



October is **Black History Month**, an opportunity to reflect, recognise and celebrate the history, achievements and contributions made by black people across the world over many, many generations. We love celebrating each other at Riverside School; our similarities and our differences. Our uniqueness is what makes us all special and **Black History Month** gives us an extra platform to do what we do every day; to strive to provide an inclusive environment, in which our whole school community feels welcomed into, reflected within, valued and confident to bring their whole selves to school. We are committed to providing a safe place where we are able to learn from one another. Ultimately 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 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 our wonderfully diverse and unique population in everything we do.

Making **Black History Month** meaningful at Riverside School:

#### Bring Yourself Day:

We are holding a whole school Wow Day; '**Bring Yourself Day**' on Friday **14th 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!

#### Expressive Arts Sessions:

Every pupil will experience an Expressive Arts Session which has been designed to reflect and represent the many black artists who have helped to change the face of the Arts across the world. These sessions have been created by our own Expressive Arts Team and have been personalised to meet the needs and understanding of the pupils in each session.

We will be sure to share photos from the Bring Yourself Day and the Expressive Arts Sessions for you all to enjoy.

#### Resources:

As a school we have invested in many more multicultural resources to continue to support our teaching and learning. We have an amazing library offer, ran by our pupils for our pupils and staff, which includes a wide range of multi cultural books and role play resources.

#### Lessons:

Our teachers are busy creating a range of lessons, including sensory stories, message stories, poetry sessions, art sessions etc. to support our pupils' understanding in further ways.

#### School Website:

We will be updating our school website to share our reading, listening and watching suggestions with you all. Please do get in touch to share any of your own suggestions with your class team. Do you have a favourite song, book that you share at home? We have included a few books below to start us off...



#### Books To Explore...

'We All Belong'  
'Along Came a Different'  
'Our Diversity Makes Us Stronger'  
'Have You Thanked An Inventor Today'

#### 'IF YOU'RE OUT THERE'

"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".

Last year our pupil and staff choirs on each site with the support of our Expressive Arts Team produced their own version of John Legend's song 'If You're Out There'. We wanted to represent, celebrate and include every pupil and member of staff in a creative, meaningful and engaging way - **The Riverside Way**. If you haven't seen it yet, please [CLICK HERE](https://www.riversideschool.org.uk) to give it a view or visit the Expressive Arts Video Gallery section of our website <https://www.riversideschool.org.uk>



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**'. This was our way of standing together collectively, hand in hand and pledging to always strive to do even better for our whole school community, and for everyone out there.