

# OCTOBER 2021

Dear all,

Welcome to our first newsletter for the year!

It's been a fantastic start to the school year and we are so thrilled to have our children returning and to welcome our new starters. The children have settled in really well; some children look as though they have been here for months, not days!

It was also great to have many of you join us for our first **Parent Forum** session that was our Introduction session, giving you an insight into what we do and how we do it! If you were not able to join us, you are able to access the slides in PDF format from our website: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=460&type=pdf>

We have already sent you the details of our next Parent Forum which will be centered on choosing a **Primary School Place** for your child if they are due to start Reception September 2022. Here is the link to that Zoom session: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=461&type=pdf>

The session will run at both 12pm and 4pm and if your child turns four (4) on or before August 31st 2022, we urge you to attend.

Our website offers a huge amount of information for you to access should you need it. It is important, as this is our first newsletter to you, that we remind you of how you can access our **school policies** which you are welcome to read at your leisure. It is helpful for you to have a reference should you need it. Here is the link to the area on our website: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=10> All the key policies exist here, including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Complaints and Inclusion amongst others.

**Building strong attachments** is the most important thing we do here at Rebecca Cheetham and this is the main focus when your child starts with us. Children need to form a strong attachment to their key person (or other adults) in the provision and once they have that connection, they then start to feel more confident to build relationships with other children. One of the wonderful ways we support this here is through our small group focus tasks that happen at the start and end of the morning and afternoon session. These short periods of time are integral in working together with the key person and building relationships and self-confidence. Children build their communication skills if they feel safe and secure and working in smaller groups helps to foster this. As all staff are leading these small groups at this time, we have delegated certain times throughout the day as **protected time**. The idea is that during this time the children will not, at all, get interrupted by anyone and that short time gives children the best chance to learn a new skills or build their knowledge. Please make sure that you arrive before or after these times to protect the learning opportunities of your children. Here is the link to the times: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=454&type=pdf>

We would like to take an opportunity to ask for your support on an issue that could have devastating effects for our nursery school and every other nursery school in the country. Year on year, nursery schools anxiously await whether we will receive crucial funding in order to ensure that we can continue to operate or otherwise, face possible closure. The government needs a long term solution to fund nursery schools so the wonderful offer we provide to the community is not diluted or watered down. Here is a link to more information about the current situation we are facing and ways that you might be able to help: <https://neu.org.uk/funding/save-maintained-nursery-schools> The most simple way that you can help is by digitally signing the letter to the Chancellor calling for a long-term solution to nursery school funding: <https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/30T7-9J9/sign-our-joint-letter-to-the-chancellor-calling-for-long-term-funding-for-maintained-nursery-schools> The petition will then be handed to the Chancellor in person alongside a march on Downing Street on October 19th 2021. Please help us to **SAVE OUR NURSERY SCHOOLS**.

It is really important for us to remind you that children in our nursery have access to wide and varied opportunities to learn through their play. This means that they might get messy or dirty through their play. This is a sign that your child is getting stuck into the

## Nursery Opening Times

Extended day  
8:00am to 5:00pm  
Or  
8:00am to 6:00pm

30 Hours  
8:45am—2:45pm

Morning place  
8:45am to 11:45pm

Afternoon place  
12:45pm to 3:45pm

**Charges apply for late  
collections.**

provision and fully involving themselves into what we have on offer. Please make sure that your child does not come into nursery in their best clothes as the likelihood is that they are going to get dirty. Also, can you please make sure that there is a change of clothes in the bag in case of an accident or they get wet. Children also love playing with water and water play is part of every early years provision. If you are particularly worried about your child getting wet, consider **waterproofs** for your child; they give your child a lot of freedom in terms of how they play and are super easy to keep clean! **Wellington boots** are also a great resource for your child so their shoes, socks and feet don't get wet. After all, which child can resist jumping in a puddle!

The issue of **parking your car** to drop off and pick up has started to cause some real concerns for us and poses a danger to our children; they should be able to enjoy a safe and car free passage to nursery. We worked so hard on this issue last year and with great success and we very rarely had anyone parking along the strip of Marcus Street leading to the nursery. The crux of the matter is that it is not at all safe to park your car along the yellow lines leading up to the school. The only exception to this is if you have a disabled blue badge which must be clearly displayed on the window of your vehicle. The parking restrictions on Marcus Street do not start until 10am so if you do need to drive a car to drop off your children in the morning, you can park safely in one of perfectly legal parking bays and walk the short distance to the school.

***We wholeheartedly encourage walking, cycling, scootering, skipping, hopping or jumping to school rather than using the car!***

We are not trying to be difficult. We are trying to protect our children from possibly being struck or run over by a car whilst trying to get to or leave the nursery. We are also very concerned about the environmental impact of cars idling and we wholeheartedly support the Mayor of London's Idling campaign.



