

Whitehall Park

School

LEARN, ENJOY, SUCCEED

Friday 8th October 2021

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

Another busy fortnight! We celebrated Black History Month, with children across the school focusing on famous explorers, writers, adventurers, inventors, and artists from Black history. They discovered facts about their lives, their countries, and their journeys to become pioneers in their fields. Next week they will be writing everything they know about them. Year 6 will also have a journalist from the Guardian visiting to talk about a famous British Black Panther from the 1960s. Our caterers, Harrisons, have been providing wonderful dishes on Thursdays to reflect the cuisine of Africa and the Caribbean. Many thanks to parents for providing the great fact sheets of famous black personalities for our corridors.

Teachers and teaching assistants in Early Years and Key Stage 1 put into action their training for our new phonics programme, Little Wandle (Letters and Sounds), which got off to a resounding success. Many thanks to all, especially Ms Foster, as Literacy and Phonics Lead. Mr O'Brien delivered an exciting Maths training session for teachers and teaching assistants. Some members of staff attended an interesting talk from our Speech and language therapist. Coach Jack has been team teaching PE with classes and taking extended school clubs. The office was a hive of activity completing the October Census. many thanks to Ms Proffer, Raphy's mum, for the very kind chocolates for staff to celebrate National Teachers' Day - how did you know we liked chocs?!

The last couple of years have been an unsettled period for school community; pupils, parents and staff. Re-opening any school after the pandemic closures was always going to be a significant piece of work. Whitehall Park also had additional issues with which to contend, particularly staff changes and a Head on a phased return after her injury. We couldn't have foreseen Ms Tyler recent health set back and look forward to welcoming her back after half term. I do want to assure all parents that we have a very strong teaching and staff team now, particularly the middle and senior leaderships. We had something of a mountain to climb and I have always believed our only option was to be forward looking, positive and continue with our plans for school improvement. Over the last 5 weeks we have re-written the whole school curriculum, put back in place a robust, rigorous, and scheduled monitoring of teaching and learning, improved behaviour and safeguarding procedures across the school, written subject action plans, completed a school evaluation and written the whole school development. The last two will be posted on the website after the first Local Advisory Board meeting in a couple of weeks. I want to thank you for your continued support and give the leadership, teachers, and whole staff the space and time to get on with their work and make the improvements.

Finally, could I remind everyone to be vigilant for any COVID symptoms and if your child is sick that you do a precautionary lateral flow test or a PCR. We want to do all we can to protect the whole school community and prevent a return to any closures.

Best wishes,

Miles

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB!

At St Andrew's Church
Whitehall Park, N19 3TN

FREE!

TUESDAYS
4-5:30PM
SCHOOL
YEARS 3-6



- FOOTBALL
- HOCKEY
- CRAFT
- BAKING
- GAMES
- CONSOLES
- TABLE TENNIS



COVID Symptoms and Testing

If your child is presenting any symptoms, please ensure they do a **PCR** test. LDF/Lateral Flow Testing is for prevention and asymptomatic cases only. Please send your PCR results, whether it's positive or negative, to the main Office email address.

Half Term Play Scheme

A number of free places for vulnerable children are available this October half-term at holiday playschemes. Practitioners should apply direct to providers to discuss a free place for a child they are supporting. Details of all the schemes are available at www.islington.gov.uk/holidaychildcare

Reception 2022 Admissions

Our in person school tours are still available to book [here](#). Reception 2022 admissions are now open via Islington Admissions website. Information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Things to Remember!

- If there are any changes to who will be picking up your child after school, please inform the Office via email or phone no later than **2:30pm** each day.
- Lost property is kept in a trolley in the Office area and will be put outside the main door every day for retrieval of lost items. Please ensure every item is clearly labelled with your child's name so we can easily return to them.
- If your child has a PE lesson or physical activity after school club, then they are welcome to wear their PE kit to school rather than uniform. We understand and appreciate the inconvenience of changing multiple times a day.

Adventure Play with IPA

This October half term Islington Play Association is running free play services at four adventure Playgrounds. We will have bonfires, mask making, football, dancing and most importantly free play. Outdoor play is essential for your children's development and happiness. This year it is especially important because we have all been locked away by the pandemic.

