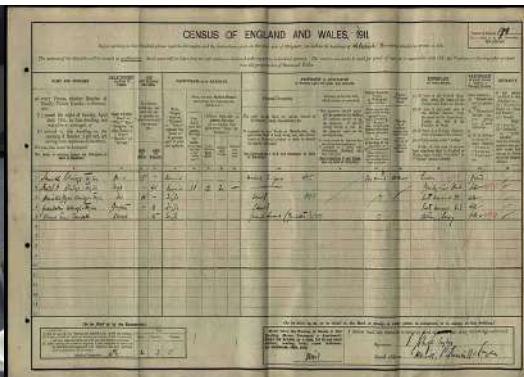
I learnt that there weren't many known Black composers in the past. Chi-chi and Samuel will inspire Black people (and women) to compose and play music!
Antonia



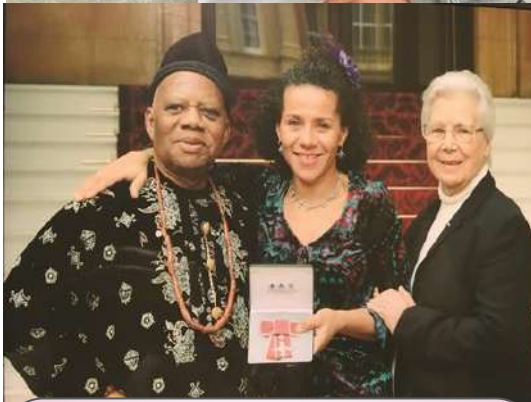
Samuel Coleridge Taylor was a classical musician and different from other composers (who came before him) because he wrote classical music inspired by West Africa.
Theodora

I learnt that Chi-chi Nwanoku helped children and people from different backgrounds get into classical music.
Joshua

Years 5 and 6 have been very interested in the lives and achievements of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Chi-chi Nwanoku! They took some time to appraise their music, and were pleasantly surprised at how varied their work was within the classical genre. Noting that as historians, they have been able to learn a lot about the life of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor through old documents and newspaper articles, they were curious to see what they could find out about Chi-chi from newspaper articles, including ones she had written herself. They were interested to read about her experience as a Black person of dual heritage, trying to break into the world of classical music. In their Talking Trios, they discussed her experiences, with some brilliant insights being made!



The census from 1911 showed Samuel Coleridge Taylor living in London with his wife, two children and a domestic servant. If he could pay to have a servant, this shows us that he was making enough money as a composer to live quite an expensive life!
Hilda



When you see an adult who shares your heritage doing a job that you would like, it makes it easier to imagine and feel confident that it is something you could do too!
Fola

It is very important to see people who have the same heritage as you because if you can't see people like you in a job, how can you ever believe that you can do it?
Irtaza

It was very surprising to see that in a photo of the London Philharmonic Orchestra from 1932, every member was a white man!
Art

We looked at photographs of different orchestras over time, and we noticed that they are now a lot more diverse than they were almost a hundred years ago. Some things have changed positively over time!
Naomi



When Chi-chi was growing up, she didn't see people who looked like her working in the world of classical music. She said she had the self-belief to keep moving forwards, but she also realised lots of other Black musicians might feel uncomfortable. The Chineke! Orchestra has helped to change that!
Ella



Seasonal changes were certainly in evidence during Nursery's trip to Greenwich Park. Despite the rain, the children were able to collect lots of natural signs of Autumn such as leaves and conkers as well as make rubbings of bark to reveal the different patterns.

That leaf is big and brown.
Mimi

We went to the park.
Gaya

Nursery Trip to Greenwich Park



We picked the leaves.
Adiyan

The conker is inside the shell.
Otis





October Half Term Holiday Club

Robert Owen Nursery School

Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2026

8am to 6pm

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our next holiday club is coming soon: October Half Term: Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2026 from 8am to 6pm. All children (including those who do not attend Robert Owen Nursery) are welcome to come, including Meridian Nursery and Reception.

This holiday club is entirely flexible to fit around your needs and wishes. You can choose the timings of drop-off and pick-up and the days you wish.

We are based in Fir Tree classroom at Robert Owen. Breakfast is provided in the morning (cereals, toast, fruit) and we ask that your child brings a packed lunch. We provide a healthy snack of fresh fruit and vegetables in the afternoon. We follow the structure of the Robert Owen day with inside and outside free play, storytime, and fun and engaging activities for the children including cooking, dancing, constructing and drawing as well as themed activities based around the time of year, such as water play during the summer.

We know very well that the quality of care of your children is paramount. We have a very experienced team of nursery practitioners who look after the children and we ensure every child feels happy, is safe and has fun.

Costs are on the right. We accept all childcare Vouchers, tax-free childcare and bookings via Bright Horizons: Ofsted registration number 2885963.

At 3.30pm we bring the children across to Halstow Primary School on Halstow Road SE10 0LD where we then join up with the holiday club for primary school children. We have our own building for our Robert Owen children and we love seeing them mix with children in Reception class and up playing on the equipment and enjoying the playground.

8am to 9am with breakfast	£8.50
9am to 11.30am	£22
11.30am to 12.30pm	£8.50
12.30pm to 3.30pm	£26
8am to 3.30pm	£65
Extend 3.30pm to 5pm	+£13
Extend 3.30pm to 6pm	+£21

Booking is available now for all three holiday clubs this year: October, Easter and August 2027. If you would like to book your child in for holiday club, please create an account with Kids Club HQ here <https://thehollytreeclub.kidsclubhq.co.uk/rdr?u=home> and book the sessions you would like. For help with Kids Club please look [here](#).

There is more information [here](#) and I am always at the end of the phone if you have any questions!

