Brentwood School

IN OUR OWN WORDS

Prep Family Narratives for Black History Month

Welcome to '*In Our Own Words'*, a special anthology of family narratives written by our pupils and staff.

Each piece in this collection is a window into the unique and vibrant world of a Brentwood Prep's family, capturing the traditions, challenges, joys, and everyday moments that make each one special. These narratives celebrate the diversity that makes our school community so interesting and full of life.

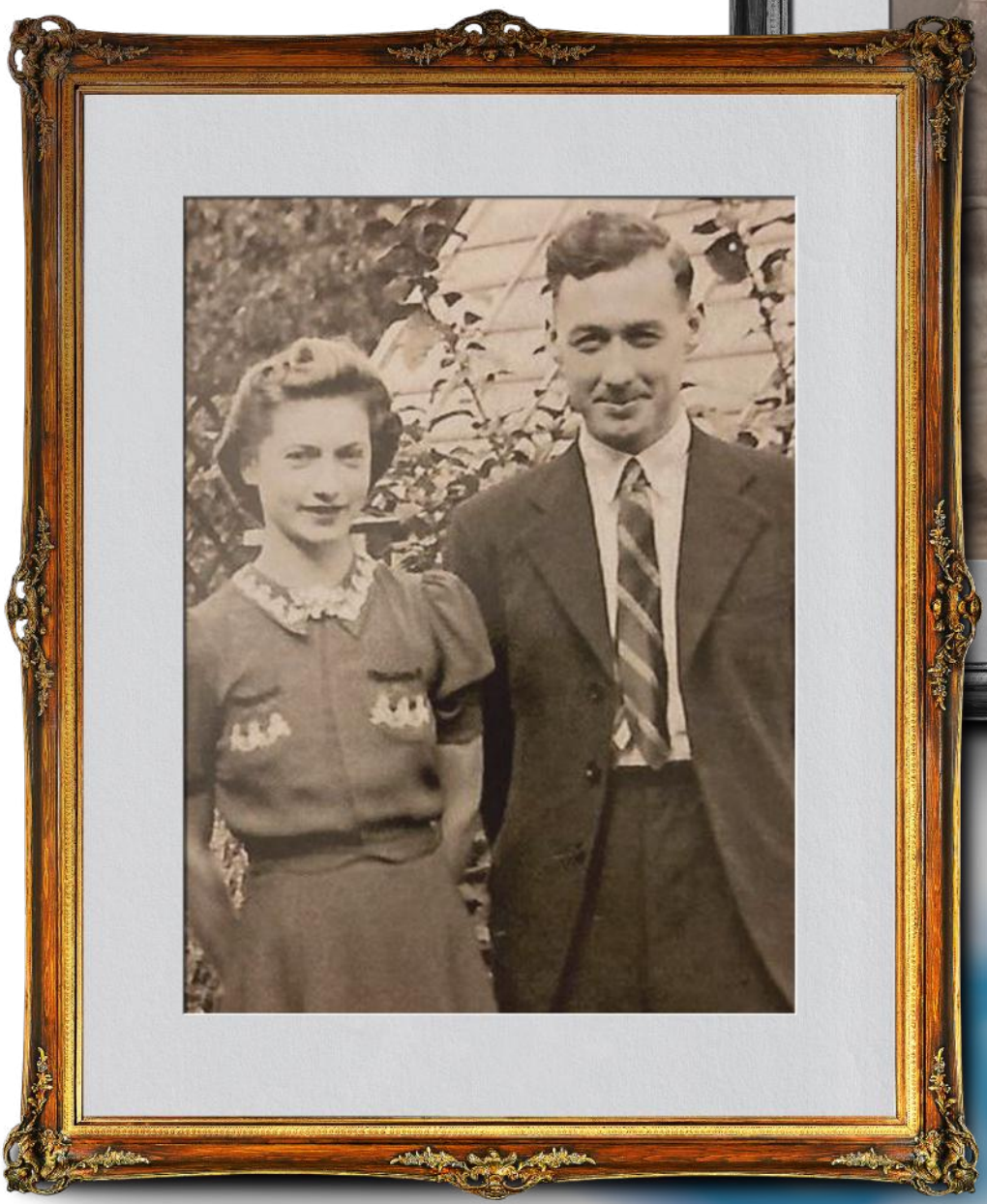
Through their eyes and words, we see the many ways that families nurture, support, and shape us, connecting us all through the common threads of love and mutual respect.