- Crumbles Castle Adventure Playground Pembroke St, N1 0DP
- Lumpy Hill Adventure Playground Market Road, N7 9PL
- Timbuktu Adventure Playground Grenville Road, N19 4EJ
- Toffee Park Adventure Playground Ironmonger Row EC1V 3QS

Times: 10.30am to 5.30pm

Dates: Monday 25th to Friday 29th of October

Email: info@islingtonplay.org.uk

Call: 020 7607 9637

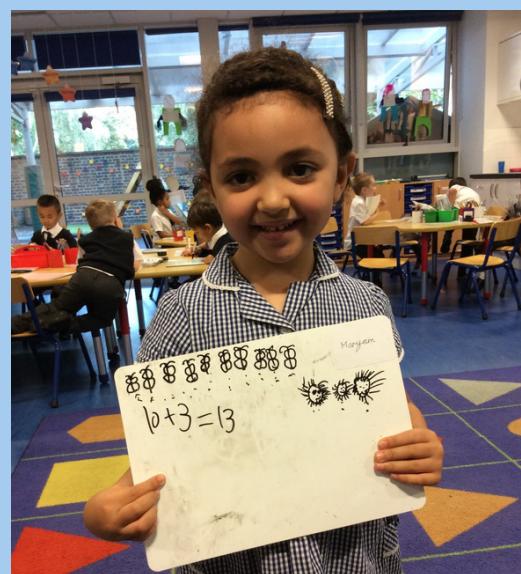
Celebrations of KS1

EYFS

In Reception we have been discussing what a family is and who is in our families. We have read the story about the owl family 'Owl Babies' by Martin Wadell and acted out the story using the hand puppets. We have also talked about our homes and had a go at designing houses.



In Maths we have been learning what a repeating pattern is and enjoyed creating patterns using a range of manipulatives such as cubes, Numicon and Lego bricks.



In Year 1 we practiced adding and subtracting. We drew pictures to represent our equations. We thought about the relationship between addition and subtraction and how we can swap the digits around to make a new equation.



In English we talked about our favourite holidays and began looking at the features of holiday brochures. We are continuing to work on our own brochures this week.



Year 2

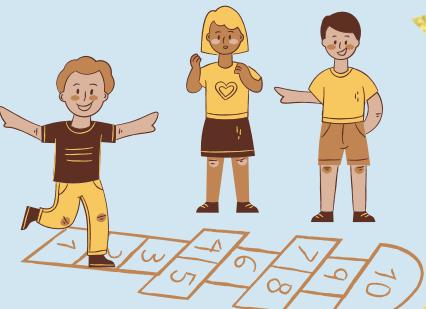
Last week in English you may have noticed Year 2 became bee experts! Our new text is 'The Bee Who Spoke.' For our first writing challenge we created non-chronological reports all about bees! Children spent the week immersed in bees. We looked at non-chronological reports and unpicked their features.

We developed our knowledge about bees through group challenges, documentaries and reading. Children then worked together to create a group non-chronological report and finally produced their own.

In R.E we have been looking at Christianity and why God is so important in their religion. Last week we started to look at their sacred text, The Bible. We enjoyed learning the story of Jonah and the Whale. We then used playdough to make different scenes from the story.



Celebrations of LKS 2

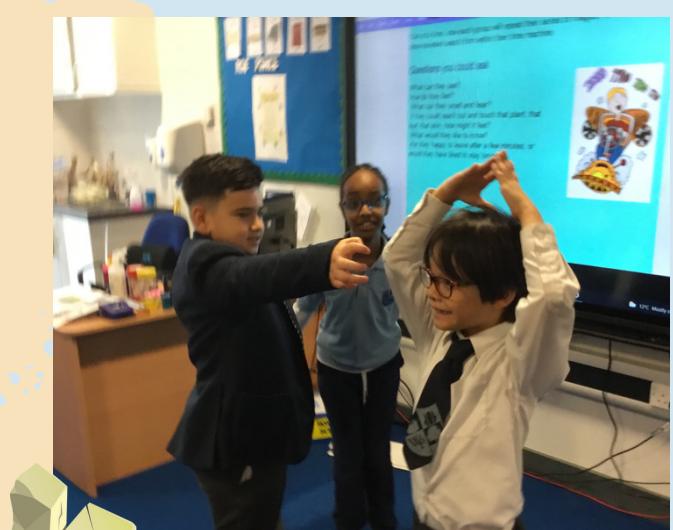


Year 3

In English, the children have worked collaboratively in groups and looked at an extract of Pebble in My Pocket. The children have also traveled back in time to the Mesozoic age where reptiles and Dinosaurs roamed the Earth. The children had to re-enact scenes from the book through a sequence of freeze frames in preparation for writing an informal letter about their time travelling experience.



