



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

In week 1 of Black History Month, Jane used a timeline to support the children's understanding of when the Windrush generation occurred in relation to familiar historical events. I added to her timeline this week - when I was born and when I became a headteacher - and a child informed me that he was born in the same year that I became the head at Meridian. I sometimes forget how old I am and how young the children are in relation to this!

The school possesses a large, heavy book in which previous headteachers have diarised significant events in the school's history. In reading this tome, I discovered that I was the first female headteacher at Meridian since the school was built in 1888. Of course, when I became headteacher here, there were lots of other female headteachers in Greenwich, in London and indeed, in Britain. There were also lots of white headteachers. In my assembly this week, I told the story of Cecile Yvonne Conolly - the first female Black headteacher in Britain.

Yvonne was born in Jamaica where she trained to be a teacher. She came to Britain as part of the Windrush generation and, in the same year I was born, Yvonne became the Headteacher of Ring Cross School in Islington. Despite her concerns about the weather, she stayed in London. Despite racial tensions and some nasty opposition to her headship from those outside the school community, Yvonne stayed at Ring Cross. She said, 'I felt that I had a job to do here in Britain' and focussed on giving the children a good education - an inspiring lady.

Yvonne flourished in her career, making a difference to many children and their families, as well as other Black teachers whom she supported and encouraged over a 40 year career in education. In 2020, these achievements were recognised when Yvonne was made a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) for services to education by the Queen. Sadly, Yvonne passed away recently, but an interesting interview recorded by the BBC in 2019 can be found here: [Britain's first female black headteacher](#)



On another note, we are really looking forward to welcoming parents/carers into the school building next week for our **face-to-face Parents' Evenings**. If you haven't yet booked an appointment, we hope you will do so.

And finally, a note about **trips**: Whilst we have discovered that the British Museum is not yet welcoming school visits, we are hopeful of arranging a Y3/4 trip before Christmas. In the meantime, other classes have been able to confirm bookings. To support our history topics, Reception will be going to the Natural History Museum to see the dinosaurs on Wednesday 10th November, Year 1 and 2 will be visiting the Museum of London to take a journey through time from the Stone Age to The Great Fire of London on Thursday 2nd December, and Year 5 and 6 children will be visiting Sir John Soane's Museum to experience a fascinating historical building and see some Greek artefacts on Thursday 18th November and Thursday 11th November respectively. KS2 will be travelling by public transport and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 by coach. Nursery and Reception children will also be taking an Autumn walk in Greenwich Park on Wednesday 20th October. More details will follow soon.

Best wishes,

Jo - Jo Graham, Headteacher

What have our children been learning about during the second week of **Black History Month**?

Nursery and Reception have been applying their historical enquiry skills to investigate some of the jobs that the first *Windrush* migrants did through looking at photographs from that time. They carefully studied each picture, searching for clues to identify what job was being done.



The man is ready to drive the bus!
Kate, Nursery

I can see that they're in a tube station.
Truman, Nursery

Children then shared their own aspirations for the future and had great fun role-playing what they want to be when they grow up!

I want to play music like the man in the picture!
Oran, Reception

When I am big, I will be a police lady.
Prudence, Reception

My uncle is a chef. I want to be a superhero!
Art, Reception



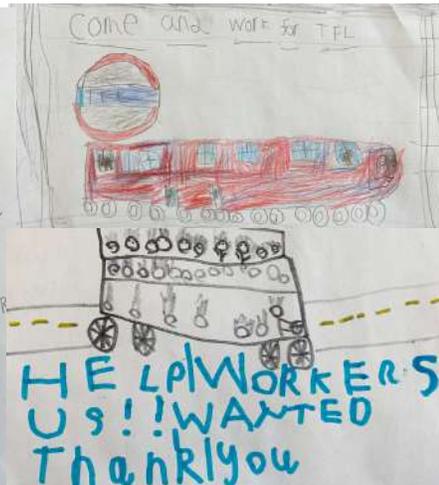
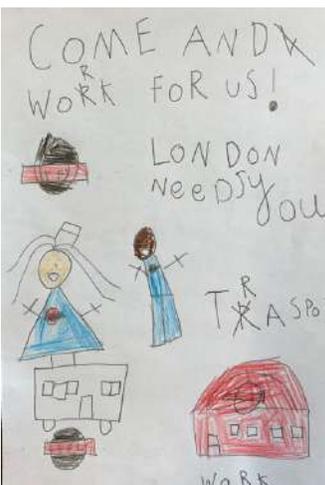
Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed learning about the important contribution the *Windrush* generation has made to London's transport system by looking at photographs and reading first hand accounts. From studying an advert from 1956, they discovered that transport workers were recruited directly from the Caribbean to fulfill a range of jobs, including driving trains and buses. This inspired children to create their own posters promoting public transport which reflect our culturally diverse community.

