



## Message from the Deputy Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that the half-term is nearly over! It is fair to say that the staff are ready for the break and so are the children. Although we haven't had some of the 'extra' curriculum things we would normally fit into Autumn One, such as trips and visitors, we have tried to keep it as close to 'business as usual' as possible but at the same time, we've worked hard to keep safe and stick to the new guidelines. All of that, coupled with preparing home learning resources, updating the risk assessment regularly, preparing a new way for parents evening to run and having endless discussions about Covid related issues, it isn't at all surprising we are ready for the break!

As I am writing this, 91% of children have a parents' evening appointment booked for next week. The booking for the two evenings (20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October) closes on Sunday and I am hoping that the number will be at 100% by then. The system seems to have worked well so far and we are crossing our fingers that we don't have a power cut during one of the evenings! The teachers are busy preparing some things to be sent home on Monday, prior to all the appointments, and they are looking forward to speaking with you all next week.

One way we look at standards across the school is by using an approach called a learning walk. Quite simply, this is where a member of staff walks through the school, visiting classrooms, normally looking at something specific. Each visit is for about ten minutes and it helps that member of staff to get an idea of what is happening on a daily basis in school around their particular focus.

Mr Eardley and I completed a learning walk early on in the term, looking at classroom expectations, routines and how children had settled into their new classes. The member of staff completing the learning walk makes notes, gives feedback to the staff and decides on any areas in need of improvement. We would normally speak with the children during these visits but we need to stick to the guidelines. Adults completing a learning walk keep their distance and make sure they do not spend too long in any one room.

This week Miss Wyatt (UKS2 Team Leader and Maths Lead) completed a learning walk, looking at maths across the school. She was very pleased with the quality of teaching and learning she saw and it has reinforced for her the importance of using full sentences when children answer problems. This will now become something she will support staff with. Next week, Mrs Edwards (Reading Lead) will be visiting classrooms to look at reading and Ms Harries (SENDco/Inclusion Lead) will be popping in to see how support staff are utilised across the school.

My assembly this week was about Ada Lovelace as the 13<sup>th</sup> October was International Ada Lovelace Day, celebrating the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Her story is fascinating and I hope the children will be able to tell you a little bit about her tonight.

Have a great weekend everybody!

Colin Marks

Deputy Head Teacher



## Attendance

This week, our Whole School Attendance was:

97.85%

Gordon the Good Attendance Gorilla was most impressed by the following classes which had the highest attendance of 100%:



**MACAWS**      **PENGUINS**  
**MAGPIES**      **SHARKS**

## Shining Stars



Well done to the following children who all received a Shining Star this week!

Penguins: Audrey Neves	Magpies: Alfie Stocks
Elephants: Adam Wilson	Iguanas: Elliott Fox
Giraffes: Millie Warren	Squirrels: Isabel Hall
Macaws: Mayzee Hodgson	Nightingales: Elliott Ball
Cobras: Anna Granville	Flamingoes: Emily Billington
Wombats: Kayla Hatton	Armadillos: Jamie Robinson
Sharks: James Webb	Toucans: Zack Connelly

## Reading Champions

Every time a child reads with an adult at home, they earn a Dojo point towards their class reward.

Our target is that every child reads WITH an adult at home 5 times a week. This week's class averages were:



Penguins: 4.9	Magpies: 5.8
Elephants: 5.7	Iguanas: 6.6
Giraffes: 6.0	Squirrels: 6.9
Macaws: 6.1	Nightingales: 6.0
Cobras: 5.2	Flamingoes: 5.0
Wombats: 4.8	Armadillos: 7.1 ★
Sharks: 5.0	Toucans: 5.5

Children in Years 1-6 earn Dojo Points for their class by reading with an adult at home,



ClassDojo

demonstrating the PRIDE Code and our Learning Toolkit, and for gaining House Points.

This week's Dojo Scores were:

Elephants: 849 ★	Iguanas: 505
Giraffes: 490	Squirrels: 321
Macaws: 352	Nightingales: 249
Cobras: 298	Flamingoes: 394
Wombats: 313	Armadillos: 628
Sharks: 169	Toucans: 564



## Dojo Masters

Our Top 3 Dojo scorers were:

KS1: Arimai-Mya Jayne 43

LKS2: Oakley Ellwood-Jeal 21

UKS2: Jamie Hinge & Tiana Emmins 29



Children in Years 3-6 are challenged to practise their times tables at [www.trockstars.com](http://www.trockstars.com).