In maths the children have been looking at ten more and ten less than a given number and rounding to the nearest multiple of ten.



In Science the children have been looking at how fossils are formed and the different types of fossils for example cast, mold and trace fossils. The children had the opportunity to examine real life fossils and make posters about the fossilisation process.

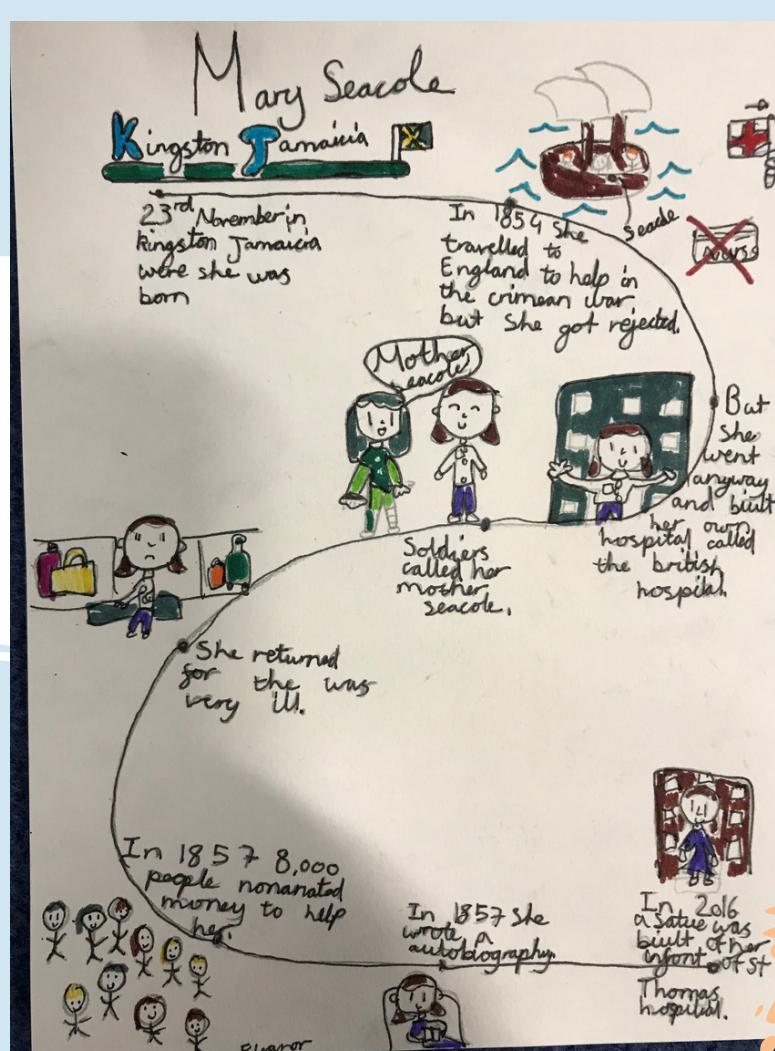
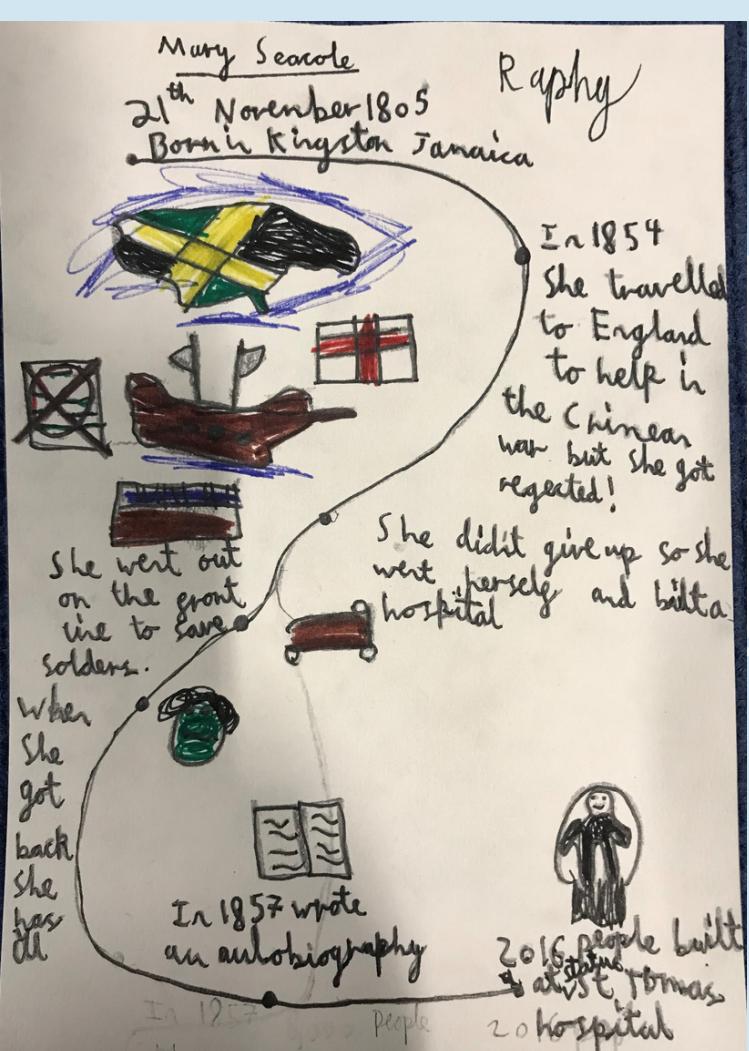
In Year 4 we have been looking at Mary Seacole for our pioneer for Black History Month. We created a story maps of her life.



