

Black History Month 2026

Theme: Honouring our communities



Who builds our community?

Think about your neighbourhood, local hospital, or school. Who helps you feel safe and cared for?

Communities do not grow on their own. They thrive because people step forward each day to protect, inspire, and care for those around them.



Why October matters

Every October, schools and towns across the United Kingdom mark **Black History Month**.

It is an opportunity to recognise centuries of Black and Brown British achievements in science, healthcare, the arts, and public leadership.



Remember

Black history is not separate from British history; it is woven into every chapter of our nation's story.





HONOURING ^{OUR} COMMUNITIES



ADE ANIFOWOSE

Through rhythm, positivity and encouragement, he uses music to build confidence, support wellbeing and bring people together across Leicester.



CLAUDINE REID MBE

For more than three decades, she has opened doors for African-Caribbean women, entrepreneurs and communities, helping people turn ideas into opportunity.



DEAN FOSTER

Through Peckham Soup Kitchen, he offers far more than food, providing dignity, opportunity and trusted support to families and young people.



Honouring Our Communities



Care

Nurses, doctors, carers, and neighbours who look after our health and wellbeing every day.



Leadership

Leaders and campaigners who stand up for equality, uniting people to create lasting fairness.



Creativity

Authors, artists, and musicians who preserve heritage and share joy through culture and carnival.



Service

Volunteers, youth workers, and local champions whose quiet dedication lifts everyone up.

Voices across time

Pioneers who shaped British life a long time ago.



Mary Seacole (1805–1881)

A skilled Jamaican-British nurse and businesswoman who travelled to the Crimean War to provide shelter, herbal remedies, and food for injured soldiers.

Olaudah Equiano [Oh-la-da Ee-quay-ano] (c. 1745–1797)

An author and abolitionist whose powerful autobiography opened the eyes of thousands in Britain to the cruelty of the transatlantic slave trade.

Claudia Jones (1915–1964)

A visionary journalist and activist who founded the *West Indian Gazette* and launched the indoor celebrations that grew into the Notting Hill Carnival.

Milestones of impact

1855

Mary Seacole
establishes the
British Hotel in the
Crimea.

1789

Equiano publishes
his bestselling life
story in London.

1959

Claudia Jones
organises the first
Caribbean carnival.

How do we tell history respectfully?



Check reliable sources

Examine genuine diaries, photographs, newspapers, and eyewitness testimonies to establish verifiable facts.



Explore everyday life

Look beyond famous leaders: celebrate community organisers, teachers, musicians, and neighbourhood champions and family members.

Our Whole School Showcase Challenge

EYFS Draw a helper or inspiring person. Add their name and say how they help.

Year 1 Make a picture card: Who are they? What kind thing or helpful thing did they do?

Year 2 Create a fact card with 3 facts and one sentence explaining their contribution.

Year 3 Make a mini-biography with 4 facts, a timeline or labelled picture, and why they matter.

Year 4 Create an information poster with key facts, a quote or source, and the impact on a community.

Year 5 Write a short biography using at least 2 reliable sources. Explain how the person's contribution connects to this year's theme.

Year 6 Create a museum-style exhibit or short presentation comparing past and present contributions; include sources and explain why the story deserves wider recognition.

