

# Black History Month and Diwali workshop at Brearley

On the 21st and 23rd of October 2025, Brearley held a Black History and Diwali Workshop to help parents understand and support their children in celebrating these important events. During the workshop, families took part in a range of fun and meaningful activities, including making clay diya lamps, creating firework spray-bottle art, and exploring different firework sounds such as bang and whoosh. We also learned about Rosa Parks, listened to music, enjoyed traditional foods, and read books that supported our learning about both celebrations. The workshop had a valuable impact on both children and parents: children deepened their understanding of different cultures and significant historical figures through hands-on activities that supported their language, social, and fine motor development, while parents felt more informed and confident in supporting their children's learning at home. The session strengthened home-school relationships, encouraged shared learning experiences, and created a welcoming space for parents to ask questions, engage in discussion, and reflect on their learning through a quiz.



## Comments from parents:

"Making the diya lamps and firework art was so much fun!" - Ayub Mum

"I loved the music and seeing how happy the children were." - Vihaan Mum

"It nice to see children learning about other".- Jana Dad

"I like making the diya lamp"- Hunter Mum

"The food is tasty".- Bitanya Mum



# Making Traffic Light Pictures for Black History Month

As part of our learning for Black History Month, the children explored the invention of the traffic light and learned that it was created by Garrett Morgan. We talked about where we see traffic lights in our everyday lives and how they help to keep us safe. The children learned the meaning of the colours red to stop, yellow to wait, and green to go and enjoyed creating their own traffic light pictures using sponges and coloured paint. This activity supported their understanding of the world, helped develop language skills through discussion, strengthened colour recognition and early problem-solving skills, and encouraged creativity and fine motor development. It also introduced them to an important Black inventor in a meaningful, age-appropriate way, helping build cultural awareness and confidence as they learn about the world around them .

Children's comments:

"The traffic light is what you see on the road." - Mahmoud

"Red means stop, yellow means wait and green mean go".— Arshan

"Green-go!"-Ahmir





# Black History Month Music

This week, the children had a very special visitor who came to teach them all about Black History through music. The session was full of energy, curiosity, and hands-on learning as the children discovered their rich cultural heritage and the contributions of Black musicians. The children explored real instruments and were thrilled to see and try out a violin and a guitar. They plucked the strings, felt the vibrations, and listened closely to the unique sounds each instrument made. The children sang "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" while playing the instruments and even had their photos taken with a Polaroid camera to celebrate this joyful experience.

The children showed great progress in their confidence and communication skills. They followed instructions well, took turns, and explored new sounds using real instruments. Many developed fine motor control when plucking the strings and began using new words to describe what they heard. The session helped them express themselves creatively and build confidence performing in front of others.

This experience supported the children's learning across several areas of the EYFS. Through exploring real instruments and singing together, the children developed their Communication and Language skills by listening carefully, joining in songs, and expressing their ideas. Handling the violin and guitar supported their Physical Development, encouraging coordination and fine motor skills. Learning about Black History through music helped to deepen their Understanding of the World, as they explored different cultures and traditions. The session also promoted Personal, Social and Emotional Development, as the children showed confidence performing in front of others, took turns, and shared their enjoyment with friends. Overall, it was a rich, hands-on experience that encouraged curiosity, creativity, and cultural awareness.



## Children's comments:

Elhan said: "This is a guitar".

Makhissa said: "look, I am playing violin".

Esme said: "Mine is a small guitar".

Hunter said: "Look, violin is too heavy".

Metkel said "This is a violin".

Mahmoud said "electric guitar is too loud".



# Handas Surprise' by Eileen Browne.

In Red Room, we have been learning the story *Handa's Surprise* as part of our Black History Month activities. Over the past few weeks, the children have explored the story through a range of hands-on and creative activities. They made fruit prints using paint and used their senses to taste, smell, touch, and feel the different fruits from the story. The children also drew their favourite fruits and made colourful necklaces using pasta and string. They enjoyed acting out the story using the *Handa's Surprise* small world set and puppets, and they are now able to name the fruits and animals in the story and recall which animals took the fruit from Handa's basket. The children also made fruit smoothies by cutting the fruit, placing it into the blender, and blending it together to taste. These activities had a strong impact on the children's learning, helping to develop their language skills, build confidence in using their senses, strengthen fine motor skills, and deepen their understanding of different cultures. The story work also supported their recall, creativity, and early literacy skills as they retold events and talked about the characters and fruits in the story.



## Children's comments:

"The monkeys took the banana from Handa's basket" - Mahmoud

"Pineapple is spiky"- Ayaa.

"I like eating bananas because monkey eat bananas"- Sama

"I like pineapple — it's sweet!" - Esme

"Banana go in blender."-Rawand

"There are seven fruits in Handa's basket."- Bitanya

