



**BE HERE.  
BE YOU.  
BELONG.**

*This school belongs to all of us.*

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



You will be aware that October is **Black History Month**, an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the history, achievements and contributions made by black people across the world over many, many generations.

When we think about how to celebrate **Black History Month**, we want to do so much more than can be achieved in this short period of time. We want to make sure that all of our pupils, families and staff feel a true sense of belonging and connection with our school. We want to be an inclusive environment, in which the whole school community feels welcomed into, reflected within, valued and confident to bring their whole selves to school. We want to continue to learn from one another.

We have lots of plans to celebrate **Black History Month** together and we also want to let you know that for the other 11 months of the year, we will continue to celebrate, recognise, reflect and include our wonderfully diverse and unique population in everything we do.

We have split our School's Inclusion and Diversity Team into five **'Belonging' Groups**, each responsible for focusing on a different area of school life. These groups will ensure we keep Inclusion, Equality, Diversity and Belonging at the heart of our practice. Each group has already contributed a number of ideas to feed into **Black History Month**:

### Staff Engagement Belonging Group:

We are holding a whole school Wow Day; **'Bring Yourself Day'** on Wednesday 13th October. Pupils and staff will be invited to bring in food from their culture/heritage to share, and/or to dress in cultural clothes or bring in particular special items; enabling us all to learn more about each other. We can't wait!

### Recruitment Belonging Group:

This month will be a month of information-gathering and learning and will culminate in a staff quiz and survey to shape our next steps in this important area.

### Physical Environment

**Belonging Group:** We are designing new displays on each site to celebrate inspirational people of colour with additional needs. Some classes are also creating personal Heritage and Identity displays.

### Curriculum Belonging

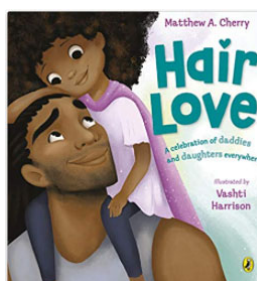
**Group:** We are investing in more multicultural resources to support our teaching and learning, including a range of books and role play resources. Our teachers are busy creating a range of sensory stories to support our pupils' understanding further.

### Family and Community

**Belonging Group:** We will be updating our school website to share our reading, listening and watching suggestions with you all. We have included a few books below to start us off. Throughout the month we will also be celebrating and sharing with you a selection of inspirational people with additional needs. Please turn over to see this weeks share..

### Book ideas to share at home:

- 'Hair Love'
- 'Think Big Little One'
- 'Shine'
- 'The Ghanaian Goldilocks'



### 'IF YOU'RE OUT THERE' Our whole school project:

*"If you hear this message, wherever you stand, I'm calling every woman, calling every man, We're the generation, we can't afford to wait, the future started yesterday and we're already late".*

Our pupil and staff choirs are starting this month on each site with the aim to remake John Legend's song 'If You're Out There'. This will represent, celebrate and include every pupil and member of staff in a creative, meaningful and engaging way - **The Riverside Way**. Watch this space!

When John Legend was interviewed about his song he said:

*"Sometimes you wonder if anybody's listening, or if they care enough about the issues to make a difference. The song is a call to action for anyone who has a mind to contribute and the motivation to actually do it".*



# Stephen Wiltshire



Stephen



Wiltshire is a Black-British



autistic



artist.



His



photographic



memory



helps



him

to



draw



magnificent



landscape



art.