In the next week you will start to receive details of how you can sign up to **Evidence Me** which is the app that you can upload evidence of some of the wonderful things your child can do at home; all those fabulous milestones that you just want to shout out from the rooftops! We want to know about them! We will also start to issue **reading book bags** to your child which will give them an opportunity to enjoy new books which you then return every week in order to try a new one! We take reading and books very seriously here at Rebecca Cheetham and believe that all children should have books of their own that they can access whenever they want. If you don't have any books at all at home for your child, please speak to us discretely at the front office and we will help you.

To help give you an idea of the types of things we are working on with your children, we prepare some weekly **Nursery at Home** sheets that you can access from our website. They provide links to some **Reading Challenge** videos to help give you some ideas on how you can maximise the reading time you have with your children at home along some activities you might want to try at home that link to things we are currently doing in the 3/4 year old provision. Here is a link to the section on our website: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursery+at+Home+%2D+Keeping+up+our+Development&pid=65>

We also have some videos on phonics and environmental sounds included here, along with a link to our **Book Of The Month** activity sheet. All of this is offered to you to help your child's development at home and to deter anyone from buying "workbooks" aimed at pre-school children which we do not recommend. It is much better to spend some quality interactive time together.

The following two pages of the newsletter will give you some information relating to **Black History Month** which we, of course, will celebrate with your children with some books that you may want to consider to have at home.

Hopefully this has been a very useful newsletter (I feel like I have inundated you with website links!) and gives you a further insight into what we offer at Rebecca Cheetham Nursery. Have a great day!

Rohan Allen (Headteacher)

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

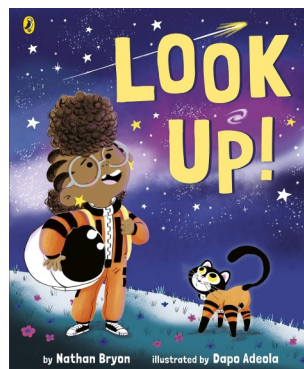
Black History Month is an opportunity to recognise the contribution and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage. More recently we must use this time to shout loudly about the effects of racism and how to challenge negative stereotypes and keep that narrative going throughout the year. At Rebecca Cheetham Nursery we celebrate all year by making sure children have positive role models in the books they read and that they are exposed to stories of people who have overcome adversity to achieve their goals. Our children deserve to feel special and know that they are loved. Representation matters and children need to see themselves reflected in the books they can access in the nursery and at home. "Reports into representation in children's books ... with the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) finding that 5% of children's books published in the UK last year had an ethnic minority main character, compared to 4% in 2018 and just 1% in 2017." (*Guardian*, Wednesday 11 November 2020) This makes it even more pertinent that we celebrate good quality books that celebrate the cultures and ethnicities that exist within modern Britain. We will be using two books as the basis of our work during Black History Month, *Look Up* and *Hey You* and more details can be found below.

Make sure you also check out the following website: <https://www.newhamblackhistory.org/>

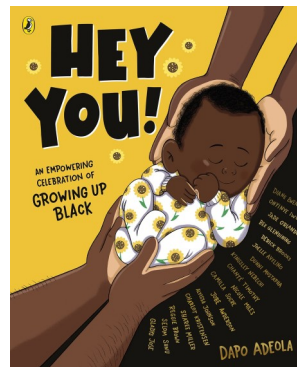
## Look Up

We are thrilled to present ***Look Up***, written by Nathan Bryon and illustrated by Dapo Adeola as one of two books we are using to celebrate Black History Month. What a firework of a book this is, which tells us the story of our hero, Rocket, who is obsessed with space and stars and has visions of becoming an astronaut in the future, just like her hero Mae Jemison. Throughout the story she encourages her community to *Look Up* and in effect, reach for the stars.

We think it is so important for our children to also reach for the stars and to have access to inspiring role models from all backgrounds. We want to encourage our children to be inspired by role models who will give them the inspiration to want to achieve their dreams. Newham has it's fair share of black people who have gone on to be inspirational figures in their chosen fields and we want children to know that anything is possible.



## Hey You!



Written by Dapo Adeola and shared-illustrated by 18 black illustrators, ***Hey You*** is a remarkable picture story book that is an "empowering celebration of growing up black."

Continuing on with the theme of reaching for the stars and powerful representation, we find that in this book, "A baby is born to loving parents, and grows up – going to school, making friends. Yet it's hard for her to find books to read containing girls that look like her. Sometimes, as she grows up, she encounters racism, and life can be very hard. Yet she is reminded that she stands on the shoulders of the great black community that has come before her – and that she has the power to be anything and anyone she wants to be. (*Book Trust*)

We are delighted to share this book with our children and explore with them what they want to be and assure them that they can anything they want to be.

