



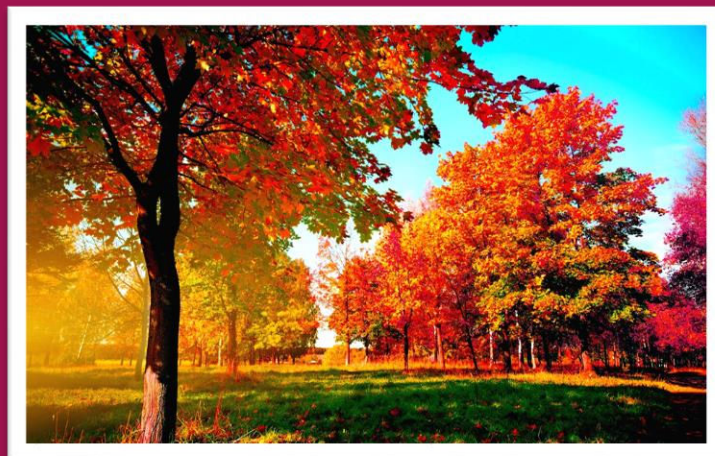
# Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Hannah Crotty  
Headteacher

What a fantastic first half term we have had! The children have demonstrated such enthusiasm towards all of their learning and are already looking forward to their next topic 'Courageous Acts'.

We hope that you have a wonderful half term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 3rd November.



## Teaching and Learning

### Nursery

This half term we have settled in brilliantly to Nursery life, practicing new skills and making new friends. We have enjoyed exploring what makes us unique through looking closely at our faces, talking about our feelings and exploring the similarities and differences in our families. We created self-portraits and used blocks to build our homes and families. We have also loved learning about the story The Three Little Pigs and have developed our storytelling skills.



### Reception

This half term, we have settled in excellently to Reception. We have been making lots of new friends and exploring our new environment. We have enjoyed discussing what makes us special and unique, including our likes and dislikes, and exploring similarities and differences in our families. We have also enjoyed learning about our bodies - labelling features, body parts and identifying emotions. We have been very creative, drawing self-portraits and using different materials to build our own homes. We also loved learning about people who help us, and thoroughly enjoyed our special visit from the fire service!





## Year 1

Our overarching history enquiry question in Year 1 this half term is 'Would Wangari Maathai have been significant if the transatlantic slave trade still existed?' We have learnt about Wangari Maathai's life, and how she wanted to help make the world a better place through planting lots of trees. Wangari Maathai even started the Green Belt Movement and won a Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts! We planted our own 'Year 1 plant' together to understand how hard Wangari Maathai worked and have been sharing the responsibility of watering it every morning.



## Year 2

This half term we have looked at Sarah Forbes Bonetta and Queen Victoria. We have considered what life was like as a Victorian child and how they were treated. We looked at trading during the Victorian era and had a go ourselves. We discovered it was quite tricky to trade if we didn't have enough products and so learnt the skill of negotiating.



## Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about the impact of slavery in Ancient Egyptian times. Our class book, 'Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirley Climo, features a girl stolen from her homeland of Greece and forced to work as a slave in Egypt. The children imagined what life would have been like for her and wrote their own version of her diary entry.

The children have also learnt how new evidence can change thinking over time. In the past, it was believed slaves built the pyramids, but with the discovery of luxury housing built nearby for the workers, these ideas have changed.



## Year 4

This half term we have been studying the History topic of the Romans, linked to our theme of slavery. We have explored Roman life and how the Romans conquered the British land. The Romans brought so much to Britain.

Recently, we learnt about the roles of slaves during Ancient Rome. One role we delved into in Year 4 was the role of a Roman slave farmer.

We immersed ourselves into the farmer lifestyle and the types of jobs they would have had to do. We learnt that farmers had an important role in the Roman Empire, as this was their main source of food. Using ears of wheat and wheat seeds, we explored how flour could be made. We crushed the wheat grains to produce flour, which was a very hard, taxing job. Flour was used to make a range of foods in the ancient times. We used a range of wholemeal and white flour to create our own dough.



