

Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026



What has happened this week?

It has been a very busy week at Brindishe Green. We ran two busy Open Days and 3 Open Classrooms. In addition, Heron class started their swimming lessons on Monday.

On Wednesday, a presenter from the **Royal Institute of Science** visited BG. They inspired the children from Years 3-6 with a series of gripping experiments. There was a lot of excitement.



What is happening next week?

Next week, **Year 4** will enjoy an exciting virtual workshop linked to their learning about The Romans. On Tuesday, **Year 1** will take part in a range of cross-curricular activities at Mountsfield Park.

On Thursday, **Year 2** are heading into London to go to the Zoo. This is linked to their learning on Antarctica - let's hope they see some penguins.

Author Visit - Zenovia Grant

On Thursday we were joined by author/illustrator and multi award-winning community advocate, **Zenovia Grant**. Zenovia is passionate about developing the voices and lived experiences of children, particularly our Black and Black mixed heritage children. She believes in the power of storytelling to connect communities, spark imagination, and celebrate identity.

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a story telling experience, and Years 5 & 6 learnt about her creative journey and achievements. Years 3 and 4 learnt about the condition sickle cell, through her written book, *Your Blood, My Blood*. This was particularly special, as we have children in school with sickle cell. [Click here for more information!](#)



Black History Month - Honouring Our Communities

As you know, the theme for this year's Black History Month is Honouring Our Communities. We asked parents/carers to contribute towards a presentation and display for us to share with our children, families and staff. Attached to the newsletter is the presentation that we were able to put together, thanks to the support from our community. We hope you enjoy reading it.



A Reminder About Road Safety and Consideration for Our Neighbours

We would like to remind all parents, carers and drivers of the importance of safe and considerate behaviour during school drop-off and pick-up times. Please help us to maintain a safe, healthy and respectful environment for our children, local residents and the wider community by observing the following guidelines:

- **Please respect private property.** Children should not be allowed to run or play on residents' private driveways while waiting for school to open or at pick-up time. As well as disturbing residents, this can create unnecessary safety risks.
- **Please switch off your engine when stationary.** Leaving a vehicle engine running while parked contributes to air pollution and can negatively affect air quality and children's health.
- **Please park safely and legally.** Vehicles must not be left unattended on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school or parked in a way that blocks residents' driveways.
- **Please be aware of local traffic restrictions.** Beacon Road is a designated School Street, with signage and traffic controls in place. However, certain vehicles can still use the road. Please remind your children that they should not stand on or walk up the road.

We fully appreciate the pressures on busy families and recognise that ensuring children arrive at and leave school on time and safely is everyone's priority. However, a little extra thoughtfulness can make a significant difference to the safety, wellbeing and quality of life of those who live and work in the local community.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Something Wonderful to Celebrate

These children have been praised this week for their wonderful learning and behaviour.

E Penguin	Lana & Ava
Cormorant	Albie & Jare
Shoebill	Ehan & Sona
Macaw	Jessica & Corin
Heron	Tommy & Ka'mye
Cassowary	Jibran & Sofiia
Hornbill	Sofia, Finn & Mikel
Red Kite	Oliver & Jude
Puffin	Luca C & Asna
Magpie	Zanayah, Arielle & Aria
Hawk	Holly & Jonah
Kingfisher	Zoland & Hobie
Woodpecker	Arvi & Finn F
Parakeet	Danny & Hoorain
Kestrel	Tristan & Hannah
Swift	Ellie & River
Little Owl	Aniyla Rose & Eduard
Goldfinch	Alyssa & Dali
Robin	Sufiyan & Ayesha
Wren	Kadijah & Halo-Marie
Sparrow	Marshall-Law & Euwan

Attendance and Punctuality

School Attendance & Punctuality this week:	93.2%	
Outstanding Achievement 🏆 Attendance Over 97%	Heron Robin Kingfisher Kestrel	99.57% 98.37% 97.78% 97.42%
Top spot for punctuality this week! Hawk 🐅	Kestrel, Sparrow, Magpie, Woodpecker and Parakeet Amazing!!!	

