

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

Welcome back to everyone after the half term break, I hope that you all had a good week.

I would like to wish all of our Hindu community a very Happy Diwali for yesterday, I really hope that you all had a wonderful day yesterday.

Don't forget that it is our Parent/Teacher meetings next week on School Cloud – I really hope that the technology works for us all and that you have some very useful conversations. You only have 10 minutes and I know that the time will go very quickly, we don't want to appear rude but the app will simply cut you off after the 10 minutes, so please make sure that you are ready to go at your given time. If you haven't yet signed up, please make sure that you do so over the weekend – any problems then give the office a ring on Monday morning to try and get the help you need. You should have received a copy of a piece of your child's writing this evening; I hope that you enjoy looking at this together – don't forget to keep it safe until your meeting next week.

Enjoy a weekend of fireworks – be safe 😊
Sara Anderman

Bike helmets:

We are seeing children coming to school on bikes without helmets; please make sure that your children have a helmet and that they are wearing it on their bikes and scooters.

Christmas Performances this year:

I am really sad to tell you that we have made the difficult decision to not have Christmas Performances again this year. We have been watching the news, and the cases of COVID are rising; we need to make sure that we are keeping all of you safe, your children and our staff too and the thought of so many parents in one space again in such vulnerable times does really, really worry me.

Instead, we will be sending home a short video clip of your child's class performing a song (not a Christmas one as such, so that all children can be involved) and narrating a message to you all. Again, we can only have children performing on this who have been given permission so please make sure that if you do want your child to perform that you tick the relevant box on the letter we are sending out soon.

I know that this isn't as good as the real thing and I know that many of you will be very disappointed but all of our health & safety must come first.

Twitter

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We need to get Haseltine on social media! With all the wonderful things your children are doing at Haseltine, we need to make sure that you, and everyone else can see what is happening – we want to show off 😊

We will be sending out a letter of permissions soon – a couple of questions we will be asking you is: Is your child's face able to appear on social media sites such as Twitter? Is your child's learning able to appear on social media sites such as Twitter? Please answer accordingly and accurately, so that we don't make any mistakes.

Thank you

The English Leader, Sarah McIntosh and I thought that you would like to know about what is happening at Haseltine in terms of English...

English at Haseltine

BLACK HISTORY MONTH, AND BEYOND

This October, Black History Month (BHM) was celebrated across the country. BHM was marked in many ways this year, from special events in Brixton Village and Lewisham, to TV channels exclusively showcasing black talent in television.

At Haseltine, we believe in celebrating black history throughout the year (and not just for one month) but also recognise the importance and significance of this event and why it came to be in the first place. We celebrated black history in October by designing our own Nubian Jak plaques, which are now proudly hanging outside our classrooms (please also see below).

Another way we are committed to celebrating black history and black role models throughout the year is by making sure our book corners are representative of black authors and characters. Below I have included some of our favourite titles by black authors, so you can celebrate and enjoy these books at home as much as we have at school!

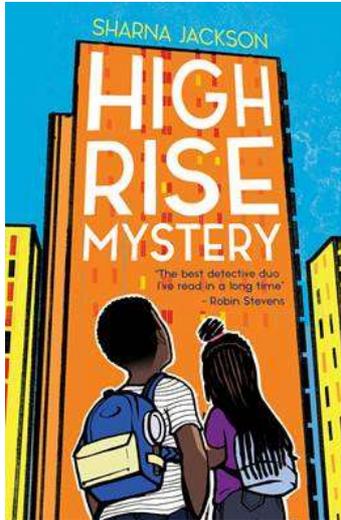
Hey You! by Dapo Adeola

Dapo and eighteen other illustrators have created an incredibly heartfelt book celebrating growing up Black.



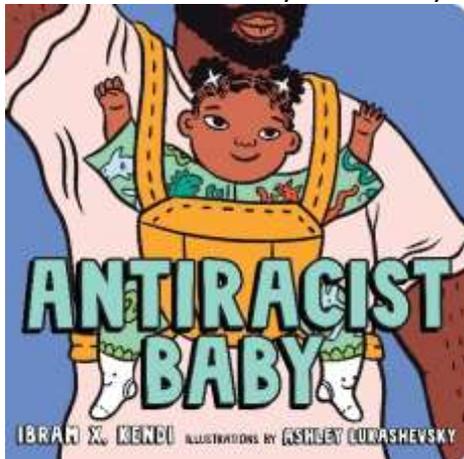
High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson

After finding their community art teacher murdered on their tower block estate ('The Tri'), sisters Nik and Norva are determined to solve this terrible crime.



Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi

Follow Antiracist Baby's nine easy steps for building a more equitable world.



OTHER READING NEWS

This term at Haseltine we have started to reintroduce Buddy Reading. Buddy Reading is when an older year group is paired up with a younger year group, and they read together in pairs. It is a great initiative that the children love to take part in as they get to not only make a new friend, but share a story in the library with their class. It is so important for our children to have this time dedicated exclusively to reading for pleasure with their peers, especially as research shows sharing a story has significant advantages for children:

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“Reading to and sharing books with babies and young children, and giving them time to respond, feeds their brain, helps them learn new words and grows their vocabulary.”

(National Literacy Trust , 2017).

Below is a list of texts that are recommended as perfect texts for sharing. Remember, sharing books isn't just about having your child read to you - it is just as beneficial for you to read to them, or even just to look at the pictures!

Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty (4-8 year olds)

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman (4-8 year olds)

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls (various authors) (6-12 year olds)

Varjak Paw by S.F. Said (8-12 year olds)

The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave (8-12 year olds)

The Story of the Windrush by K. N. Chimbiri (8-12 year olds)

Grendel: A Cautionary Tale about Chocolate by David Lucas (4-8 year olds)

Our curriculum leader, Amy Leslie, and I also wanted to share with you the work that children did during Black History Month...

This October, Haseltine chose to celebrate Black History Month by creating black plaques honouring important and influential black Britons. We wanted to encourage children to uncover parts of history that may have previously gone untold or forgotten. The inspiration for this came from The Black Plaque Project, which is an initiative by Nubian Jak Community Trust.

It aims to champion these heroes, in the hope that we can gain support from our wider community to champion them permanently. Turning their black plaques blue.

Each class was given an important black Briton to research and as a class they designed their own plaque to be displayed around the school. How many of these people have you heard of?

If you would like to read more about the Nubian Jak Community Trust and the Black Plaque project please visit the websites below

<https://blackplaqueproject.com/>

<https://nubianjak.com/home/>

We hope that you enjoy our hard work....