These children were the most improved this week:

<b>Toucans:</b> Ethan Stephenson	<b>Sharks:</b> Rosie Ward
<b>Wombats:</b> Eilidh Homewood	<b>Armadillos:</b> Amelie Stevenson
<b>Cobras:</b> Belle Fisher & Linden Brown	<b>Flamingoes:</b> Millie Cox, Harley Jayne & Ellie-May Carter
<b>Nightingales:</b> Bethany Craven	<b>Macaws:</b> Alyssia Thomas

## HOUSE POINTS

**DEMPSEY**  
84

**MALLARD**  
86

**NENE**  
75

 **FENS**  
93

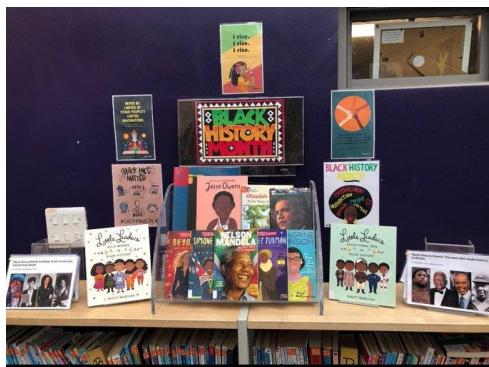
## Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK and celebrates the achievements of black men and women in the past and today. Here at OWPS, we have been celebrating Black History Month throughout the school in the following ways:

# B: M 2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

### The Library – by Mrs Campling, Librarian



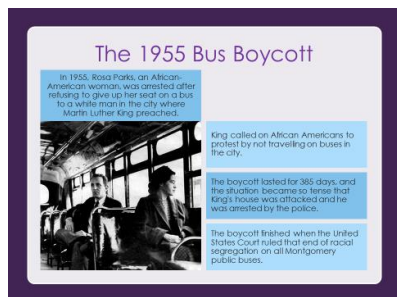
Have you heard of Paul Stephenson? What about Ira Aldridge? Or Joan Armatrading? Dr Shirley Thompson?

These people all have something in common: they are all black men and women who made (or are still making!) history in Britain. Often during Black History Month, we can think of well-known activists like Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King Jr, who were instrumental in changing black lives in the USA, but it's harder to think of British individuals. One of the things to come out of some of the events of this year has been a rise in understanding that the UK's collective knowledge of black history has some serious gaps. That's why Mrs Morris & I decided that for this year's Black History Month, we would buy and highlight some new biographies of black individuals who either campaigned for civil rights or were movers and shakers in their particular field. Some of them have already been borrowed and there are more coming later in the year, as we update our non-fiction shelves in the library!

On the Black History Month display in the library, we have biographies of people like Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama, but also people like Simone Biles (Olympic gymnast) and Katherine Johnson (mathematician). There are also two fact-files of black men and women who made history in Britain. Why not have a look and see if you know who they are before reading their bios?

### Head Teacher's Assembly

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Mr Eardley's virtual assembly was all about Black History Month. Watched by each class from Year One up to Year Six, it explained the reasons behind celebrating Black History Month and was linked to the theme of the week, which was 'Tolerance'.



The children were fascinated to learn about race relations in America in the 1950s and 1960s.

In particular, they learnt about Rosa Parks and the 1955 Bus Boycott in Chicago. Mr Eardley also celebrated the achievements of Mary Seacole, Nelson

Mandela, Barack Obama, Usain Bolt and Lewis Hamilton.

### Celebrations in Class



To celebrate Black History Month in the Iguanas, the class has been reading about Aretha Franklin.

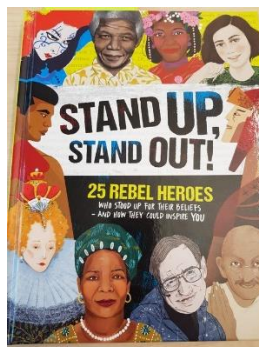
Mrs Ironside tweeted that the children had had a stimulating discussion about equality, human rights and racism, and learnt about lots of new genres of music (gospel, jazz, doo wap, pop, soul).

### History Lessons

Mrs Morris, History Lead, has compiled a list of texts for classes to read during Black History Month:

Foundation	Wilma Rudolph
Year 1	Aretha Franklin
Year 2	Muhammad Ali
Year 3	Josephine Baker
Year 4	Martin Luther King Jr
Year 5	Mahatma Gandhi
Year 6	Harriet Tubman

The books are all part of the 'Little People, Big Dreams' series, which introduces young readers to inspiring people in history, politics, music, arts, design, science and sports.



To celebrate Black History Month in the Toucans, the class have been reading Stand Up, Shout Out.

Each day, Miss Tansley is sharing a profile with the Toucans to recognise some of the famous people who have shaped black history.

For more information about Black History Month, please visit [www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk)

## OWPS Sponsored Event 2020

By Mr Marks, Deputy Head Teacher



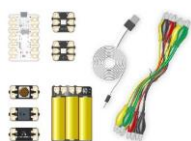
On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, we shall be holding our annual sponsored events in school. Each year group has selected an event for their children to take part in and they have already decided what they would like to raise money for.