Thank you,
Holly Morgan

Meridian Diary Dates Autumn Term

Week beginning 28th September	Wednesday 30th September	Phonics workshop for Reception and Year 1 parents parents/carers 9:30-10:30am and 4:30-5:30pm Reception Autumn Walk
	Friday 2nd October	Year 6 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 5th October	Wednesday 7th October	RSHE consultation with Parents/Carers 9:15am. Nursery Autumn Walk FROMS AGM 5:30pm
	Thursday 8th October	KS2 (Year 3 , Year 4 , Year 5 , Year 6) parent/carer reading session 8:50 - 9:20am
Week beginning 12th October	Wednesday 14th October	Flu Vaccinations RSHE consultation with Parents/Carers 5:15pm
	Friday 16th October	Year 5 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 19th October	Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evenings for all classes 3:30-5:30pm
	Thursday 22nd October	Parents' Evenings for all classes 5:00-7:30pm
	Friday 23rd October	Year 4 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Half Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October		
Week beginning 2nd November	Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
		Year 2 trip to Mudchute Farm
	Friday 6th November	Year 3 class assembly 9:30-10:00am
Week beginning 9th November	Monday 9th November	Year 2 trip to the Barbican
		FROMs Astronomy Night 6:30-8:30
	Wednesday 11th November	Flu Vaccinations (2nd round)
	Friday 13th November	Children in Need - cake sale after school
Week beginning 16th November	Tuesday 17th November	Year 1 Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 2 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
	Wednesday 18th November	Reception Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 3 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
	Thursday 19th November	Nursery Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 6 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
	Friday 20th November	Year 4 Curriculum Open Morning 9:00am Year 5 Curriculum Open Morning 9:25am
		Year 3 trip to Deptford Creek
Week beginning 23rd November	<i>All week</i>	Enterprise Week for children
	Friday 27th November	Christmas Fair - after school
Week beginning 30th November	Monday 30th November	Year 4 Deptford Creek trip
	Wednesday 2nd December	Christmas Dinner
Week beginning 7th December	Tuesday 8th December	EYFS/KS1 Theatre Trip to The Albany
		Last Swimming lesson for the term



**GREENWICH
SEND VOICE**
Parent Carer Forum

COFFEE MORNINGS

A friendly space for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to connect, share and support each other.



Connect
with other
parent carers



Learn
about local
services and
support



Relax
in a welcoming,
friendly
environment

Representatives from the local authority, health and support organisations pop into sessions to share information and answer questions.



STARTING FROM
Thursday 10th September
and every 2 weeks



TIME
10am – 12pm



LOCATION
Woolwich Library
[Woolwich Centre,
35 Wellington St,
London SE18 6HQ]



**PLEASE BOOK
FOR ATTENDANCE**
due to room capacity.



Scan me
to book!

Eventbrite Link :
bit.ly/GSV-coffee-mornings



No need to come every time –
drop in when you can.
We'd love to see you there!



www.greenwichsendvoice.co.uk

Greenwich SEND Voice

Keeping Children Safe at Meridian Information for parents/carers and visitors

All schools have a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. At Meridian, we endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children and adults feel respected and valued; where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.

We recognise that:

- Children cannot learn effectively unless they feel secure;
- All children have a right to be protected from harm;
- All staff, volunteers and governors have a key role in the prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the school or in the community.

Meridian will support children in their understanding of staying safe by:

- Ensuring children know that there are adults in the school whom they can talk to if they are worried;
- Promoting opportunities across the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to keep themselves safe, including when using technology.

Within Greenwich schools, we maintain an attitude of '**it could happen here**' where safeguarding is concerned, and promote a culture of openness where children and adults are able to talk and are listened to.

Who should my child speak to if they have a concern?

Your child can speak to any trusted adult in school. If the adult has a concern about the safety of the child, they will refer the matter to Jo (Executive Headteacher), Siobhan (Acting Head of School), Melissa (Assistant Head/ SENCo) or Jane W (Lead Teacher of the Deaf/ DSL).



Jo



Siobhan



Melissa

All schools also have a safeguarding link governor. At Meridian this is Philippa Peto.

We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk, and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children. Whilst the school will work openly with parents and carers as far as possible, there may sometimes be occasions when we need to contact Children's Social Care or the police without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests. This is a legal obligation and not a personal decision; this decision will be made in partnership with Social Care.

Our full safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers via the school website or school office.

We're proud to have signed up to the Royal Greenwich

Equality and Equity Charter

#Greenwichequality

royalgreenwich.gov.uk/equalitycharter



FAIRER SAFER ACCESSIBLE INCLUSIVE

Royal Borough of Greenwich Equality and Equity Charter

Everybody counts – a pledge for equality across Royal Greenwich

Royal Greenwich is a vibrant borough with a growing diverse population. We share an ambition to create a fairer, safer, accessible and inclusive borough where everyone feels they belong, has a voice and an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive.

We are committed to making a real difference by:

- making Royal Greenwich a welcoming borough where everyone feels they belong
- inspiring trust and confidence in all the borough has to offer
- recognising, valuing and celebrating diversity
- listening to and understanding the diverse needs of all people
- building good relations and understanding between people
- creating a fairer borough through promoting inclusion, participation and equal access
- challenging discrimination, harassment, bullying, hate crime and victimisation
- eliminating barriers, encouraging a growth mindset, raising aspirations and creating opportunities for growth beyond limit.

As an organisation we will:

- actively promote equality
- work with partners and the community to make our information, services and products more accessible and inclusive
- put equal opportunity at the heart of our recruitment, employee development and service delivery
- continually review the diversity of our workforce and ensure it's representative of our local community across all levels
- address all allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying and victimisation
- promote good relations between people from different backgrounds
- share good equality practice with our partners
- measure and share our progress and success.