This is an on-going project with contributions that span many years. Thank you to all who contributed and we hope you enjoy reading our stories.

Mrs Swinney
Deputy Head Pastoral


2024







Great-Grandad did lots of cycling and had medals for time trials. He and Great-Grandma used to ride a tandem around Derbyshire and Wales!

In the war, he was an engineer in the Royal Air Force on the Isle of Man, mending aircrafts. He also worked at Bletchley Park, keeping the Enigma machines working to decode German messages.

He was born in Leyton in 1919 and lived in London for most of his life with his wife and two children. He had two allotments and grew his own vegetables, as did his Father.

The pictures show him cycling in the late 1930s and together with Great-Grandma in 1943.

by Oliver & Thomas N, Year 4







My interview with Papa

My papa grew up in the Lindi. When he was young, he liked to play football. When he was growing up he liked to eat fried chillies.

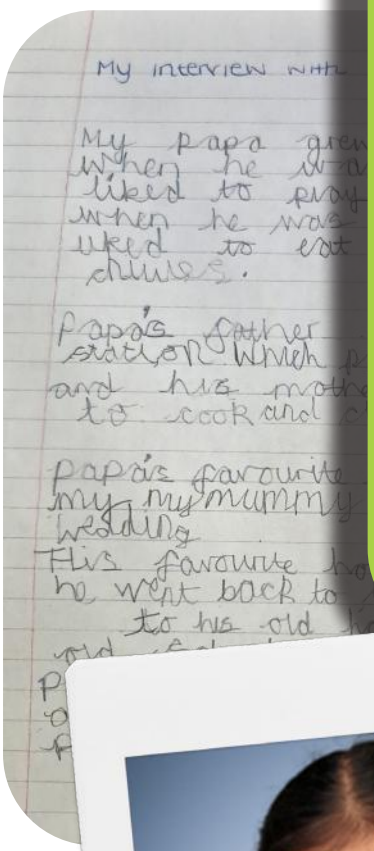
Papa's father ran a petrol station which Papa helped out at and his mother taught him to cook and clean.

Papa's favourite celebration was my mummy and daddy's wedding.

His favourite holiday was when he went back to Lindi and went to his old house and saw his old school.

Papa's school was on the beach and had a football pitch that Papa loved.

by Mia C, Year 1


My interview with

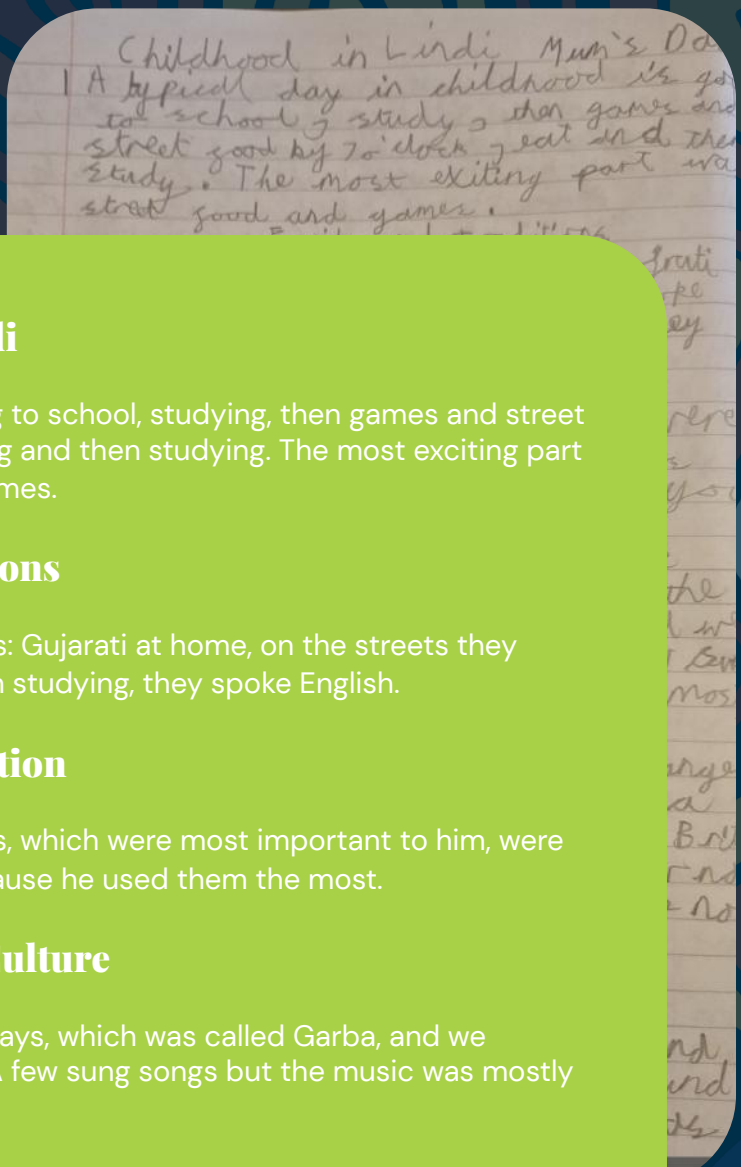
My papa grew
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Papa's father
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Childhood in Lindi

