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Dear Parents and Carers,

Every year, during the month of October, we celebrate Black History Month. The main aim of Black History Month is to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people, not just in the UK but also around the world.

This year, we are celebrating '*Black lives, in our everyday lives*'. This will be woven throughout different parts of the child's experience at school. For example:

Authors

Did you know that last year, 9,115 children's books were published in the UK, but only 391 of these (4%) had a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic character? Of these books, only 1% had a Black character as the main character.

As part of our whole class reading lessons, we are reading books that celebrate diversity. We are going to be reading books with Black main characters, celebrating a Black hero past or present, exploring traditional tales or focussing on a specific event e.g. Empire Windrush. **Please see the attached PDF for a list of books that you can use to support diversity in children's literature at home.** The children will also be introduced to a range of poems written by Black Poets, some examples can be found on the following website, <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline>.

Musicians

Every Monday, we are celebrating a black musician or composer as part of our early morning music celebration; we started off the month learning about Samuel Coleridge Taylor, who was born here in Croydon.

Although Black History Month is officially celebrated only in October, our aim is that we continue to diversify our curriculum even further moving forward to represent the children that are taught at The Robert Fitzroy Academy.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Berkeley

History Subject Leader