



Dear Parents/ Carers,

22nd September 2026

Re: October 2026 is Black History Month which we celebrate each year in West Acton.

We are honoured to once again celebrate **Black History Month** at West Acton Primary School. This special month is a vital opportunity for our school community to reflect on the rich history, culture, and contributions of Black people in Britain and around the world.

The theme for Black History Month UK 2026 is “Honouring Our Communities,” this theme invites us to recognise the individuals whose everyday contributions shape, support and sustain Black life across the United Kingdom. The theme highlights the everyday people whose contributions shape, support, and sustain Black life across the UK—including volunteers, teachers, nurses, carers, and grassroots community leaders.
<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

History of the Celebration

All over the UK, Black History is celebrated during the month of October (BHM). Black History Month has become an important date in the cultural calendar of many of the UK's schools, museums, galleries and local authorities. Although BHM has been celebrated every February in the USA since 1970, it was not officially celebrated in the UK until 1987. The first Black History Month took place in London.

Black History in West Acton

In West Acton, we learn about the inspiring contributions **of a range of significant black individuals, through an interesting and diverse curriculum within different subjects.** Additionally, to this, Black History Month is celebrated through stories, discussions and creative activities. This means that the children are learning about a broader range of people who greatly contribute to our society.

Who We Are Learning About

Each year group is focusing on key individuals or books that highlight Black excellence and achievement:

Nursery - Stories and Identity

- *Handa's Surprise, The Leopard's Drum, Kechi's Hair Goes Every Which Way / Daddy Do My Hair* – Exploring stories and characters that celebrate African culture and identity.

Reception - Courage and Achievement

- **Ruby Bridges** – The first Black child to desegregate an all-white school in the USA.
- **Tessa Sanderson** – Olympic gold medallists and role model in sports.

Year 1 - Breaking Barriers

- **Mae C. Jemison** – First Black woman in space.
- **Barack Obama** – First Black President of the United States.
- **Trish Cooke** – British author and playwright.
- **Walter Tull** – Footballer and WWI soldier.



Year 2 - Inspiring Change

- **Lenny Henry** – Comedian and co-founder of Comic Relief.
- **Katherine Johnson** – NASA mathematician.
- **William (Robbie) Clarke** – First Black pilot to fly for Britain.
- **Sislin Fay Allen** – Britain's first Black female police officer.



Year 3 - Creativity, Science and Service

- **Faith Ringgold** – Artist and author.
- **Trevor MacDonald** – Pioneering British newsreader.
- **Maggie Aderin-Pocock** – Space scientist and broadcaster.
- **John Alcindor** – Doctor and WWI medical hero.



Year 4 - Community and Change

- **Claudia Jones** – Founder of the Notting Hill Carnival.
- **Benjamin Banneker** – Inventor and mathematician.
- **Frank Bailey** – One of Britain's pioneering Black firefighters in the UK.
- **Margaret Busby** – Britain's youngest and first Black female book publisher.

Year 5 - Invention, Leadership and Activism

- **Lewis Howard Latimer** – Inventor who improved the lightbulb.
- **Dame Eugenia Charles** – First female Prime Minister of Dominica.
- **Paul Stephenson** – Civil rights activist in Bristol.
- **Phillis Wheatley** – First published African American poet.



Year 6 - Literature, Leadership and Legacy

- **Malorie Blackman** – Author and former Children's Laureate.
- **Charles Ignatius Sancho** – Writer and abolitionist.
- **Beryl Gilroy** – First Black headteacher in the UK.
- **Chadwick Boseman** – Actor and role model for young people.

ARP (Additional Resource Provision)

Pupils in Elm, Birch, and Oak classes will be learning from the same year group selections, adapted to meet their individual learning needs and abilities

Why We Celebrate Black History Month

Celebrating Black History Month is part of our commitment to:

- **Courage** – Learning about brave individuals who stood up for what is right, often in the face of adversity.
- **Consideration** – Understanding and valuing the experiences, perspectives, and contributions of others.
- **Collaboration** – Working together as a school community to build an inclusive and respectful environment.

We also uphold **British Values**, including:

- Mutual respect and tolerance of different cultures and beliefs.
- Individual liberty and the right to be proud of one's identity.
- Democracy and the rule of law, recognising those who fought for justice and fairness.



Through Black History Month, we honour **the Equality Act 2010**, which protects all individuals from discrimination and promotes equal rights and opportunities for everyone, regardless of race, background, or heritage.



You are invited! Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 2.30pm

Following Black History Month, we warmly invite all parents and carers to join us in school for a celebration of our learning. Come and take part in **BHM coffee afternoon** where there will be refreshments and a time to chat, a presentation, displays show casing children's learning about significant people in history, quizzes and prizes to be won. This event is a fantastic opportunity to:

- See what your children have been learning with
- Celebrate our shared values of courage, consideration, and collaboration
- Continue the conversation about equality, diversity, and inclusion at home and in the community



We look forward to welcoming you into school for an engaging and inspiring afternoon.

Let's celebrate and continue to grow together!

Thank you for supporting our continued journey in making West Acton a truly inclusive school where every voice is valued, and every child can make a positive impact on their community and the wider world.

Yours faithfully

Miss James
RE Leader and Birch Class Teacher

Miss Kondo
Headteacher