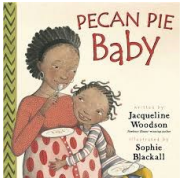


# Alexandra Primary Special Edition

## Black History Month Newsletter 1st November 2019



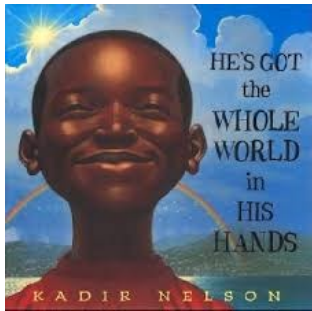
The theme for Black History Month at Alexandra Primary this year was black authors.



As part of Black History Month, the whole school took part in a range of book related activities across three weeks starting on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The intention was that in school we would recognise and celebrate the contribution that black authors have made to literature and culture.

During the month our children have read and enjoyed several books by significant black authors and could discuss them. We hope that this will inspire all our children and encourage them on their reading journey.

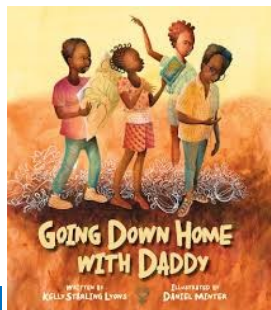
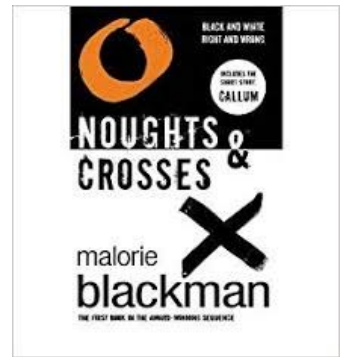
### Nursery and Reception



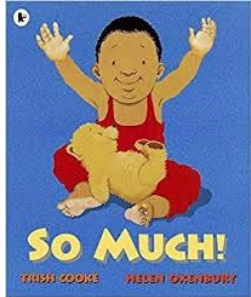
Reception children looked at jazz music and its birthplace, New Orleans. They read **'This Jazz Man'** which was performed and then we explored the different instruments jazz musicians choose to play. Children listened to a different piece of jazz music each day and explored a whole host of new vocabulary surrounding music and how it makes us feel.

They also looked at **'Trombone Shorty'** which tells the true story of a current musician who now leads the Mardi Gras parade each year with his jazz ensemble. Children explored New Orleans using google earth and followed the parade route through the town. Children prepared a dish of vegetarian gumbo (which is a staple dish in New Orleans) after writing a list of ingredients and then got to enjoy our dish.

Nursery have been overwhelmed with the generosity of the parents who brought in dishes from around the world to share with us. Many of the children came into school wearing beautiful traditional clothing which they spoke about and couldn't wait to show off around the classroom. Children have enjoyed music sessions with Ken looking at jazz music and even had a go at reading musical notation.



## Year 1



During Black History Month year 1 learned about the author Trish Cooke.

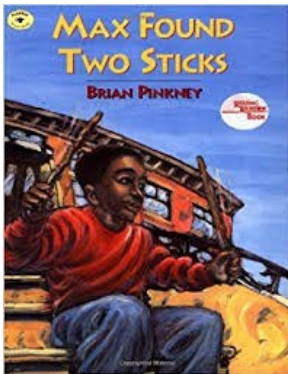
They read two of her books, '**Full, Full, Full of Love**' and '**So Much**' and then they wrote about their favourite parts of the stories.

They also learned facts about her. Did you know Trish Cooke was born in Bradford and has three brothers and six sisters?

"I liked Black History Month because we learned about women and men like Barack Obama and Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks went on a bus and then she wanted to sit in the white seats. She got arrested. It wasn't fair at all for black people." Nabilah



## Year 2



During Black History Month, Year 2 read the book, **Max Found Two Sticks** by **Brian Pinkney**. This is a story about a boy who found sticks and uses them to drum on anything he can find.

