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Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents,

You will know from our calendar that it is our Whole School History Day on Thursday 23rd October.

We use our whole school days to excite and engage children in learning that is beyond our usual curriculum, while continuing to embrace themes that are very much part of our Grendon's Goals.

This day is no exception. As part of Black History Month, we will use our Whole School History Day to explore the story of the Windrush Generation in the 1950s. We aim to make this a living history day and take children on a journey from life in Jamaica, through the voyage to England to settling in Birmingham, walking in the shoes of children who made this journey. We will explore music, culture and food, comparing and contrasting Jamaica and Birmingham, as well as introducing and discussing the issues encountered around equality and racism. We will develop children's understanding around our Grendon's Goals of British Values and Children's Rights as well as celebrating resilience and the real 'We Can' attitudes displayed.

We will be issuing a 'boarding card' to the children on Wednesday 22nd October, which we would very much like them to bring with them to be stamped as they start their journey on 23rd. While we are not asking children to dress up, staff will be attempting to wear 1950 style 'Sunday Best' for the day! Children will need to wear school uniform as usual - just don't forget your boarding cards!

At lunch time, we will be celebrating our arrival in England with a traditional full English breakfast - all the usual dietary requirements will be available.

We are basing the day around the Floella Benjamin book 'Coming to England.' There is a board book for young children, a picture book and a chapter book available, which means we can address this theme at an age appropriate level.

Please follow us on Facebook to watch the day progress and talk to your children about what they have learnt during their journey.

My thanks to the group of parents who offered feedback on our curriculum and whole school days previously and have engaged with us wonderfully over the last few months in order to support the planning of this day. A real partnership in action - our thanks to you all.

Let the journey begin!

Best wishes

Mrs Ridley

