

Black History Month 2025 Standing Firm in Power and Pride

October marks Black History Month in the UK, a national opportunity to recognise, celebrate and learn from the achievements and contributions of people of African and Caribbean heritage. It is also a time to highlight the stories of lesser-known Black Britons whose impact might remain hidden without intentional teaching and celebration.

The official theme for Black History Month UK 2025 is “Standing Firm in Power and Pride”, a powerful reflection on the resilience, leadership and cultural strength that defines Black communities past and present. The theme celebrates Black pioneers, activists, artists, and changemakers who have shaped British and global history, while also encouraging future generations to stand confidently in their identity and heritage.

Across our school, Black history is not confined to one month - it is woven intentionally throughout our curriculum. However, October provides a special opportunity to focus on significant individuals and stories that may not appear within the national curriculum but are essential for building a full and honest understanding of British history.

This year, each phase of the school is exploring a different influential Black Briton whose achievements connect to our curriculum and inspire our learners.

Early Years – Yinka Shonibare (Artist)

Hedgehog Class learnt about internationally renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare, known for using bold colour, pattern and movement in his work. Children will explore vertical lines, zigzags and circles using oil pastels to create their own vibrant artwork inspired by his distinctive style. This gives them an early introduction to celebrating identity through art.

Years 1 & 2 – Oti Mabuse (Dancer)

KS1 pupils discovered the life and career of Oti Mabuse, a South African-born British dancer and choreographer who has inspired millions through her talent and joy. Children will learn a dance routine and design a performance outfit for Oti, developing coordination, creativity and an understanding of how passion and practice lead to excellence.

Years 3 & 4 – Marcus Rashford (Footballer, Campaigner)

Years 3 and 4 researched the life of Marcus Rashford, not only as a celebrated footballer but also as a powerful advocate for children’s rights and social justice. Pupils will write biographies exploring his achievements on the pitch and his influential campaigning for free school meals. This unit builds research, writing and empathy while showcasing positive role modelling.

Years 5 & 6 – Grace Nichols (Poet)

UKS2 pupils studied the poetry of Grace Nichols, whose writing explores identity, the natural world, the Caribbean and the Black British experience. Pupils will either write their own poems in her style or re-craft one of her well-known pieces. This work strengthens language choices, imagery and cultural understanding, and celebrates the power of poetry as a voice of heritage and pride.

Owl Class History Enquiry – John Jellicoe Blair & Britain’s Forgotten Black Airmen

In addition to the class-based studies, Owl Class are undertaking a powerful history enquiry into John Jellicoe Blair, one of the many Black Caribbean airmen who served during the Second World War - stories that often go untold.

Pupils first explored the Battle of Britain to ensure strong historical context, before shifting their focus to Blair’s journey from Jamaica to the RAF. They asked thoughtful questions such as:

- What motivated Blair and other Caribbean volunteers to cross the Atlantic to fight for Britain?
- What challenges and prejudices did they face on arrival?
- How did their service contribute to shaping post-war Britain?
- Why have their stories been overlooked, and why must they now be remembered?

This enquiry encourages critical thinking, deepens historical understanding and ensures pupils recognise that Black history is British history.

Looking Ahead

Throughout October, classes will be sharing their learning through displays, performances, artwork and writing. We look forward to celebrating the achievements, resilience and creativity of the Black individuals studied across the school. Black History Month 2025 reminds us that power comes from unity, courage and identity - and that pride in one’s heritage strengthens communities and enriches our shared story