People who came on the *Empire Windrush* helped England to recover after the Second World War, as they did lots of skilled jobs.
David, Y2

Many people worked on the underground, buses and trains.
Zayden, Y1

It is great that people who have come from all over the world now work for TfL - Black, white and mixed race people for example!
Ceanna, Y2

As well as coming to England to help work on transport, some people were also teachers.
Trixie, Y1



Daria, Phoebe, Elsie H, Tyler and Tilly's posters

Year 3 and **Year 4** learned about the creation of the NHS in 1948 and the pivotal role that the *Windrush* generation played in helping to establish one of the first universal health care systems in the world. They read a biography and listened to an audio clip of Princess Campbell MBE, a nurse who became Bristol's first Black ward sister. Having compared some of the public health challenges that nurses like Princess faced working in hospitals in the 1950s to the ones that nurses face today, children created cards to thank a nurse. Thank you to parents Michael and Phillipa who will deliver Y3 and Y4's cards to their colleagues at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Evelina Children's Hospital respectively!



I think Princess would have felt proud because she was the first Black ward sister in Bristol and she had achieved her dream.
Mwikali, Y3

Princess never gave up, like one of our Meridian Learning Muscles - persistence!
Robbie, Y3



When Princess applied for a promotion, a less experienced white person got the job, but the other nurses were angry about this and so they gave Princess a promotion.
Izaac, Y4



Princess and other nurses at the time had to deal with big health problems like the great smog and polio. Recently, nurses have had to help people with Covid-19.
Séamus, Y4



By reading first hand accounts and listening to audio recordings, historians in **Year 5** and **Year 6** learned about the life and career of Sam King MBE, a very important and influential member of the *Windrush* generation. They explored Sam's many achievements, which include becoming Southwark's first Black mayor, helping to found the Notting Hill Carnival and successfully campaigning for 'Windrush Day' to be recognised as an observed day on the 22nd June every year. Having discussed Sam's remarkable legacy, children put his achievements into their own order of significance and then debated their ideas as a class.

I think Sam King would be most proud of setting up his own charities to help African-Caribbean communities because it showed how all his hard work would have paid off.
Jack, Y5

I think that Sam King's most significant achievement is becoming the first Black mayor in Southwark because it meant that he was helping other Black people at that time believe they could achieve their dreams.
Sara, Y5

I think it's cool that Sam worked for the Post Office for over thirty years. My own great-grandad came over from Jamaica on the *Windrush*!
Raegan, Y5



I think Sam would be proudest of his role fighting for Britain in WWII as part of the RAF because it was such a difficult war. He also must have been really proud to receive his MBE from the Queen because he would have had to work so hard to earn it.
Bilal, Y6

I think Sam's greatest achievement is becoming Southwark's first Black mayor because it's such an important role. People might not have believed he could do it, but he did!
Akira, Y6

Secondary School Applications

A reminder for Year 6 parents that the deadline for applying for secondary schools is **Sunday 31st October 2021**. [Secondary school admission guide](#) | [Apply for a secondary school school place](#)

Primary School Applications

If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, they will start school in September 2022. You need to apply for a primary school place via the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2022**.

As part of the application process for the Reception Class intake for September 2022, we are hosting a number of tours for prospective parents. This is a chance to see the school in action, meet our Headteacher, Jo, and ask any questions you might have about the admissions process.

All tours start at 9.30am and will take place on the following dates:

Friday 5th November Tuesday 9th November Thursday 11th November Tuesday 16th November Thursday 18th November Tuesday 30th November	Wednesday 1st December Wednesday 8th December Thursday 6th January 2022 Tuesday 11th January 2022
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Please note that numbers will be limited on each tour. Please contact the office if you would like to book a place on one of these tours.

More details about applying for a primary school place can be found here:

[Primary school admission guide](#) | [Apply for a primary school place](#)

Help with applications

If parents and carers require any help or advice in relation to their applications, please talk to Jo. Alternatively, you can attend [an online session with the Royal Borough of Greenwich](#):

- **RBG Secondary Admissions online session:** Monday 25 October - Friday 29 October 2020 10am - 12pm
- **RBG Primary Admissions online session:** Monday 10 January - Friday 14 January 2021 10am - 12pm

To book a 30 minute online slot, please contact the Families Information Service helpline on 020 8921 6921 or email fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk. You will be sent joining details once booked on. (If you are unable to attend, it is really important to cancel your booking as this will enable us to offer it to another family.)