Important Dates - Autumn 1

October 2026		November 2026	
Black History Month		16 th – 20 th Nov	Celebrating Diversity Week!
Open Classroom 3:15-3:45pm Monday 12 th Oct – Year 1 Tuesday 13 th Oct – Year 3 Thursday 15 th Oct – Year 6		Open Classroom 3:15-3:45pm Monday 9 th Nov – Year 5 Tuesday 10 th Nov – Year 2 Wednesday 11 th Nov – Reception and Nursery Thursday 12 th Nov – Year 4	
Fri 2 nd Oct	Flu immunisations R-Y6		
Tues 13 th Oct 10am and 4.30pm	Sept 2027 Reception Open Day	Tuesday 17 th 10am and 4.30pm	Sept 2027 Reception Open Day
Mon 26 th Oct – Fri 30 th Oct	Half Term	Fri 27 th Nov	Inset Day - No school for children

A Message from the Brindishe Friends Group



Thank you for coming to Pre-loved Picks!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Pre-loved Picks event, whether you brought clothes, took some home, or both. Together we found new homes for lots of pre-loved clothes and kept them out of landfill. **Thanks also to our fab volunteers who sorted, washed and set everything up.**



The school team have been busy helping children create festive card designs. Cards & gifts will be available to order next month, just in time for the festive season!

We've Hit a Whopping 304 Books! 📚

Thank you to every family who has already bought a book to fill our classroom book corners!

Some year groups are now very close to finishing their wish lists, and thanks to a generous parent donor, **we're matching the next 50 books you buy. Buy one and your year group gets a second book free.**

See the Wish Lists



Raise money for the BFG... for free!

Easyfundraising is a free app that turns your everyday online shopping into donations for the BFG, at no extra cost to you. Over 8,000 shops, like Tesco, Argos and John Lewis, donate every time you shop through the app.

And this month, **every 10 new people who sign up earns us a £50 bonus!**

Sign up now



Black History Month



Honouring Our Communities
October 2026

Starter Questions: Think, Pair and Share

Why are we specifically learning about, and celebrating the history of Black communities?

Why is Black history an area that we should be focusing more on?



A Bit of History

- Black communities have been part of the United Kingdom for hundreds of years.
- Black leaders (in arts, science, and sports etc.) have always been a key part of British culture but despite this, history often overlooked these contributions.





Introduction

Black History Month is a special month for focusing on the lives of Black people in the UK.



When?

It is celebrated throughout October in the UK.

Why?

It makes sure that the experiences of Black people are recognised, taught, and celebrated.



Quick Questions

Three

Name three Black people who have made outstanding contributions to the music industry.

Two

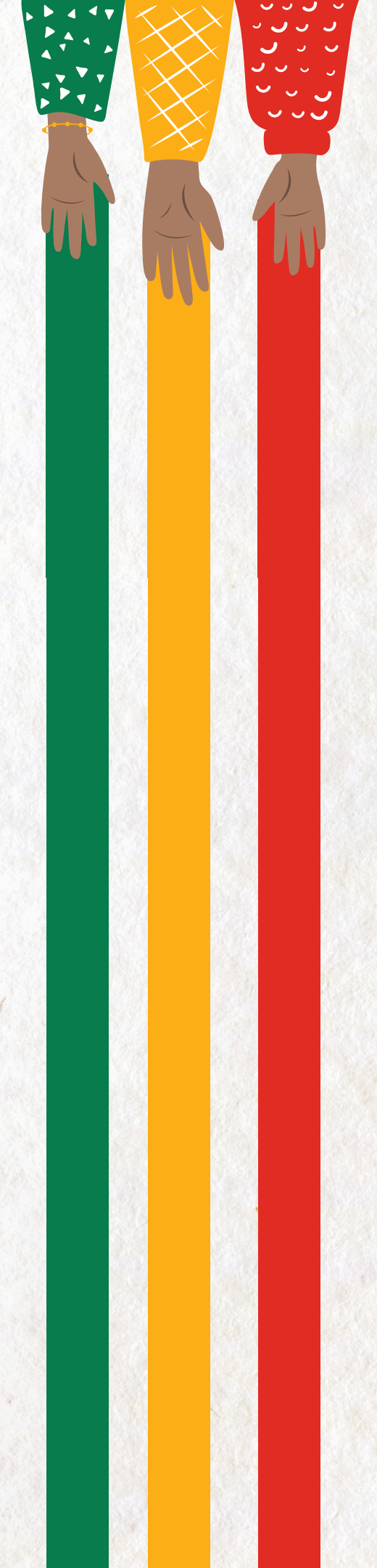
Name two Black people who have made outstanding contributions to the sports industry.