A typical day was going to school, studying, then games and street food by 7 o'clock, eating and then studying. The most exciting part was street food and games.

Family and traditions

They spoke 3 languages: Gujarati at home, on the streets they spoke Swahili and when studying, they spoke English.

School and Education

Papa's favourite lessons, which were most important to him, were Maths and English because he used them the most.

Community and Culture

Papa danced for nine days, which was called Garba, and we walked to the temple. A few sung songs but the music was mostly Bollywood.

Challenges and Changes

Lindi went downhill from a big town mainly ruled by the British and Indians but they saw no hope and left, so there were no trades, good schools or housing.

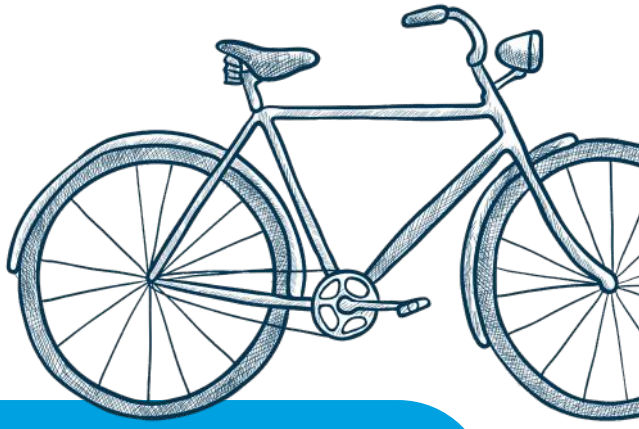
Papa went back 7 years ago and went to his school. He found the same table when he was there 50 years ago!

Legacy Lessons

Good education is amazingly important and in Lindi it was not so competitive so everyone got a chance to play. But Lindi could become world famous because they discovered huge gas fields, so money is being put in to make it bigger.

by Dylan C, Year 4

Interview with Grandad Pete about Great-Grandad John



Where was Great -Grandad John born?

"He was born in Washington in the North East of England. At the time it was called County Durham, but it is now known as Tyne and Wear. He was born in 1917."

What is your earliest memory of your dad?

"I remember him coming home from work on his bike and I said 'hello' to him."

What were his hobbies?

"He liked walking, bird watching and gardening."

When did he join the military and what part of the military was it?

"He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 at the start of the second World War. He was an aircraft engineer. When the planes came back from battle, all damaged, he and his team used to fix them. His rank was Corporal."

Did he fight in the wars, if so, against which countries?

"He fought in the second World War against Germany and Italy."

Where did he meet Great-Nanna?

"He met Nanna at Whitby during a camping holiday. She had sprained her foot and he bandaged her foot as he was trained in first aid and they fell in love."

Did he have any siblings?

"He had two brothers, Ned and one other, and two sisters, Betty and Alice."

Do I remind you of him in any way, and if so, how?