## Year 5

This term, year 5 have been learning about the Vikings and the role of slavery in Viking society. We looked at a variety of burials to discover who the Vikings were and how they lived. We discovered that the Vikings were often buried with their most prize possessions such as their pets, weapons and even boats! We have learned about the trade routes that Vikings would use and the items that they would trade.

During our Black History learning, we learnt about Dr Rose Thompson who was an incredible advocate for health equality, right here in Nottingham. Using her as our inspiration, we applied our computing skills to develop our own health awareness campaigns



## Year 6

During this half term, Year 6 have been learning about the transatlantic slave trade. We investigated historical sources to understand what the triangular trade was. We discussed the impact of slavery on millions of people and learnt about the voices of those who fought against it. We also explored the abolition of the slave trade in Britain, learning about key figures such as Olaudah Equiano. To celebrate Black History Month, Year 6 have been studying the biographies of inspirational figures, including Norma Gregory and George Powe, to deepen our understanding of this genre and develop our own skills in writing biographies.





## Black History



### Black History Month 2025: “Standing Firm in Power and Pride”

October is Black History Month. This year’s theme, “Standing Firm in Power and Pride,” celebrates the incredible contributions of Black leaders, activists, and pioneers who have shaped our world.

During our Black History month learning this half term, the children have explored the stories of local pioneers who have made a lasting impact on Nottingham’s culture and heritage. Children have also been given the opportunity to continue their learning at home : To research a significant Black role model and present their findings in a creative and inspiring way.

Across the curriculum, we have also be highlighting inspirational Black and BaME individuals — from guided reading texts to notable figures in science, music, and beyond. In music lessons, for example, children have listened to and learnt about the works of influential Black musicians. The importance of Black history month is also interwoven within our curriculum throughout the year.

### Black History Learning in Year 4

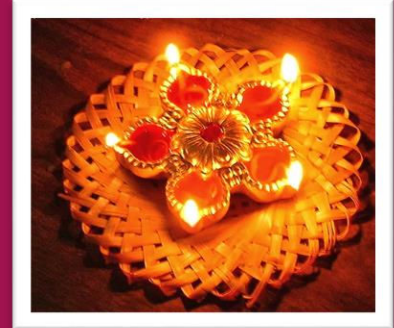
As part of our Black History Month learning, Year 4 explored the work of two prominent Nottingham-based artists: Perminder Kaur and Mac Collins. The children focused in particular on Perminder Kaur’s striking piece *Patchwork*, examining how it uses camouflage while allowing certain elements to stand out. This sparked thoughtful discussions about times when they themselves might have tried to “blend in”—and what it feels like when one part of you still shines through.

Inspired by this, the children designed their own imaginative creatures that camouflage into their surroundings, with one distinctive feature that remains visible. They brought their ideas to life using a mix of materials, card, crayons, and pastels, creating a vibrant collection of expressive and meaningful artwork.



## Diwali

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October we celebrated Diwali in school. The children learnt about the significance of Diwali, exploring its traditions, stories and symbols. The celebration provided an excellent opportunity for the children to learn about cultural diversity, respect different traditions, and appreciate the joy of light and togetherness that Diwali represents. A huge thank you to our catering team that provided a delicious celebration meal too!



## Drumming Workshop



On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, every class had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a drumming workshop provided by DCP Drums. The children learnt about rhythm and demonstrated excellent teamwork. Please look at for updates regarding DCP drums offering lessons in school later this academic year.



## Wollaton Hall Trip – Year 3

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Year 3 visited Wollaton Hall to take part in a 'Bones' workshop. They got to see skeletons of animals, and even hold real bones. They learnt what different types of bones look like and had fun identifying them, for example vertebrae, tibias and ribs. Subhaan enjoyed a pretend trip to the doctor's where Dr Tiarla-Nae had to check his bones!





## Harvest

Thank you to all the parents that joined us for our Harvest Assembly on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October. We were delighted to welcome Reverend Gareth Frank and Freya Watson from Holy Trinity Church to be part of our assembly too. The children loved performing their harvest songs and sharing their poems with you. We are overwhelmed with the generosity of the local community in providing so much food to share with Himmah, a local food bank and support network for the local community. Thank you to each and every one of you that were able to contribute.