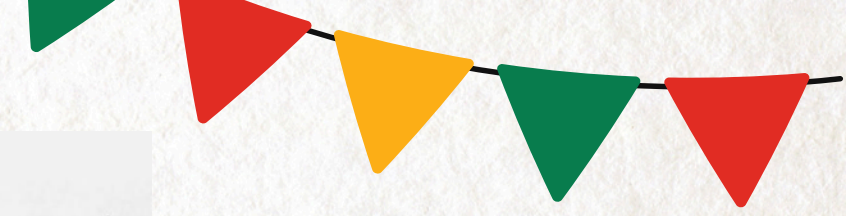
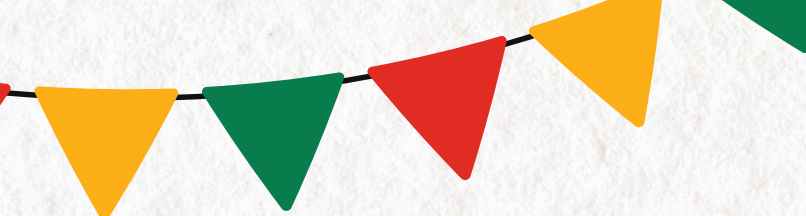
One

Name one Black person who has had a significant impact on your life.

Honouring Our Community

- We are now going to learn about local Black hidden heroes who have all made a difference in our community!
- These people were born in Lewisham, live in Lewisham or have made an impact on the people of Lewisham, London and the United Kingdom.





Ralph Adolphus Taylor



This is a picture of Storm's (Woodpecker class) Great Grandad. He came to Britain as part of the Windrush Generation, a group of people who travelled from the Caribbean to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War. He served in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the 1950s, helping to protect and serve Britain.





Keon West



Keon West is the proud dad of Phoenix , in Cassowary Class

Keon West is a scientist, professor and author who studies prejudice and how it can affect people's lives. He was born in Trinidad, grew up in Jamaica and later studied at Oxford University. He is a Professor of Social Psychology and has spent many years researching racism and other forms of unfair treatment. Through his public talks and his books, Keon helps people understand how unfair treatment happens and how we can work together to create a fairer and kinder world.





Rose

This is Rose, and she is a wonderful childminder who looks after many children who come to Brindishe Green.

Rose is a constant source of love, support and kindness towards the children she looks after and their families. Parents give her their most beloved thing in the world (their children) and trust that she is doing the best for them every day. She works so hard to care for them and is always so proud when they achieve things, no matter how small. Her families say that she deserves lots of praise - if you see her around school, don't forget to say hello.



Des Heaps

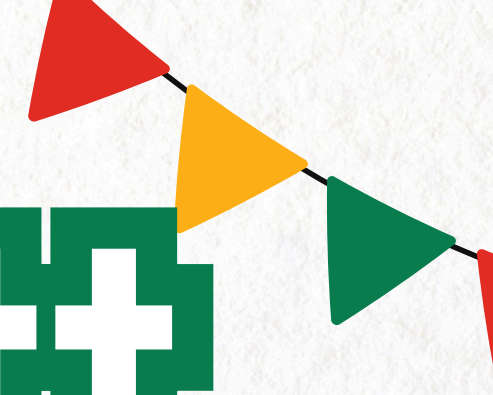


This is Des Heaps, who is Storm's (Woodpecker Class) Grandad. He works very hard in the construction industry and has worked as a carpenter, painter and decorator, crane operator and kitchen fitter. He also teaches other people how to do this important work. Des won a special award for Health and Safety at work and was in charge of keeping 900 people safe on a building site.

Des has also done a lot of important work to help people look after their mental health at work. He made a special video and helped put information posters on building sites all over the UK. Through his hard work, Des has made a huge difference to many people's lives.



Zinzi Minott



Akenzae (Little Owl) would like to share information about his Aunty Zinzi Minott.

Zinzi is an artist, dancer and filmmaker who uses dance, film, music and art to tell stories about Black people, families and Caribbean history. Her artwork has been shown in famous galleries, including Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Serpentine Gallery. She was the first dancer to become an artist-in-residence at both Tate and the Serpentine.