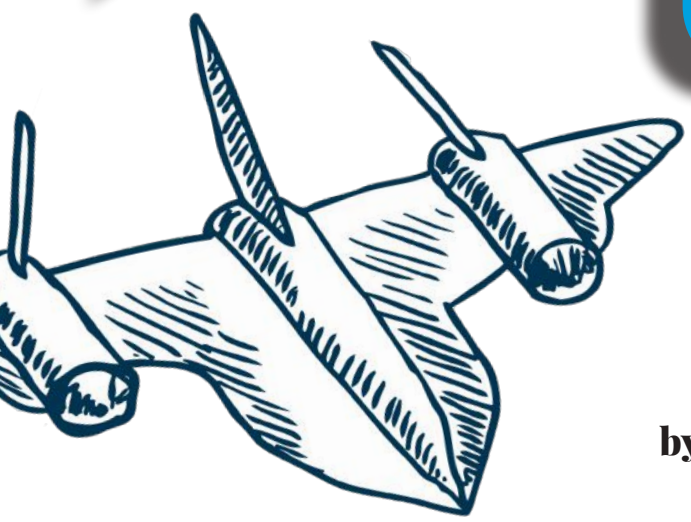
"Yes, you both like gardening and riding your bike."

Who in the family reminds you most of your dad?

"My brother Alan. He looks very similar to our dad."

What was his favourite food?

"He loved Peach Melba, it was favourite cake. His favourite sweets were coconut mushrooms and polo mints."





by Camille H, Year 3

For my family narrative I have wrote about my Baradada, my great-grandfather.

Early life

My great-grandfather was born in 1932 when the English Empire was happening. He had a mother, father and 9 siblings, of which 2 survived, himself and his sister. He studied and lived in a village where my family Chandalia started named Shapura, till Year 10. He then went to a city named Gwallia, where my Dad was born later on, for A Levels. Despite living in a village, he had great grades and got into a medical school in a city named Jaipur. This is where my great-grandfather and most of his family lived. His dad was a lawyer and his mother was a housewife.

Marriage

He had his wedding in 1957, which at the time was a very late wedding as he was 25. Their wedding was told to be enormous with over 10,000 people being invited!

Fateh Kumari Chandalia was his wife's name. They lived happily married but sadly my great-grandmother died in 2005 so they lived together for 47 years which was quite a long time.



Career

My great-grandfather was the first plastic surgeon in the whole state of Rajasthan, the largest state in India. He was also famous for many of the first plastic surgery operations. He did the first gender reassignment surgery and he did the first cleft lip operation. He did not believe in private health care and worked in a government hospital. Even though he was a plastic surgeon, he never did any work for solely cosmetic purposes. Everyone told me he believed in a simple life and did not care for materialistic things.

Hobbies

My great-grandfather enjoyed a complex game named Bridge.

Also, like me and my family, he loved a game of chess. He actually taught my dad to play and later on my dad taught me.

Legacy

My great-grandfather sadly passed in 2020. He was a great man who was very influential for not only me and my family but many other people as well.

Fun facts

My great-grandfather actually has a hospital named after himself, 'Dr. Chandalia Hospital. He was friends with many Indian celebrities.



by Dhruv C, Year 6







I asked my grandad, Graham Pilkington, why he got a medal from the Queen and how he did the job that he did. This is what he explained to me.

"I did lots of jobs. One of them was looking after the waste of everyone in London and cleaning it up before it went in the river. I also made sure that London was never flooded.

I studied chemistry for many years and was a scientist. That helped me understand what was happening in the river and the sewage works.

I did lots to keep London safe and worked with people in the government and the Queen gave me an honour for the work I did.

I never had one job for very long and liked to try different things and even worked in Egypt for a while.

The best thing about every job was meeting new people and doing new things sometimes in a different country.

Also, when someone suggested doing anything different I gave it a go."

by Gene T, Year 3







Courage Across Continents: Two stories from my family

by Serafina H-S, Year 4



Northern Italy, 1944

In the Apennine mountains just outside the Italian town of Modena, my great-grandfather, Enzo Ferrari, was hiding in the forest with other people from his family and village. They were partisans and were fighting against Italy's leader Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler from Germany. They were very bad people.