In art, continuing our work on J.M.W Turner, we have been using water colours to create different tones



Year 4



This week we have been looking at column subtraction in maths. We used place value counters to help our learning.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



"Mickey always loved playing chess and during the first lockdown last year, he used his "free" time learning and practicing a lot. As a result, now he is participating in a team at the Junior 4 Nations Chess League which is the United Kingdom foremost Chess league (J4NCL)"

"I would be grateful if his amazing progress would be shared with others, not only because of his fantastic success but also to show to others that even though the pandemic stopped/slow down our life in some way, we still can achieve great things and be successful if we put our minds to it. We are unstoppable!"

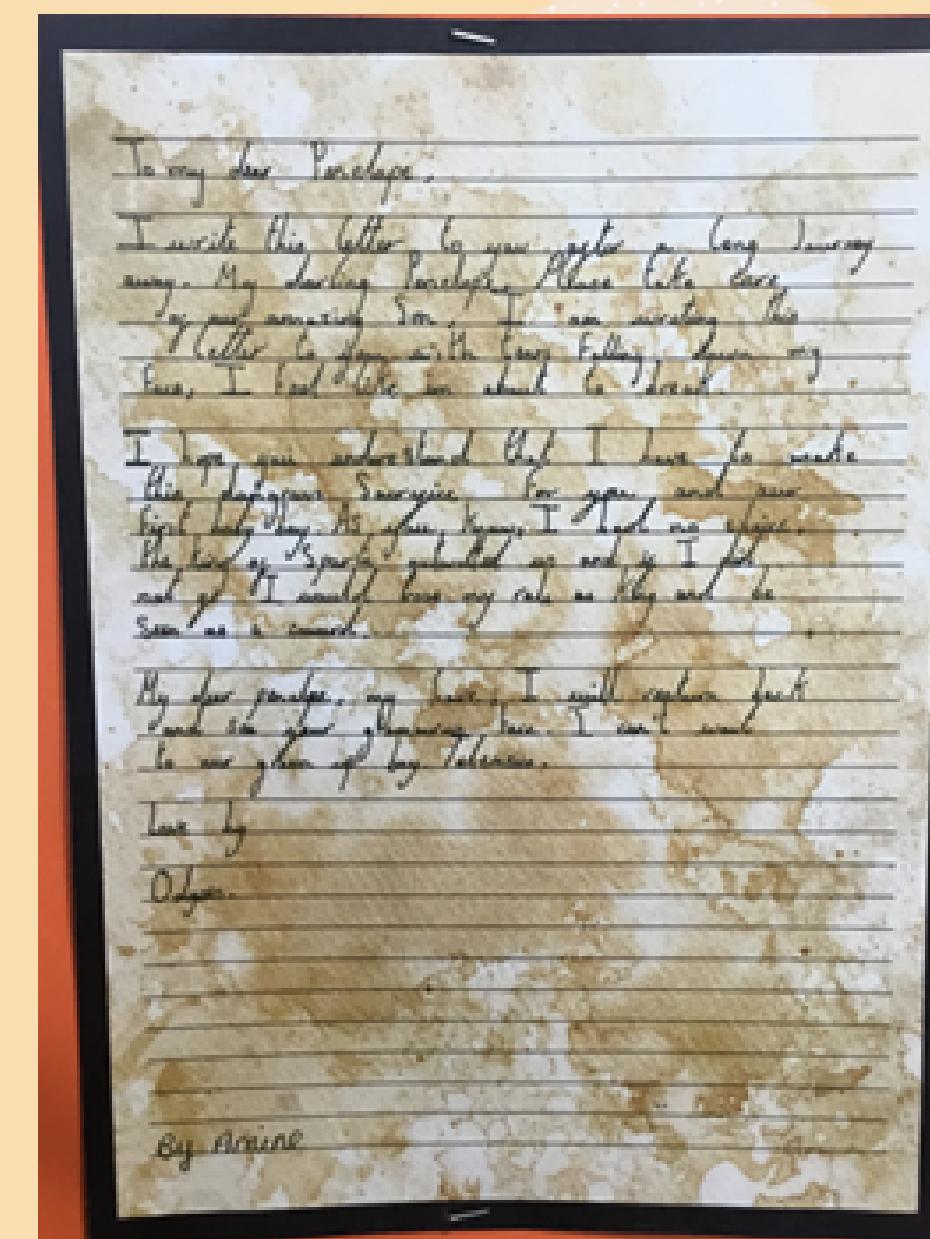
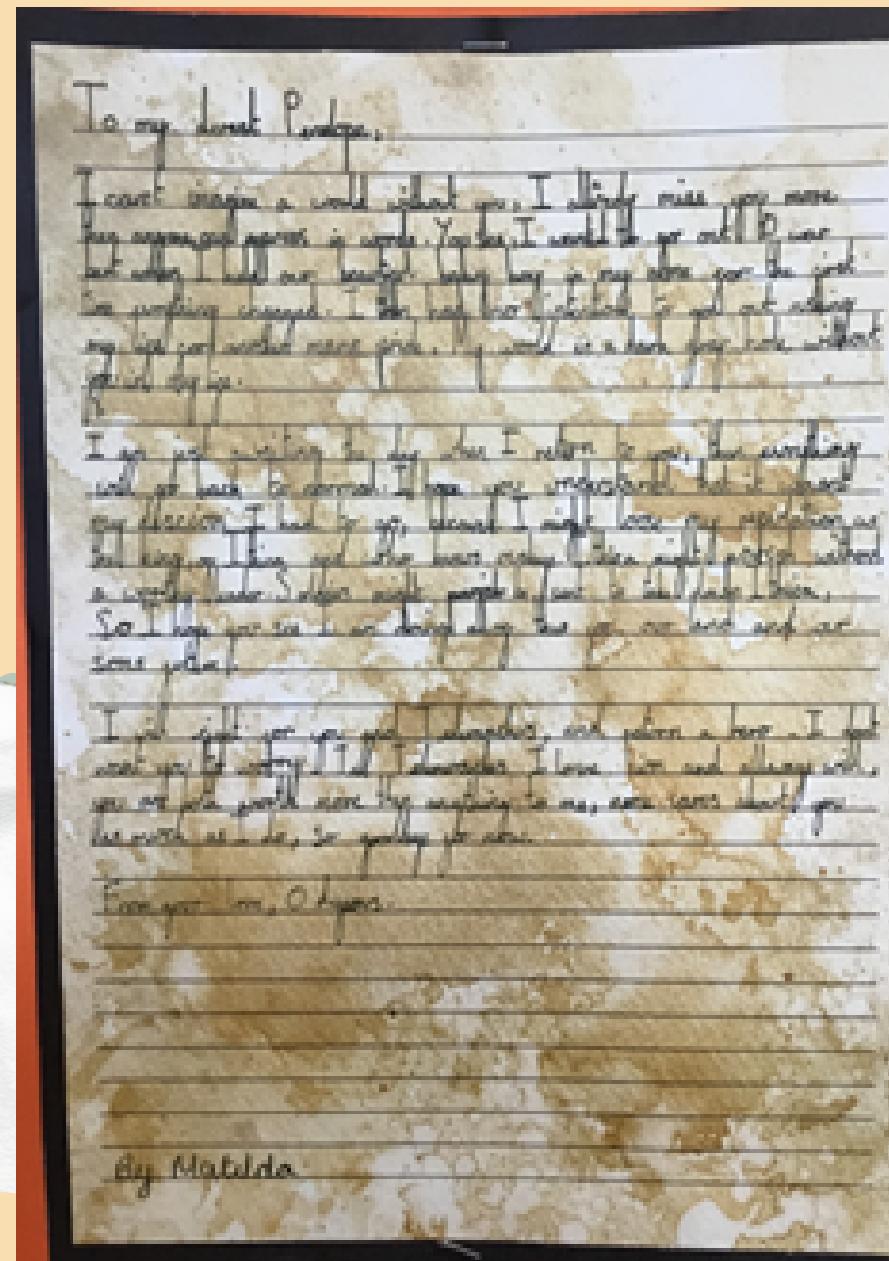
"Well done to Raphy who recently completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge at North Library and will be presented with his medal and certificate on Thursday the 21st of October"