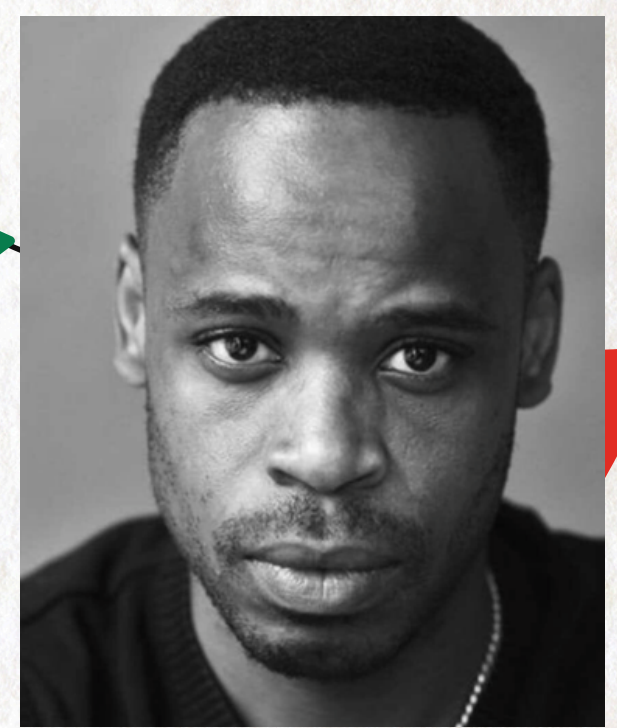
Zinzi also created a piece of art called Nowse Bwoy and Aunty... The Saving of a Life with her nephew, Nosakhare, which was shown at Tate Britain.

Through her creativity, Zinzi helps to make sure that Black people's stories, families and history are seen, heard and remembered.





Seun Shote



Ishmael's (Cassowary class) father was a special man called Seun Shote.

Seun Shote was a talented British actor who worked in theatre, television and film. He was born and grew up in London and performed at famous theatres, including the National Theatre. He also appeared in many TV programmes.

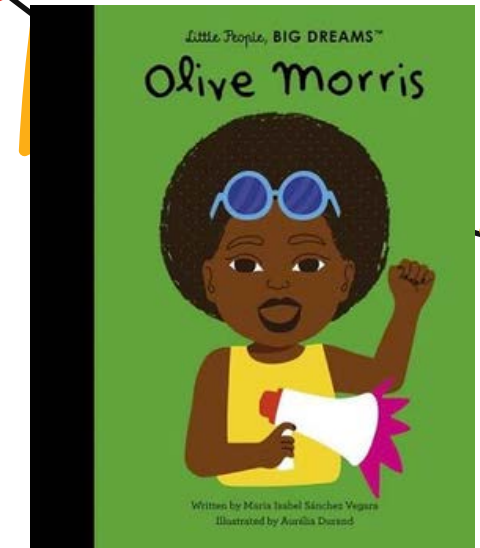
In 2019, Seun played the Hustler in *Princess & the Hustler*, a play about the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963. Through his acting, Seun helped to share an important story about Black British history with new audiences.

Ask your teacher to tell you about The Bristol Bus Boycott.





olive Morris



Olive Morris was Ms. Lewis's aunt. She was born in Jamaica in 1952 and moved to London with her family when she was nine years old. Olive became a brave activist who stood up for fairness, equality and better opportunities for Black people and women. She worked to improve housing and education and helped create groups where Black women could come together and make their voices heard. Olive died in 1979, aged just 27, but her courage and work continue to inspire people today. A book about her can be found in school.

[Click here to hear her story.](#)



Paula Mae Jones



Akenzae (Little Owl Class) and his Mum would like to tell you about his Great Grandma, Paula Mae Jones.

Paula Mae Jones was a woman who spent much of her life helping others and working to make society fairer. When she lived in Manchester, she was part of the Abasindi Cooperative, where Black women worked together to support families, provide education and make sure their voices were heard.

Paula was also a close friend of Olive Morris, and they both believed in speaking up and working together to create change. Paula loved education and taught adults who wanted another chance to learn. She then became a university teacher. She also wrote about how Black and White women could understand one another and work together.

Paula's family are proud that she played an important part in Black British history.