For further details, contact the [Families Information Service](#).



Diary Dates

2021-22 School Year

Term dates are set for our school by the [Royal Borough of Greenwich](#). The school allocates five training days (INSETs) - pupils do not attend school on these days.

Training days for 2021-2022 are:

INSET 1 - Wednesday 1st September 2021

INSET 2 - Thursday 2nd September 2021

INSET 3 - Friday 3rd September 2021

INSET 4 - Tuesday 4th January 2022

INSET 5 - to be confirmed

Tuesday 19th October - Nasal Flu Immunisation for children in Reception to Y6 in school

Wednesday 20th October from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and Thursday 21st October from 5pm until 7.30pm - Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 20th October - Nursery and Reception children's Autumn walk in Greenwich Park

Friday 22nd October - last day of Autumn Term 1

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October inclusive - Half Term Holidays

Sunday 31st October - Deadline for secondary school applications for Y6 children due to start in September 2022

Monday 1st November - first day of Autumn Term 2

Wednesday 10th November - Reception visit the Natural History Museum

Thursday 11th November (Y6) & Thursday 18th November (Y5) - Y6 & Y5 visit Sir John Soane's Museum

Thursday 2nd December -Y1 & Y2 visit The Museum of London

Thursday 16th December - last day of Autumn Term 2

Friday 17th December - Monday 3rd January 2022- Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 4th January 2022 - INSET Day 4

Wednesday 5th January - first day of Spring Term 1

**TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN
IN RECEPTION TO YEAR 11**

If you refused the nasal flu vaccination for your child due to the porcine gelatine content we are now able to offer an alternative injectable vaccine which does not contain this.

This will be administered at our clinics only and not within school.

If you are interested and would like more information or would like to book an appointment please call the immunisation team on

0208 320 5741/42/21.

Clinics will be held on

Tuesday 26TH October at Kidbrooke Village Centre SE3 9YW

from 10.00am to 2.00pm

and Friday 29th October at Gallions Reach Health Centre SE28 8BE

from 10.00am to 2.00 pm

PROTECT YOUR CHILD, PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

Protecting your child can stop flu spreading and infecting those around them who maybe more vulnerable.

Oxleas NHS Immunisation Team can be contacted by email at

oxl-tr.immunisations@nhs.net

For more information on the flu vaccination programme please go to

www.oxleas.nhs.uk/immunisation also www.nhs.uk/child-flu



GREENWICH PENINSULA TENNIS CLUB



**We welcome kids 3yo - 11yo
to join tennis lessons**

WHEN >>

Every Wednesday

4pm - 4:30pm / 3yo – 5yo kids (Beginners)

4:30pm – 5:30pm / 6yo – 7yo kids (Beginners)

5:30pm – 6:30pm / 8yo – 11yo kids (Stage 1)

Every Friday

4pm - 4:30pm / 3yo – 5yo kids (Beginners)

4:30pm – 5:30pm / 6yo – 11yo kids (Beginners)

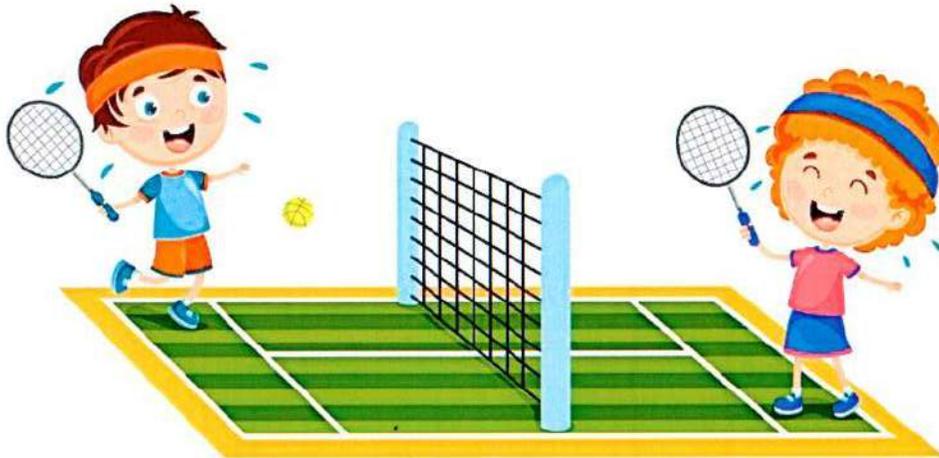
WHERE >>

SE10 0NF

St Mary Magdalene C of E

School courts

Greenwich Peninsula



REGISTER for trial session >>

WhatsApp: +44 7555 321146