Celebrations of UKS2

In art, we have been learning all about amphoras. We have previously studied the design and shape and last week, we worked in groups to use modroc, newspaper, and a plastic bottle to create an original piece. The children worked collaboratively and as you can see; the results so far are fantastic!

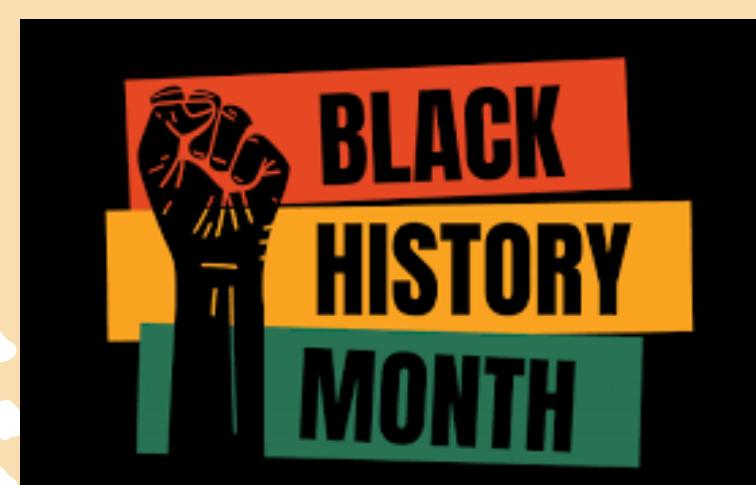
Year 5



In English, we children got into role as Odysseus and wrote an emotional letter to Penelope as he left to go fight in the Trojan War. The children ensured they wrote paragraphs around a theme, addressed Penelope directly and used figurative language to describe how they felt.