Alyson Taylor

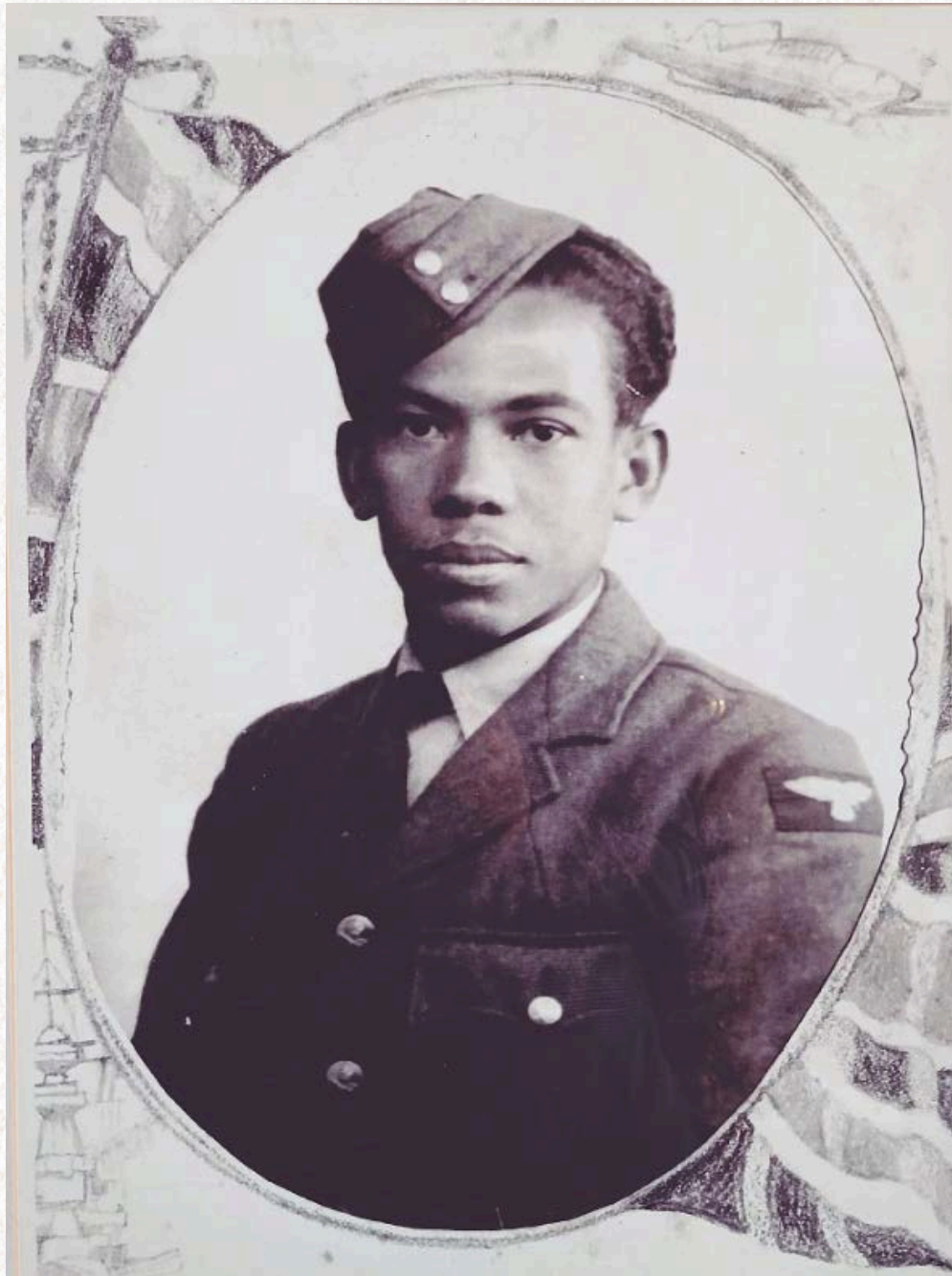


This is Alyson and she is Storm's (Woodpecker Class) Nanny.

Alyson worked in a pharmacy in New Cross for 25 years. She helped people in her local community by working alongside doctors and district nurses. She prepared medicines for patients and delivered them to people who were unable to leave their homes. She was so kind that, even on her days off, she sometimes visited patients and helped them by doing their shopping.

When Alyson finished working in the pharmacy, she became a volunteer for a charity that supported people who were struggling with problems caused by drugs or alcohol. Many of the people she helped said that Alyson made a positive difference to their lives because of her kindness and care.

