

GGA Celebrates Black History Month

Black History Month is an International annual month, celebrating, recognising and valuing inspirational individuals and events. First celebrated in the UK in 1987, Black History Month in the UK is marked annually during the month of October. During the month of October GGA celebrated Black History in style. Please read what they have to say.



STUDENT VOICE

Year 1

Harriet's Powers



In Year 1 we decided to learn about the life and work of Harriet Powers.

We now know that Harriet Powers was an African-American slave, folk artist, and quilt maker from rural Georgia. She used traditional appliqué techniques to record local legends, Bible stories, and astronomical events on her quilts.

Only two of her quilts are known to have survived: Bible Quilt 1886 and Pictorial Quilt 1898. We drew our own quilts.

Year 2

Mary Seacole



Year 2 focussed on the work of Mary Seacole and her influence and impact in the world of medicine and soldier welfare.

Children focussed on her achievements and challenges that she faced as a black woman in the early Victorian period. Children initially completed a learning activity of recalling information learnt from her life at the beginning of the month.

This was then enhanced further at the end of the month with a workshop session led by Emily Grazebrook and her amazing and engaging storytelling and supporting practical activities including remedy investigations and developing empathy skills.

Through pupil voice and looking at the children's outcomes from the sessions, it is evident to see that children recognise the challenges that Mary Seacole faced and overcame and why these are remembered and celebrated.

Year 3

Doctor Martin Luther King



Year 3 Black History Month – Doctor Martin Luther King

In Year 3 we studied Doctor Martin Luther King. This began relating to the children's previous learning in Year 2 of Rosa Park and how this linked to Martin Luther King's work.

The children in particular enjoyed a pictorial book which showed his life story and they enjoyed real life video footage of him given his famous 'I had a dream speech'. In the children's own work they were able to recall some of the work that Doctor Luther King did to bring more fairness in the world and we linked his vision and dreams to what the children's own vision and dreams were.

The Art workshop was excellent in supporting this with the children making a dream catcher and writing down what their dreams for the world were and attaching to their catchers. Please see below photographs of the children making their dream catchers.

Art Workshop – Making Dream Catchers



Year 4

Ruby Bridges



Year 4 have studied the life of Ruby Bridges and the bravery she showed as a young girl.

We discussed how she must have felt and the horrors such a young girl faced. Her grit and determination is something we focussed upon and showed this by role playing parts of life that she faced on a daily basis. The children have said how we can all learn by her story when or if we face the impossible.

We had a clay artist visit us and together we looked at the work of Norman Rockwell who produced a painting of Ruby. We studied the colours used and the way he created his artwork, and then created a clay model of Ruby Bridges using his picture as inspiration.



Year 5

Windrush



In Year 5 we studied the life of Harriet Tubman. We produced a booklet describing her early life, her role in abolishing slavery and her legacy. We watched a film depicting the life of Harriet Tubman and this linked to our learning on inspiration people.

We had a workshop led by Martin who talked about the slave trade in Ghana and the wider world. The children were able to make the link between Martin's session and Mrs Wilson and Miss Heath's visit to Elmina Castle, Ghana where they knew about 'the door of no return'.

We had a Windrush drama workshop with David Baker, the children explored the history of people leaving the Caribbean to come to England through the use of drama. Children role played the different lives aboard The Empire Windrush and developed their empathy and understanding through this activity.

Year 6

Earthquake At Port Royal



As part of Black History Month, Year 6 learnt about the earthquake at Port Royal in 1692. The children learnt about the role of Port Royal as the 'wickedest city in the world' and how that changed with the earthquake and tsunami of 1692. They then created and performed their own news reports about the event.

Year 6 also learnt about the culture of Jamaica and considered how and why things would have been different and difficult for those who emigrated to the United Kingdom on the Windrush. It was evident that the children could empathise with those who lost their homes in Port Royal and those who travelled on the Windrush.