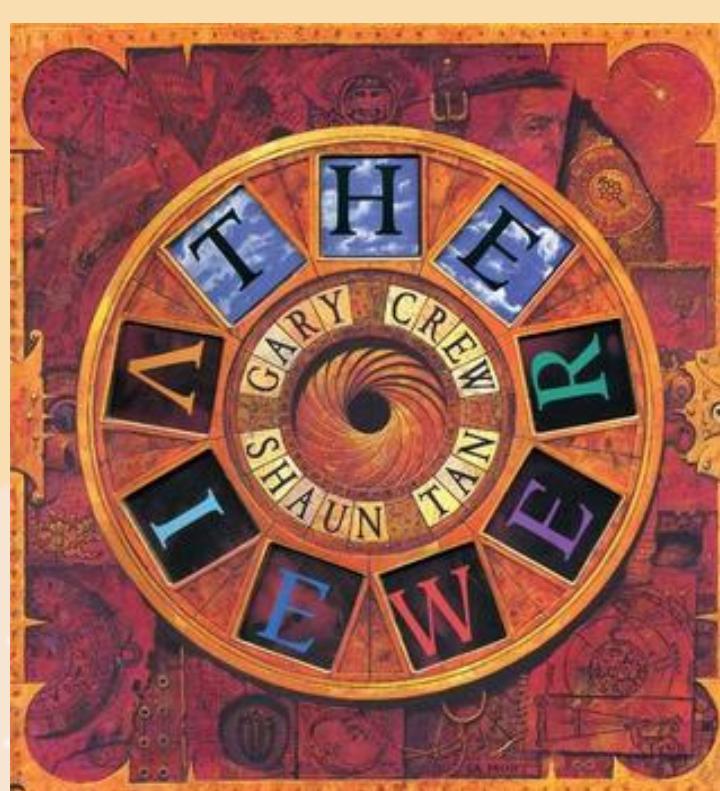
Year 6

Over the last couple of weeks in year 6 we have been looking at diary writing in Literacy. The children looked at different types of fronted adverbials to convey emotion. These included different sentence types including the 3ed and emotion word comma sentence. Imagining themselves as Tristan from the Viewer, the children wrote a diary entry of the day when he discovers the Viewer and the subsequent events. Once we had worked really hard to develop a highly detailed and advanced guided example together, the children then changed role and imagined a similar diary entry from the point of view of Tristan's mother.



This week we are turning our attention to our focus person of study for Black History Month: Altheia Jones Lecointe grandmother to one of our very own Whitehall Park families! We are so delighted to be finding out more about her life and specifically of her involvement in the case of the 'Mangrove 9' which you may know was recently dramatised by the BBC to high acclaim.

As part of a wider education campaign to highlight the importance of these events and the ensuing court trial, the National Archives have released a set of resources including letters, newspaper clippings, police witness statements and black activist publications from the time. Without telling the exact events, we examined the sources ourselves and have used our historical enquiry skills to piece together the events and their context. The richness of the children's inferences and the quality of information they were able to glean from them was truly amazing. Using internet research on Altheia, we are going on to write an explanatory text on her involvement and on the importance of the trial.



During music lessons, the children have built upon a small bank of songs we have learned from memory including 'Spinning top', 'Engine Engine', 'Bele Mama' and Senwa De Dende'. The children have learned to sing them in large groups with different entry points creating the imitative texture of a canon. Showing such prowess, it was certainly time to challenge them with something more substantial and so we are now beginning learn the Kodaly Canon: a much longer canon with an expansive vocal range of over an octave and a fourth. What's more, this canon shows the pitch using hand signs and SolFa note names as the only words!



GOLD AWARDS

Marnie Year 2 Basil - For being a ray of sunshine!

Oscar Year 2 Basil - Facing all challenges with a positive attitude

Famke Year 5 Chamomile - For consistently writing to a high standard in all subjects!

Asif Year 5 Chamomile - For working extremely hard in all subjects and in particular his handwriting!

Ava Year 2 Chive - For showing resilience during our maths lesson.

Jaylan Year 6 Cinnamon - For his incredible creativity and reciprocity in learning.

Lewis Year 4 Clove - Outstanding focus and work in science

Rifat Year 4 Clove - Outstanding resilience and independence

Maryam Year 1 Jasmine - Maryam has worked really hard this week to finish all of her learning tasks on time. She has concentrated on using a capital letter, finger spaces and full stop in her writing. Maryam has been listening well during carpet time and has been an all round star

Jake Year 1 Jasmine - For making a marked improvement with his independent writing.

TeaRayne Year 1 Lavender - Tea gets gold this week because she always tries her hardest and shows amazing behaviour

Jack Year 5 Mint - For always working hard, paying attention and consistently improving his handwriting.

Afnaan Year 3 Rosemary - For her beautiful writing this week.