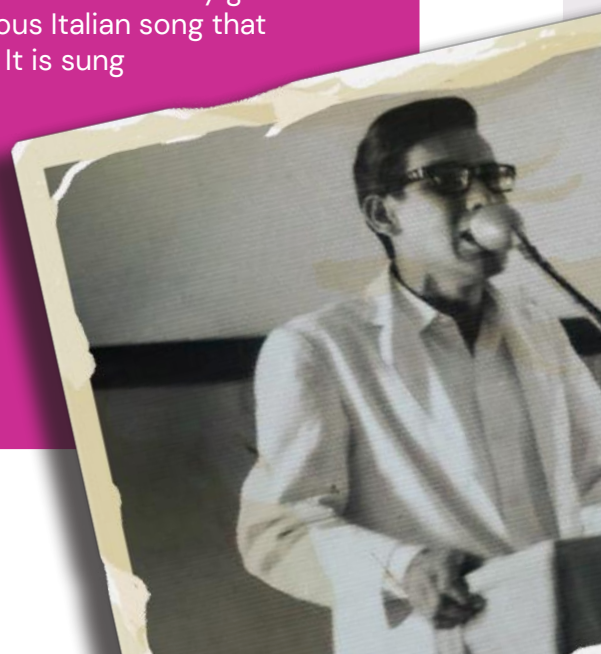
It was very dangerous as they were fighting in secret against their own country's soldiers and German soldiers who were in Italy. They didn't have proper equipment or weapons - they were very brave. They knew what Hitler and Mussolini were doing was very wrong. Even though there were only a few partisans, they did sneaky things like stealing the German soldier's food and breaking their tanks and machinery so they couldn't travel or fight. The partisans had to stay hidden and attacked at night. If partisans were caught they got killed or sent to the prison camps. Unfortunately, my grandfather was caught one day and sent to a prison camp. He was treated very badly and had very little food.

A few months later, Germany was defeated in the war and his prison camp and his home town of Modena was freed by American soldiers. He returned to his home to find many of his friends and family had been killed and his town was destroyed.

This story makes me sad for him, but also proud that even though it was scary and dangerous he still made the decision to stand up and fight for the right side.

In Modena now, in the main square, there is a memorial to all the partisans who fought against Mussolini and Hitler. On 25th April every year, Italy celebrates the Festa Della Liberta (celebration of freedom). It is nice to know my great Grandfather played a part in that. There is also a famous Italian song that is sung to remember the partisans called 'Bella Ciao'. It is sung by people all around the world who are fighting for freedom even now. We sing it at home sometimes.

I spoke to my nonna, Fiorella, to get more information on my great-grandfather. She still lives in the same village where all of these events occurred. She doesn't speak any English so my mummy had to translate.







India, 1944

My grandfather, Dr Syed Iftikhar Haider, was born in a village in India at a time of great change. The British had divided India into two countries, India and Pakistan. This was called partition and there was terrible suffering and killing afterwards.

My grandfather became an orphan when he was very young and was raised by his older brothers and sister. He was too poor to go to school but he managed to get hold of some old English books. He dreamt of studying English poetry and he was very good at English. He used to teach other children in the village. One day a rich family, whose children he used to teach, offered to pay his school fees. They did not ask for this money back and gave it as charity. My grandfather wanted to study English and become a poet but his older brother said he had to study medicine as the family was very poor and they needed him to earn money.

He went to school and worked hard to become a doctor. He got a job in London, but when he moved to London, he suffered a lot of racism. On his first day at work, the two receptionists working with him walked out as they did not want to work with a 'brown doctor'.

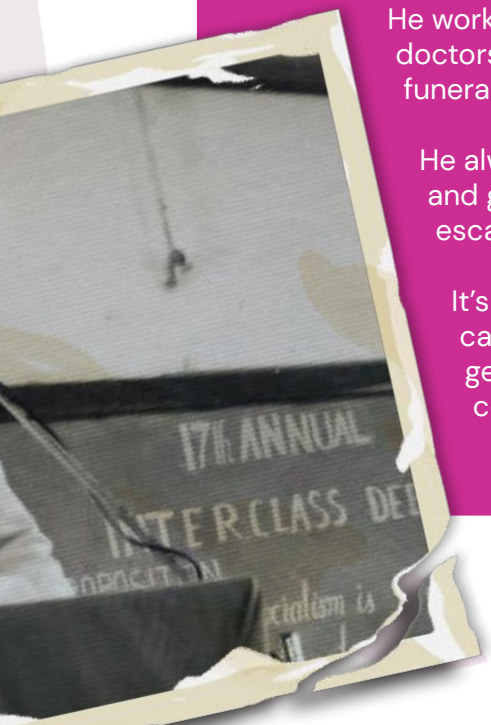
Throughout the years, my grandfather never forgot the opportunity he was given as a child and how the gift he was given changed his whole life and future, so he dedicated his life to paying it back. He helped and sponsored refugee doctors who had come from countries where there was war including Bosnia, Iraq and Palestine, giving them opportunities to get training and jobs.