Lionel Young



This is Deshay's (Heron Class) great grandad, whose name was Lionel Young

He enlisted in Jamaica to fight for King and Country. When he came over, he was based in Somerset with the RAF during the Second World War.

After the war, he went back to Jamaica, but then returned to the UK to help rebuild the country.

He worked for British Railways and later became the first Black driver at the New Cross bus garage. He was part of the Windrush Generation.

David Rocastle

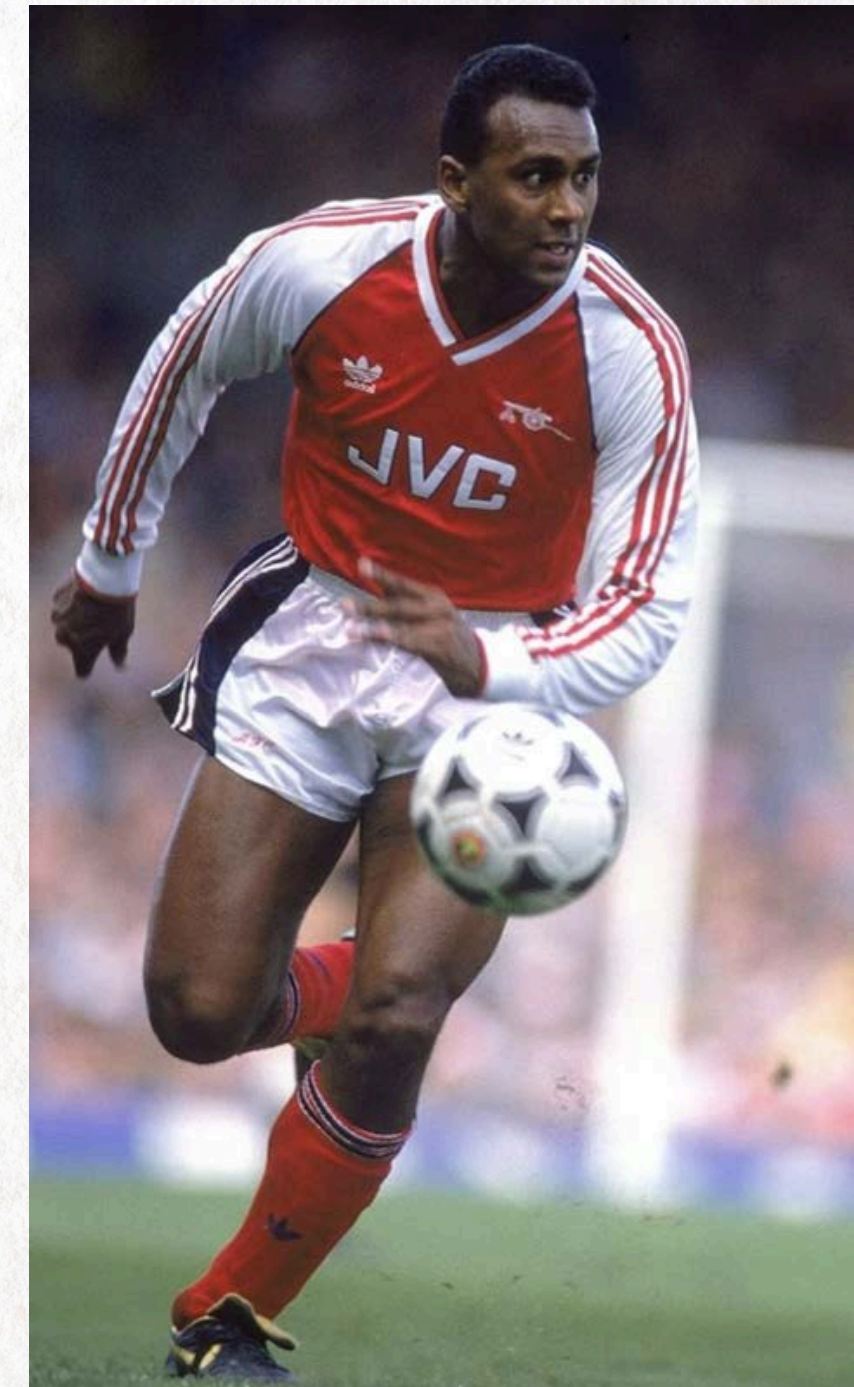


This is Deshay's (Heron class) uncle, David Rocastle. David "Rocky" Rocastle was one of the most uniquely gifted, graceful, and beloved English footballers of his generation. A true icon of Arsenal FC, his legacy bridges immense technical brilliance on the pitch with unparalleled humility off it.