We learnt the story off by heart with actions and then wrote our own versions. We made books for our stories, designed a front cover and wrote a blurb for the back. We researched the author Brian Pinkney and created fact files about him.

In art, we made drums out of yoghurt pots and balloons and used this to re-tell our story by drumming along to the rhythm.

"I enjoyed learning about a new author. My favourite part was making drums because I learnt about music that was important to this author and Black History." David



## Year 3



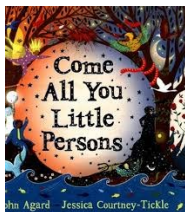
Year 3 focused on the poetry of **Benjamin Zephaniah** and John Agard. They started by researching both of their lives and then producing posters based on this information.

For art, they explored the poem '**Come All You Little Person's**' by John Agard and '**Be Cool Mankind**' by Benjamin Zephaniah. They then created the 'little people' that they would want to be and each made their own wish to make the world 'cool'.

For English, they created our own poems '**Be Cool Alexandra**' based on 'Be Cool Mankind'. In the last week, they looked more closely at another Benjamin Zephaniah poem '**The Pole With No Soul**' and explored its meaning. The theme of the poem was loneliness; they then wrote their own stories about loneliness.

"For Black History Month I enjoyed learning about black authors: Benjamin Zephaniah and John Agard. We read many poems ... the one I enjoyed the most was 'Talking Turkeys'. It is was great to take part in the Black History Month activities because we learnt about different black authors and their achievements". Garvey

"I enjoyed the research - finding out all the facts about Benjamin Zephaniah and John Agard." Suliana





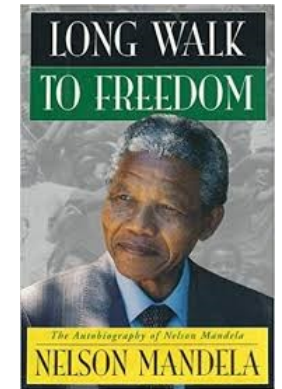


## Year 4

During Black History Month, Year 4 read **Nelson Mandela's** biography, **A Long Walk to Freedom**. They also learnt about Nelson's life and achievements and then wrote their own biographies about Nelson Mandela.

The children also explored African textiles and designed their own African tops and dresses.

"I really enjoyed reading Nelson Mandela's autobiography, A Long Walk to Freedom. I even bought my own copy of the book." Zerei

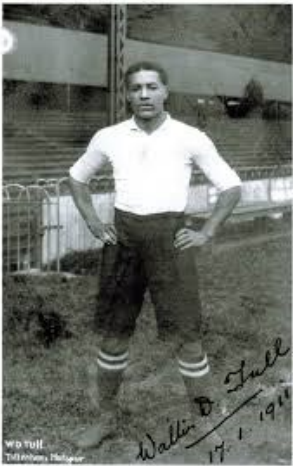


## Year 5

Year 5 learnt about the life of **Walter Tull**. Resilient, brave and an inspiration, they learned about how he persevered throughout his life in spite of experiencing many barriers. These barriers included racism and being orphaned at a young age.

They then wrote 1st person diary entries, third person biographies and created their very own scrapbooks about his life.

"I learned that Walter Tull was brave. He had a rough childhood but became a football star and a World War 1 hero. He was the first black British Officer in the army. This taught me that people can do what they want if they try hard." Kayla



## Year 6

Year 6 wrote a first person narrative. They imagined they were taken from their families and put on a boat to travel to a foreign country to be sold as a slave. They used their senses to describe their feelings and describe the setting. They were extremely mature and produced some of their best writing yet.

They then designed and drew African masks. By using oil pastels they mirrored the bright, vibrant colours they saw in the pictures of the book they had read in Destination Reader: **'African Folktales'**.

'I liked stepping into someone else's shoes and trying to imagine how they might have felt.' Ashton.

'Although it was difficult, thinking about how someone may have felt if they were taken away from their family to be sold as a slave, it was interesting. I think my writing was good because it was a mature topic.' Ruhan.

'Creating our African masks was fun because the colours are so vibrant.' Safwana.