He also tried to spread the message to not be racist. He worked with the police and visited schools, including Brentwood, to teach people about different cultures and religions.

He worked for the NHS until he got sick. When he died, many of the doctors who he had helped from around the world spoke at his funeral.

He always said that if that family hadn't shown him that kindness and generosity when he was a little boy, he never would have escaped from his village.

It's a lesson reminding me that even one single act of kindness can have huge effects that reach across continents and generations. As a doctor he loved the saying 'kindness is contagious!'



Family Narrative by Kimaya J, Year 1



My family is from India. India is a very hot country.

My family from my dad's side is Austrian.

We, including me, used to live in Curitiba, Brazil.

My little sister Sitara was born in America.



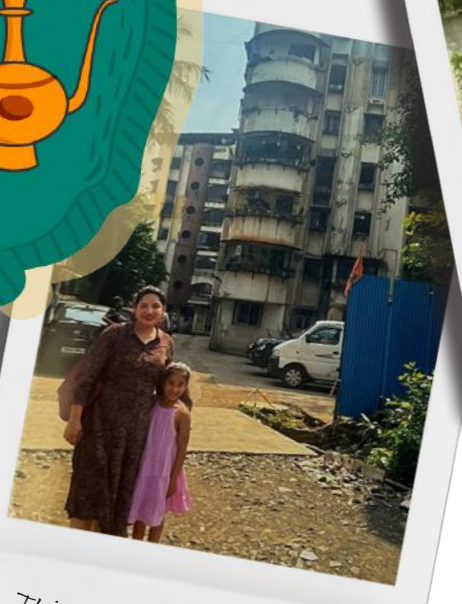
My grandparents from my



This is my little sister Sitara. We're wearing Indian clothes.



This is my grandpa's house. At the time, there was no electricity or running water.



This is my mum's old house.



This is me p
coconu



When my family lived in Boston, my parents studied at Harvard Medical School.



mother's side



This is a Brazilian bird called a Toucan. It looks like a mini penguin with an orange beak and sometimes it has blue eyes.



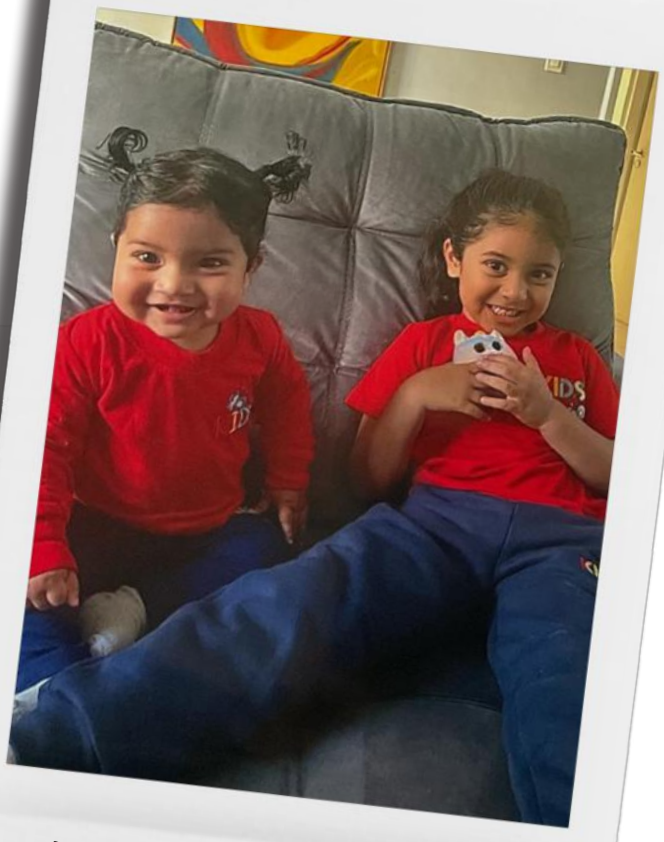
This is an auto rickshaw and this is used to travel a short distance.



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ts.



This is a Brazilian animal called a Capybara. It LOVES rolling in the mud.



This is me and my little sister wearing our old school uniform. We went to a Chinese school in Boston, USA.