When Arsenal's former vice-chairman David Dein first watched Uncle Dave play he rushed home and told his wife: "I've seen the nearest thing to a Brazilian you'll ever see, and he's from Lewisham!"

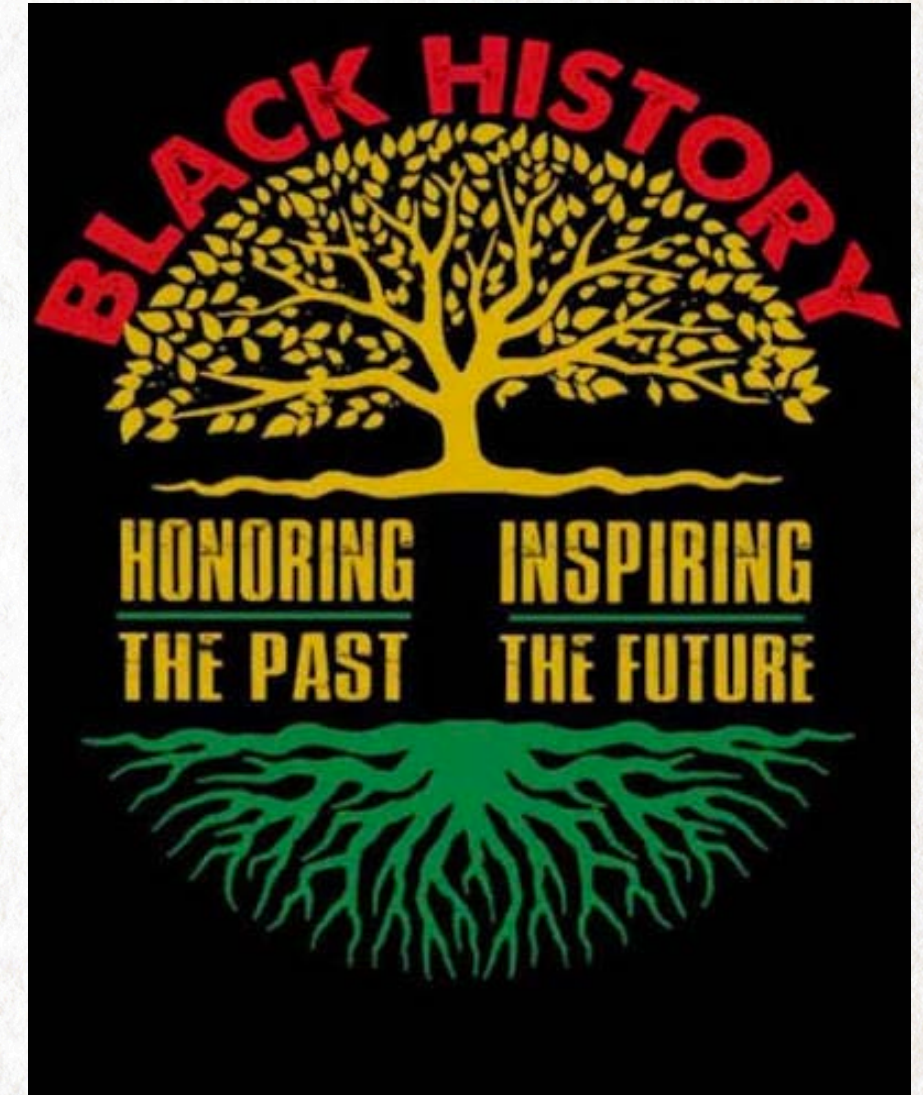
Unfortunately, uncle dave passed away at the age of 33, to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Today, his name continues to live on at Arsenal, where the academy's indoor facility is officially named the David Rocastle Centre, ensuring his character inspires future generations of young footballers.

David once said, "Remember who you are, what you are and who you represent. which we all follow to this day."



Thank you to all the children and families who have shared stories about people in their family.

We know you will all have people in your family or friends who have worked hard to be kind and make a positive difference to other people. Perhaps you would like to tell us about them.



How will you make this a better world for others?