## Books we recommend:

***Jabari Jumps***—Gaia Cornwall

***So Much***—Trish Cooke and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

***Full Full Full of Love***—Trish Cooke and illustrated by Paul Howard

***Clean Up***—Nathan Bryon and illustrated by Dapo Adeola

***Hair Love***—Matthew Cherry and illustrated by Vashti Harrison

***Sulwe***—Lupita Nyong'o and illustrated by Vashti Harrison

The ***Little People Big Dreams*** range of books celebrate a lot of historical black figures

***Coming To England***—Floella Benjamin and illustrated by Diane Ewan

***My Body, Your Body***—Skin—John Wood

***My Hair***—Hannah Lee and illustrated by Allen Fatimaharan

***My Brown Skin***—Thomishia Booker and illustrated by Jessica Gibson

# Inspirational NEWHAM

**Education 4 Change (E4C)** is the Newham created programme “designed for educators by educators to ensure schools provide high-quality, practical opportunities to explore diversity and racial issues in a meaningful way.” We are very lucky to have such an inspirational and home grown educational platform to help schools and settings transform their practice. **E4C** have identified some Newham grown inspirational figures and I have listed four of them below so we can all celebrate these wonderful people. Thanks to **Education 4 Change** for the following snippets of information!

## Christine Ohuruogu

Four time Olympic medallist who attended West Ham Church School in Stratford, and proud Newham resident Christine Ohuruogu MBE has been appointed to the GB boxing Board as a non-executive director. The four time Olympic medallist and President of Newham and Essex Beagles Athletics Club will help to oversee the progression of British boxing. Christine has a long association with Newham schools where she encouraged pupils to take part in local netball, (this is the sport Christine started with). Christine is a proud example of Newham and her latest achievement demonstrates how much of a role model she is for all children and young people.

## Ade Adepitan

Ade Adepitan is a former Paralympic Wheelchair basketball medal winner and television presenter who emigrated from Lagos, Nigeria to Plaistow at the age of three. Notably, he was the recipient of a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to disability sport. Ade was a member of the Great Britain team that won the bronze medal at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens and the gold medal at the 2005 Paralympic World Cup in Manchester. Ade also commentated on wheelchair basketball for the BBC at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. He was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award by the University of East London in 2010, and had an Honorary Doctorate conferred by the university in November 2010. In 2020, Adepitan was included in the Powerlist of the 100 most influential Black British people.

## Jo Martin

Jo Martin, best known for her role in *Holby City*, made history by becoming the first ever Black actor to play the lead role in *Doctor Who*. She has also appeared in *Fleabag*, *Batman Begins*, *Casualty*, *Silent Witness* amongst others. Jo has lived in Newham for most of her life; she went to Portway Primary School in Stratford and then on to Plashet Girls School in East Ham. She told us that West Ham Park is one of her favourite places and has been going there since she was a little girl. She described watching the Punch and Judy shows that used to take place there and spending many hours cycling round the park and having picnics with her family. Jo is delighted that after 56 years on our screens, *Doctor Who* has finally cast a Doctor of colour: “I was a fan of *Doctor Who* back in the day and not seeing myself on screen as a child was tough. It’s an awful thing to grow up thinking it’s wrong to be Black. So, it’s fabulous that there are now characters like this who young kids can look up to.”

## Quincy Brome

Newham born comedian, actor, radio presenter, writer, mentor, drama tutor, and compere, Quincy attended Keir Hardie Primary School in Canning Town and the now closed Trinity Boys School (McDonald’s sits on the site now on Barking Road). He studied fashion and textiles at Barking College. Quincy is a champion and ambassador for fathers bringing up their children alone. His unique one-man stage show on the topic of single dads was a sell-out and he is now writing two books about his experiences. He and Idris Elba grew up as school-mates in Canning Town and Quincy has appeared in some of Idris’ TV ventures, assisting with the script writing of Sky’s ‘In the Long Run’, where he also plays Frank, the pub landlord. Quincy was the first black British comedian to perform in Saudi Arabia. He is most proud of his work with excluded teenage boys, inspiring and empowering them through mentoring schemes, drama, boxing and the very unique opportunity of letting them co-host his radio show, where they join him in discussion topics. More information on Quincy’s mentoring scheme and how he can support young people in our schools can be found on the E4C resources platform.

## Tinchy Stryder

Tinchy Stryder (Kwasi Danquah) is a Newham-born artist and entrepreneur, who attended St. Bonaventure’s Secondary School in Forest Gate and went on to study at UEL where he gained a BA honours in Digital Arts and Animation. He played for Leyton Orient Football club, becoming an ambassador for youth volunteering. Kwasi is best known for his success as a leading grime music artist. More than just a musician, he is a businessman and CEO of a music publishing company. He is currently Chairman and A&R executive of Takeover Entertainment Limited. Kwasi contributes positively via his company, Goji electronics which employs 3,000 people with net income of £245 million. He is involved in many charity projects and gives generously to a wide range of causes.