How my dad inspires me
by Victor I, Year 5

My dad is a very good sailor and won many trophies. His successful stories inspired me to try sailing. My dad took me sailing when I was 3. At the beginning, I was very frightened but my dad encouraged and sometimes 'forced' me to sail. As it went on, I started to sail on my own in an Optimist Boat on the lake and crewed on an Enterprise, a boat, a wooden boat that has two sails, on the river. To put it in perspective, this was in the Blackwater Sailing Club which is next to the river, not the sea.

Anyways, it took a lot of hard work to get out of the lake with my Optimist, the first sailboat you normally have, but soon as I got out of the lake and headed my way to the river where I did a lot of races and won prizes such as a medal for 2nd place in sailing regatta this half term and a trophy for short course winner and more.















My aunty is a really good knitter and she knits for charities and other good causes.

She knits woollen toys and small warm clothes for babies, and lap blankets, hot water bottle holders and other things for the elderly. She inspires me because she is always doing good for everyone.

She gifts the things she doesn't need to people who need it and is always happy to help. Sometimes, she knits Christmas crackers to fill with sweets and give to staff at hospitals to say thank you.

She recently gave away a recliner chair to a woman whose Dad was very unwell and needed his feet up and his back slanted.

She started a community that help people that need it by knitting things for them and she doesn't expect anything back from them. She can knit almost anything!

by Jaelyn S, Year 6



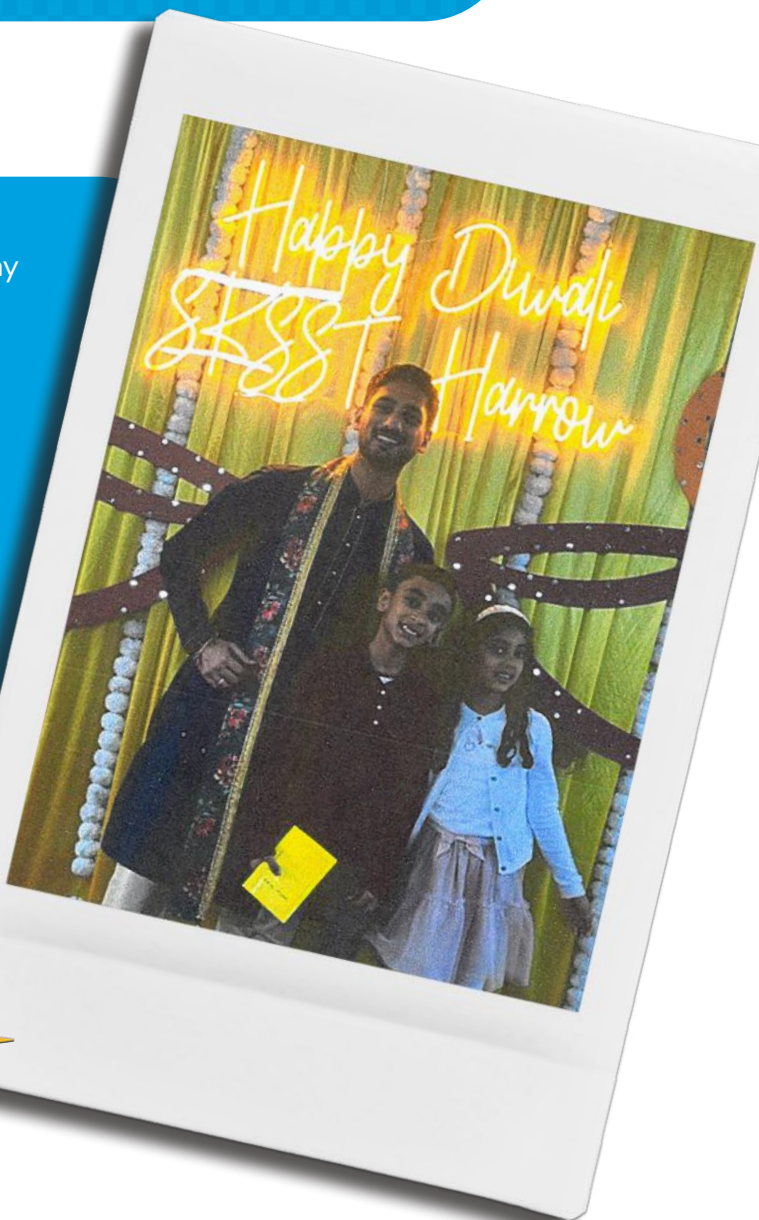


This is a picture of me, my brother, Vishay and my uncle, Bhavik. He is my Dad's younger brother at 35 years old and works as an Optician. He lives in Yeovil with his wife, Krishna. This picture was taken at a temple on Diwali.

