

Newsletter – history focus – November 2023

Every October, we celebrate **Black History Month**, and the rich learning opportunities this brings.

This year, to mark the 75th anniversary of **Windrush**, St Andrew's were delighted to be visited once again by **Eddy Smythe**, who generously shared his family's experiences with this historical event. This sparked many conversations and thoughts:

"It was incredibly interesting that he helped organise the Empire Windrush and decided who should go back to the UK. It was such an important job and made his life even more fascinating!" **Year 6**

"Life would have been really hard because families would have been separated." **Year 5**

"People would have felt scared and nervous, when they got there they were sad because no one wanted to be their friend. They were not being treated kindly due to the colour of their skin. This is called racism." **Year 5**

"People shouldn't be racist because of the colour of their skin, it's not fair if children can't play with each other because of the colour of their skin." **ZW, Year 4**

"I don't think it's right that in 1948 people didn't treat each other equally. If white people went to another country they would want to be treated equally too." **BD, Year 4**

"Some of the British people were unkind and racist to the people from the Windrush generation when they moved across to the UK." **IC, Year 4**

"Thank you for organising this again, it was incredible that even now there are still new stories coming to light. We looked at in class his story even further as we were researching the British Legion and it's just amazing how eventful his story is!" **Year 6 teacher**

"I just wanted to send a quick email of thanks for the visitor that the children had the opportunity to experience today. Both children were so animated after school and were keen to retell his whole family story which was so wonderful to hear and really touching that it had had such a big impact on their day. A big thank you to you [for organising] the visit, I am so grateful for the time and effort that goes into organising these special moments." **Parent of Year 4 and 5 children**

The KS1 children also read various books including 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin, to introduce them to Windrush.

"We all like different things and look different and that is ok" **GR, year 1**

"I would feel sad if I had to leave all of my things behind to move to a new country. I would really miss my friends." **FC, year 1**

"I know somebody who had to move countries because their house wasn't safe and they were happy to be safe." **EM, year 2**

EYFS read 'I Love My Hair' by Natasha Tarpley; they talked about how every colour is beautiful, whether skin, hair or eyes, and that when they mix together they create beautiful and unique new colours. They also learned about Garrett Morgan, an inventor, business man and community leader. He invented a type of traffic light and 'smoke hood' to help firemen. They decided that anybody could be an inventor, and made traffic lights and tunnels.



Newsletter – history focus – November 2023

The living history continued with **Remembrance** activities; we were lucky enough to be visited by Chinnor War Horses where the children had the opportunity to see the uniforms that were worn and ask questions about the role of animals during the war.

“We saw them to remember the soldiers” **Billy, EYFS**

“They are representing our country.” **HB, year 1**

“We wear red poppies for the soldiers and purple poppies for the animals.” **AJB, year 1**



The children at St Andrew’s continue to make us, and themselves, proud. They are accepting, curious and eager to learn about the experiences of others.

If you, or someone you know, has a story that you would like to come in and share with our school then please do let us know. It is invaluable for the children to hear stories and events direct from you – it makes it more ‘real’ for them in a subject that can be confusing; they can ask questions to deepen their knowledge and they just love visitors!