We also understand that this can be a difficult time for some of our own families. If you do require any financial support or advice please contact our Family Support Worker Rob Jones or the school office.

Please find below links for local foodbank information:

[Food bank | Himmah: Grassroots community action](#)

[Get emergency food | Trussell](#)



## Mental Health Day

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October we took part in Mental Health Day across the school. As part of our focus on wellbeing, every class enjoyed an extra yoga session, taking time to stretch, relax and focus on feeling good.

As part of the day children also learnt about how to look after themselves in simple, but important ways by thinking positively, eating well and making sure they get enough sleep. These small steps can make a big difference to how we feel each day.

To support our families at home, Mrs Keemer kindly recorded a 'calm and relax at bedtime' that we shared with you at the start of this week. We hope that you have enjoyed listening to this together. It is a lovely way to wind down and get ready for a restful night sleep.

Taking care of our mental health is just as important as looking after our bodies. We are very proud of how thoughtful the children at Edna G. Olds Academy are when thinking about how to help each other to feel positive and good about themselves.



## Pupil News

Katherine, Isabelle & Bea took part in the Robin Hood Mini Marathon on Sunday 28th September. The run is 2.5km long and they all did a fantastic job - Well done girls!



## Half term Information

### You're invited!

Come and join the team at:

**Cornerstone Church**  
**90 Castle Boulevard, NG7 1FP**

Our next Lunch Clubs will take place on:

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October**  
**11.30am - 1.30pm**

For further details head to our website:

**[www.cornerstonechurch.org.uk/events](http://www.cornerstonechurch.org.uk/events)**

Sign up:

**by scanning the QR code or visiting**  
**[www.cornerstonechurch.org.uk/events](http://www.cornerstonechurch.org.uk/events)**

Please note: all children must be accompanied by an adult carer.



If you want to chat or find out more you can contact us at:

**0115 9588711 | [office@cornerstonechurch.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonechurch.org.uk)**



## Key Dates – Autumn 2

4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Core Behaviours Launch day
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Anti-bullying week - Please come to school wearing odd socks
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Remembrance Day. Themed day across school
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Year 2 Class assembly and curriculum showcase at 9am. Finishes at 9:30am.
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Children In Need Day – Non Uniform
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Class assembly and curriculum showcase at 9am. Finishes at 9:30am.
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025	Christmas Fair
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	KS1 & Reception Christmas Production at 1.45pm KS2 Christmas Production 9.15am
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	KS1 & Reception Christmas Production at 9.15am KS2 Christmas Production 1.45pm
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Nursery Christmas Production 9.15am
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Nursery Christmas Production 2 pm
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Modern foreign language theme day
16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christingle Workshops and Service at Holy Trinity at 1.30 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christmas Dinner
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	End of year class parties Last day of school





# Core Values Achievers



Nursery	Leticia	For showing kindness towards others and always including her friends.
	Ali	For taking part in a discussion about different celebrations and taking an interest in the lives of others.
Rec	Izaan	For demonstrating great listening skills and for always being helpful to the teachers
	Abu Bakr	For being curious and engaged in our Diwali learning this week
Year 1	Aria	For making a brilliant start to Edna G Olds, always listening well and showing great enthusiasm for learning
	Naumaan	For demonstrating great motivation with his writing.
Year 2	Paula	For always taking on board feedback within her school work and homework.
	Oliver	For always being a happy member of the class and following our core values.
Year 3	Haron	For lots of effort in his writing and recognising CVC words
	Saffiya	For working hard on her presentation in her books
Year 4	Eleana	For her wonderful motivation and determination in swimming lessons
	Rami	For taking personal responsibility in Maths to support his learning
Year 5	Tianna	For taking personal responsibility for her work and showing motivation in her writing.
	Mazin	for exceptional motivation and enthusiasm in maths.
Year 6	Baraa	For always going above and beyond in everything she does, keep it up!
	Emmanuel	For his positive attitude, respect for others and willingness to learn, keep it up!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Hannah Crotty  
Headteacher