Completing the challenges in the Autumn term means the teachers can spend the money raised to buy things for the children in their year groups to use for the rest of the year.



The table below will tell you what event each year group will be doing and what they are hoping to raise enough money for.

Year Group	Event	Fundraising for...
FS	Mini circuit – 8 stations set up with a different activity at each.	Speaking & Listening resources (microphones, sound pegs, CD players...)
Y1 Y2	Sponsored fitness bingo!	New indoor and outdoor playtime equipment.
Y3 Y4	Running challenge – Can each class run to Lichfield? (the birthplace of Samuel Johnson who wrote the first dictionary)	New dictionaries and thesauruses
Y5 Y6	Golden Mile – running laps around the playground	Crumble Kits – equipment to use in computing lessons.



A sponsor form has been sent home with every child this week. Please help your child to collect sponsors from family and close friends. They can either sponsor a specific amount per catch/book read/lap completed etc. or just make a donation.

The children will need to bring in their sponsor sheet by **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** and they will bring it home after the event with their total written on the bottom.



Thank you for your support!

## School Emails

By Mrs Schneider, Digital Lead

Some parents have reported that the school emails, which are now sent through the website, have been going into their junk folder. This means that parents and carers might be missing important news, information or letters home. Unfortunately, junk settings are not something that we can reset from our end: they are specific to each individual's email account and need to be reset there.

To prevent school emails from going into your junk folder, please try the following options:

- Check your junk -older and mark the emails as 'Not Junk' and/or redirect them to your inbox
- Check your Junk Mail settings
- Check your Blocked Sender list
- Add the email address to your Contacts
- Add the email address to the Safe Senders List
- Add the email address to the Safe Mailing Lists
- Check your Email Rules
- Check your Email Forwarding settings



You may need to log into your email account online rather than do it via the app on your phone to change the settings. You may also wish to search for help on this from your specific email account provider.

Please let me know at [digital@owps.org.uk](mailto:digital@owps.org.uk) if you have any further queries.

## Nut-Free School

By Mrs Nalton, Admin Assistant



We currently have pupils in school with severe nut allergies. These allergies are such that the slightest contact with nuts could be life-threatening. We therefore respectfully ask that **no nuts** are knowingly brought onto the premises by adults or children. This includes peanut butter and Nutella spread which is popular in lunch boxes. Please double-check the ingredients list for other food like cereal and protein bars, which can sometimes contain nuts.

Please do not hesitate to contact the School Office if you have any further questions. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Virtual Parents Evening

By Mr Marks, Deputy Head Teacher

We are looking forward to seeing you all next week (on a screen!) for our Autumn term parents' evenings. 93% of appointments have already been made and we are hopeful that it will be at 100% by Sunday, when the booking system closes. Please email the school office if you are having problems making an appointment.

We often share some reports and helpful resources with parents at these meetings but this year we will be unable to hand them to you directly during the meetings. On Monday your child/children will come home with some paperwork in their bags for you to look through prior to the appointments on Tuesday and Thursday. The table below outlines what each year group is sending home.

FS	Phonics information (to help you support their learning at home). The FS team have continued to use Tapestry to share information and work with parents. There is a new FS tour available for you to watch with your child, allowing you to see the unit.
Year 1	Pack of resources to help you support your child at home with phonics, maths and other curriculum areas.
Year 2	Accelerated Reader report plus some materials to help you with reading, maths and phonics at home.
Year 3	Accelerated Reader report
Year 4	Accelerated Reader report
Year 5	Accelerated Reader report
Year 6	Accelerated Reader report

Thank you for your continued support.

## Coming Up in the Community!

### Drive-In Firework Display

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 18:30, the East of England Showground is hosting a Drive-In Firework Display. Online e-tickets must be pre-purchased and start at £20 per car.

For more information about this socially distanced Bonfire Night event, please visit [www.driveinfireworks.uk](http://www.driveinfireworks.uk)



**Disclaimer:** Orton Wistow Primary School does not endorse any products, services or activities that appear in the Community section of this newsletter, and is not responsible for any contract entered into by either party. Given the current circumstances, we would recommend all parents check with any providers regarding the status of these services, activities and clubs

## Coming Up in School!

**Next week: WB 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**All week**

Foodbank donations

**Tuesday**

Long Virtual Parents Evening

**Thursday**

Short Virtual Parents Evening

**Friday**

Sponsored Event & Halloween Lunch

**In Two Weeks: WB 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**All Week**

Half term

**In Three Weeks: WB 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

**Wednesday**

Virtual Honours Award Assembly

**Thursday**

Bonfire Lunch

## Contact Us

Please contact us at [digital@owps.org.uk](mailto:digital@owps.org.uk) if you have any queries, comments or suggestions for the newsletter.