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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 6 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,
We have reached the final week of this very busy half term and we have so much to share and celebrate with you.

Harvest Festival:

First, a HUGE thank you for your very generous donations for Harvest Festival a few weeks ago. Thanks to your incredible efforts, we have donated 90 bags of goods to Homeless Action in Barnet and The Chipping Barnet Food Bank. Your kind donations will really help to support those in need.



Black History Month 2021:

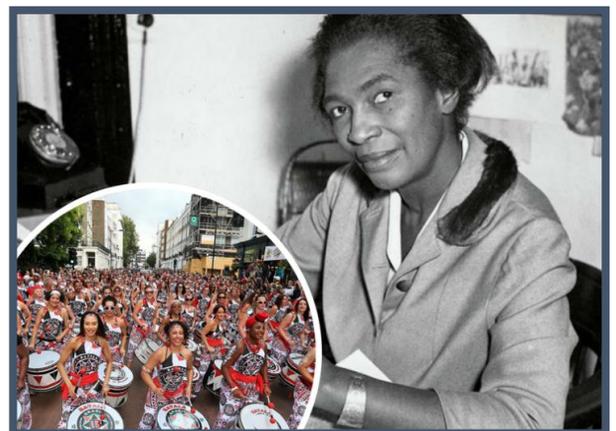
At St Mary's, we have always taught the children about inspirational people in past and recent history, including black history. This week in particular, the children have been learning about amazing black women who have experienced great difficulties whilst making significant contributions to society.

Reception and Year 1: Claudia Jones

Claudia Jones dedicated her life to challenging intolerance, inequality and oppression against Black women. She became an advocate for 100,000 Black people living in London after the Windrush generation and was the founding mother of the Notting Hill Carnival.

Here is what some of our youngest children have said about their learning:

- *'Claudia Jones' carnival has different clothes and sparkly umbrellas. It's a big party!'*
- *'I learned that Montserrat is one island in the Caribbean.'*
- *'Claudia started the first black newspaper and she did the carnival in London too.'*
- *'It's sad that Claudia Jones was treated badly because she was black, but she was brave and strong.'*



Year Two: Mary Seacole

During the Crimean War, Mary Seacole moved to London to help treat wounded and sick soldiers. Despite being turned away and told not to help, she persisted and went into the battlefield on a horse to attend the wounded soldiers. Here is what some of the children in Y2 have said about their learning:

- *You can't judge anyone by their skin colour. You need to find out what they can do.*
- *Everyone can do the same things; it doesn't matter if they are a boy or a girl.*
- *You should treat others as you want to be treated*
- *Always help people. Mary Seacole helped the English people and the Russian people. She helped her friends and her enemies.*
- *They didn't let Mary Seacole help Florence Nightingale because she was black. You can't just say people can't do things because of the colour of their skin.*



Year Three and Year Four: Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was a talented mathematician who worked for NASA. She overcame racial and gender hurdles that helped get the first man to the moon. Here is what some of the children in Y3 and Y4 have said about their learning:

- *Katherine Johnson was really clever; she counted anything she could find. She worked for NASA as a computer and saved Apollo 13. We made rockets and wrote inspirational quotes and poems inspired by her.*
- *Katherine helped save lives in space and she was really smart and very brave.*
- *She was a courageous woman who was always eager to learn no matter what the conditions.*
- *She is a very inspirational role model because she is a black woman and she worked in a place with men plus at the time they were not allowed to do certain things - so well done her!!*



Year Five and Year Six: Lilian Badar

Lilian Badar was the first black woman to join the Royal Airforce (RAF) despite facing discrimination and setbacks. She was determined to make sure that the contributions of other Black and Asian Britons during the Second World War were recognised and remembered. Here is what some of the children in Y5 and Y6 have said about their learning:

- *I have enjoyed learning about Lilian Bader and researching lots of interesting facts about her.*
- *We learnt that Lilian Bader was one of the first women and black women to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. This changed things for black women.*
- *We found it interesting to learn about Lilian Bader and how her parents' heritage affected her work.*
- *She was treated differently and not given the same chances as everyone else and that's terrible!*



Show Racism the Red Card: Wear Red Day 2021

'Wear Red Day 2021' is a national anti-racism awareness day to raise funds for 'Show Racism the Red Card' which is UK's largest anti-racism educational charity. So far today, we have raised £206 for this important charity. Thank you so much for your kind donations. We hope to work with the organisation later this year. If you haven't donated, and would like to do so, there is still time! Please look on school money for the donation tab. Click [here to see some photos from today.](#)



Coming Up After Half Term: Key Events



Poppy Appeal 2021:

Poppies will be on sale on the front playground at the start and end of the day after half as we approach Remembrance Day on 11th November.

Consultations:

We will be offering you the opportunity to book a consultation with your child's teacher after half term. This will be to discuss how your child has settled in and to highlight key areas of strength and progress in addition to speaking about next steps for learning. We will let you know by text once slots become available and how to book. Consultations will continue to be virtual, by Zoom as we are not yet having additional visitors into school.



Eco Day: COP 26

In November, COP26 will be taking place. It is the 26th meeting of members of the 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change' (UNFCCC). After half term, we will be speaking the children about this important meeting on the theme of taking action against climate change. On Friday 12th November, we will be having an Eco Day. More details to come...



Shakespeare Workshops: Y3, 4, 5 and 6

Children in all of our junior classes will have a literacy focus all about Shakespeare's Macbeth after half. This will include a workshop at school led by the [Young Shakespeare Company](#) which will really immerse them into the story - so exciting!

Friends of St. Mary's AGM:

Following the cancellation of the last meeting, the AGM has now been rescheduled to **Tuesday 9th November at 6pm by Zoom**. The meeting details will be shared nearer the time. The meeting will be to celebrate the work of the Friends during 2020/21 and will be a chance to hear about how money you have helped to raise has and will be used.

We are so grateful for the work of the Friends which enables the school to purchase extra equipment and resources for the children.



Staff news:

We wish Mrs. Lawrence and her husband-to-be Simon, many congratulations ahead of their wedding on Monday! I'm sure you will join us in wishing them all the very best for their future together.



We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Oliver back from maternity leave in the latter part of next half term. Mrs. Oliver will be coming in to school for some 'keeping in touch days' in November initially.

Books in school:

Just a reminder that our Amazon Wish List can be accessed [here](#). The link to our wish list at the Children's Book Shop in Muswell Hill can be found here: <https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists>.

If your child has a birthday coming up, donating a book might be a lovely way to celebrate!

Thank you to the Sheikh family, the Mclean family and the Puddick family for book donations over the last few weeks.

These books are currently winging their way to classroom library shelves.

***** PLEASE DELAY ANY FURTHER BOOK DELIVERIES UNTIL AFTER HALF TERM *****



In collective worship this week, we have looked again at this beautiful piece of artwork called The Golden Rule.

It features the bible verse

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Matthew Ch7 v12

This has been a particular focus this week where we have been highlighting the mistreatment that some people have experienced, and continue to experience because of the colour of their skin. We have continued to reinforce the following:



We look forward to welcoming the children back to school after half term on
Tuesday 2nd November.

Please note that Monday 1st November is a staff training day.

From all of us at St Mary's primary school, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers be with you over half term, as always.

Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams
Headteachers

