

ALPHA NEWS

Friday 3rd October 2025

October has arrived already: the first month of the academic year has passed by rather rapidly! This week has been filled with activities promoting National Poetry Day (Thursday 2nd) and the start of Black History Month. Today, Ms Rasheed and the Catering Team prepared a special 'Poetic Black History Month' meal with a nod to the poet Benjamin Zephaniah, who was born in Birmingham to a Barbadian postman and a Jamaican nurse. Our lunch today was inspired by Zephaniah's Caribbean roots with the children (and staff) enjoying Jamaican patties, Jamaican spicy jerk chicken, the Caribbean-favourite mac and cheese side and delicious sweet potato pie for dessert – it was all rather tasty! To celebrate National Poetry Day, our assembly this morning was filled with many treats for the ears with a range of children performing poetry and verse for the whole school. Thank you to Rohan (Year 3), Daaris (Year 3), Dylan (Year 4), Atira (Year 5), Serena (Year 5), Rishi (Year 6), Samir (Year 6) and Millie (Year 6) for enchanting us with their poetic recital talents. To conclude our poetry celebration, children from Nursery to Year 2 and then children from Years 3 to 6 gathered together this afternoon to have a House Poetry Slam, working in their Houses to create, write and perform a House poem...the judging of the wonderful creativity of each House was rather difficult and extremely close, but the winning House was...Bradfield. Congratulations to all on the first House Competition of the year.



My Ninja Vocabulary words for this week are:

Rec to Year 2	Year 3 to Year 6
cosy and cozy	knowledgeable

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 6th	Sustainable Libraries Week United Nations Assembly
Tuesday 7th	'A Future in Chemistry?' Talk to Years 5 and 6 U9 Boys' Football vs John Lyon Prep @ Sudbury Fields U9 Girls' Netball vs John Lyon Prep @ John Lyon Prep
Wednesday 8th	Year 5 'War of the Vegetables' to Parents of Year 5 @ 8:35am PAT (Pets as Therapy) Visit for Year 6
Thursday 9th	Year 4 Visit The British Library U11 Boys' Football vs John Lyon Prep @ Sudbury Fields U11 Girls' Netball vs John Lyon Prep @ Alpha
Friday 10th	Phonics Session for Parents of Nursery to Year 1 @ 8.15am

FUTSAL FESTIVAL

On the afternoon of Friday 26th September, selected U11 boys took part in a Futsal Festival at St Martin's School. Futsal is a five-a-side indoor variant of association football played between two teams on a court smaller than a football pitch and with a smaller, heavier ball than in traditional soccer. It is widely played in South America with the emphasis on developing skills, technique, flair and control. The afternoon began with a warm-up session involving skills and drills focusing on the aforementioned attributes followed by a tournament. Although we lost to a couple of the teams who finished top of the table, we were competitive and more than held our own against the other sides in the competition. Overall, we finished in fourth place; this is something to be proud of given that the majority of schools we played are much larger 13+ all boys schools. Well done to the whole squad and, in particular, to our goalkeeper Samir Patel who won a trophy for being the Alpha 'Player of the Day'.



POETRY PERFORMANCE

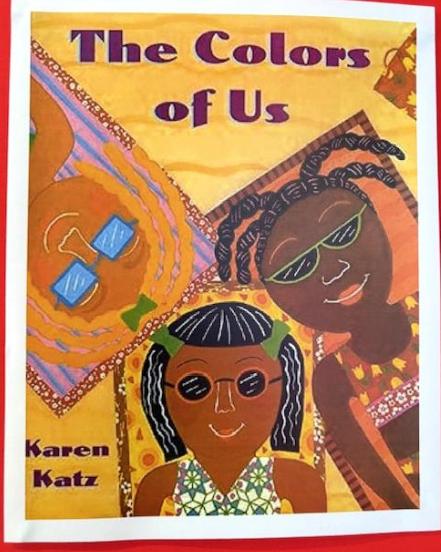
Thank you to our performers this morning who entertained us with a range of poetic works. Well done to Rohan (Year 3), Daaris (Year 3), Dylan (Year 4), Serena (Year 5), Rishi (Year 6) and Samir (Year 6), and a special well done to Atira (Year 5) and Millie (Year 6) for performing their own compositions.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the course of October, the children will be completing a range of activities and lessons to mark Black History Month. This week, Reception children have been discussing the American picture book 'The Colours of Us' by Karen Katz, a story about a girl who discovers that there are many different colours of skin tone and that everyone in her neighbourhood has a unique hue. Here are some of Reception's self-portraits:



POETIC BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUNCH

