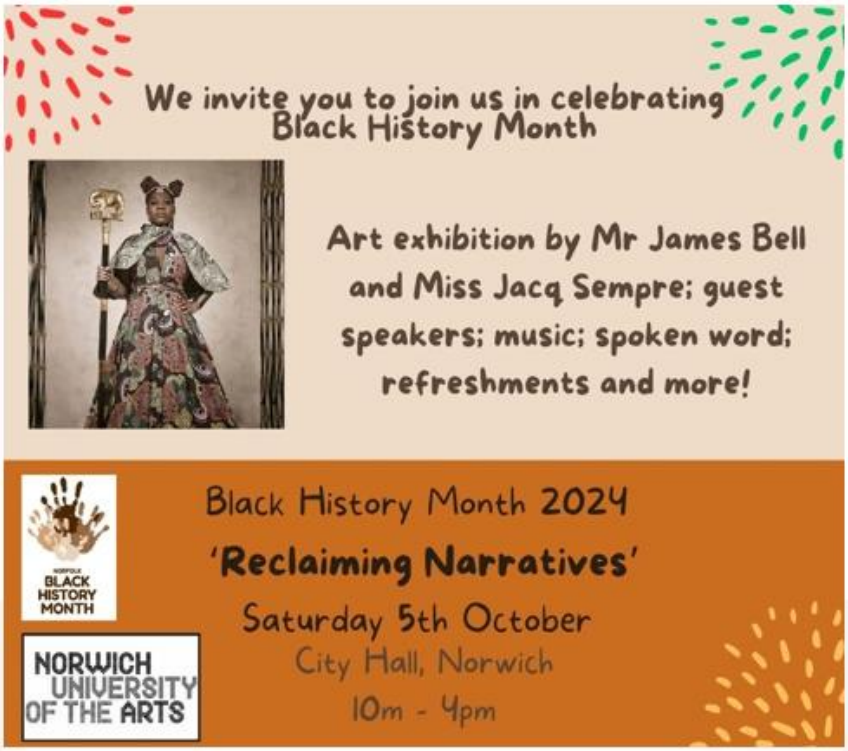
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL

For Black History Month in October, there is a whole range of activities happening at school and across the county. We wanted to share some of them with you so that you might be more involved!

As a school we continue to work hard to incorporate stories and experiences of the global majority into the curriculum, but we recognise that this is a work in progress and Black History Month is an additional opportunity to bring some of these stories into the spotlight.



You might like to attend the launch of Norfolk Black History Month

To mark Black History Month each year group will be doing three reading and discussion sessions focused on a different individual or aspect of Black British history.

YEAR 3
Jack Leslie
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Mary Seacole

YEAR 4
Emperor Lucius Septimus Severus
The Aurelian Moors
Ivory Bangle Lady

YEAR 5
The British Museum collection
The Bristol Bus Boycott
Forgotten Soldiers from WWII

YEAR 6
Jaques Francis
John Blanke



PUPIL PROJECTS

We have invited the children to research a person of interest to help us raise the profile of Black history, heritage, culture and achievements.

Throughout October the children will be sharing these projects with their class and they have been collated to create an exhibition in the main hall.

It's not too late for your child to take part!

IN THE CURRICULUM

In recent years, we have been redesigning our curriculum and our commitment to be anti-racist has been one focus that we are embedding. One example of this is the addition of a new history topic in Year 5 in which the children study the ancient Kingdom of Benin. During this topic they visit the Benin bronzes on display at The Sainsbury Centre and they consider the arguments for and against their restitution. At the end of this topic the children write to The Sainsbury Centre sharing their learning and opinion on what should be done with the artefacts. We recently received a reply.

SAINSBURY CENTRE
Living Art Sharing Stories

UEA
University of East Anglia

Monday 4th March 2024

Dear Year 5 pupils at Avenue Junior School.

Thank you for writing to us to share your thoughts about the repatriation of objects in our collection from The Kingdom of Benin. I very much enjoyed reading through your well-constructed and thoughtful letters. I am really pleased that you found your visit to the Centre so interesting, and that you have been enjoying discussing the issues surrounding the works which we have on display.

As a group you shared so many diverse points of view, but I was particularly struck by your reflections on the cruel and heartless actions of our colonial history and your awareness of how the impact of this is still felt today. I was touched by the empathy you showed for the young people in Nigeria who may be



THE BIGGER PICTURE

On Tuesday 15th October, all classes in school will be joining with children across the country for a Black History Month online assembly hosted by The Sanctuary Foundation and featuring, US astronaut, Mae Jemison.



THE SANCTUARY LIBRARY

Open on Wednesday after- school

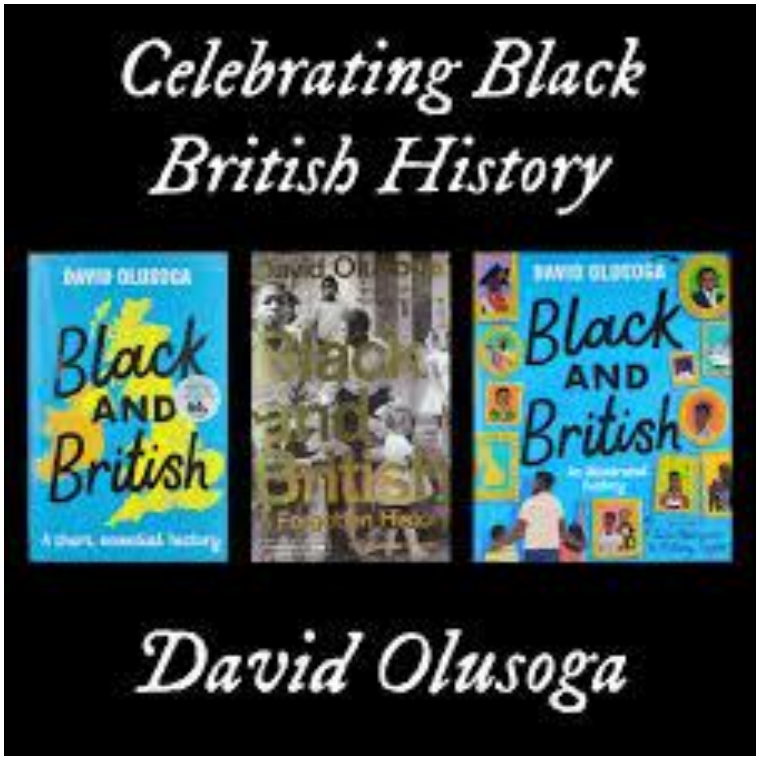
This is our family lending library housed in the portacabin near the trim trail. We have an amazing range of books and all pupils, siblings and adults are welcome to borrow books.

We have dozens of books that you could explore for Black History Month and a small library of anti-racist books that parents and carers may like to borrow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We have several copies and different versions of the brilliant book, Black and British by David Olusoga. Written for young readers it is a fantastic introduction to the topic. All of these are available to borrow from The Sanctuary Library.

For adults, we have the original edition of the book and the BBC have created a TV documentary inspired by it which is available on BBC iPlayer.



RESOURCE NEWSLETTERS

You may also like to take a look at the anti-racism resource newsletters (one for adults and one for children) that we published a couple of years ago. In them you can find recommendations from our staff for books, websites, TV, film and other resources that you and your family may find of interest, many of which cover Black history.

Resource newsletters: http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/anti-racism/

RESOURCE NEWSLETTERS

You may also like to take a look at the anti-racism resource newsletter (one for adults and one for children) that we published in the second half of the summer term. In it you can find recommendations from our staff for books, websites, TV, film and other resources that you and your family may find of interest, many of which cover Black history.

Resource newsletters: http://www.avenuejuniorschool.org/anti-racism/

Smart School Councils

Should we mark Black History Month?

Each child in school will be discussing this question before voting on it in our Smart School Council class meetings on Monday 14th October.

Take a look at some of the events happening locally for Black History Month.



