

## **Pupil Voice – Black History Month 2023**

### **Theme: “Before Windrush” - Exploring Untold Stories & Early Black British History**

During Black History Month 2023, pupils learned about the lives and contributions of Black Britons living in the UK before the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948. Each class explored remarkable individuals and communities whose stories are often forgotten.

Here is what the children said...

#### **EYFS – Mary Jane Seacole (Nurse)**

“She helped people and was very brave.” (EYFS)

\*“We made nurses’ things because she cared for others.”

#### **Year 1 & Year 2 – Sara Forbes Bonetta (Victorian Era)**

“She was special to Queen Victoria.” (Year 1)

“Her life showed us that important people don’t always get remembered.” (Year 2)

#### **Year 3 & Year 4 – Roman Britain: Aurelian Moors & The ‘Ivory Bangle Lady’**

“I didn’t know Black people lived in Roman Britain.” (Year 3)

“The Ivory Bangle Lady’s jewellery was beautiful - she must have been important.” (Year 4)

#### **Year 5 & Year 6 – Abolitionists such as Olaudah Equiano**

“Equiano wrote about his life so people would understand the truth.” (Year 5)

“He stood up for justice - that was really brave.” (Year 6)

#### **Whole-School Reflections**

“These stories matter because we didn’t learn them before.”

“Black History is British History.”

“We should remember these people all year.”

#### **Summary**

Children explored hidden histories, developed empathy, and recognised the importance of sharing stories that have been forgotten or overlooked - supporting our commitment to belonging and inclusion all year round.