Diwali is a very special day for us where we spend the day with our family and we give each other gifts and have lots of food and fun!

by Kira H, Year 3

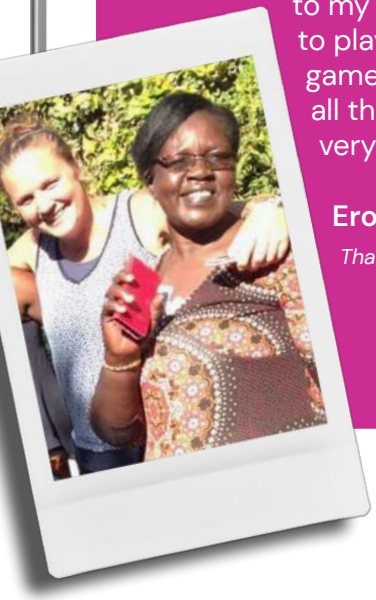


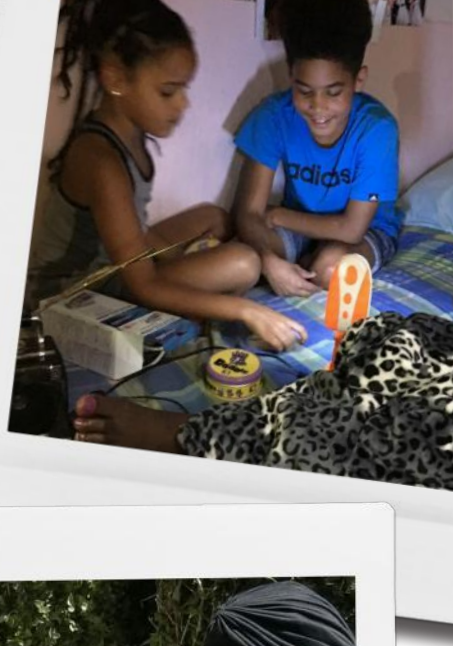


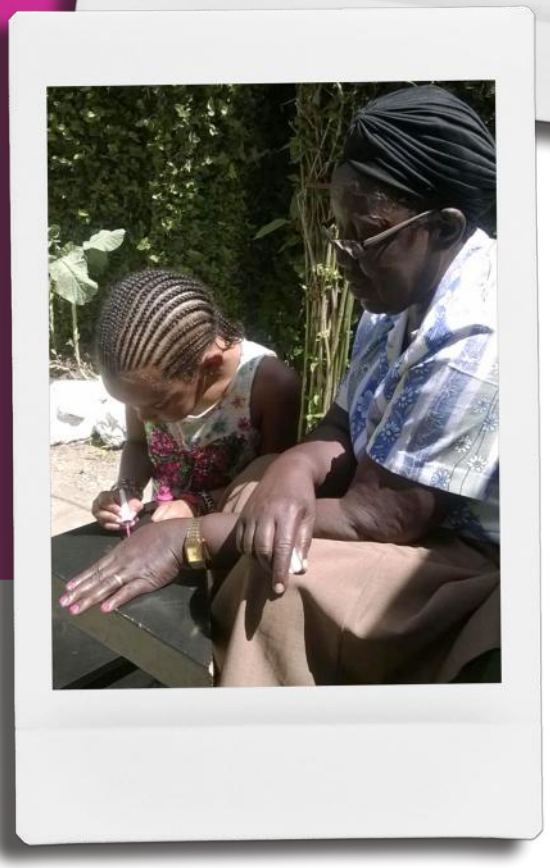


The 'Original' Mrs Ombok

Grandmother to my children and Mother-in-law to me, she loved to travel and was a keen reader, netballer, gardener, swimmer and cook. The 'original' Mrs Ombok was fluent in three languages and was a mother of 12. She welcomed me into her family when I was just a teenager. She gave me confidence in how to be a mother to my children. When she grew too old and sick to play netball or to garden, she loved to play a game of Dobble. She died in 2020. I remember all the lessons she taught me and I still miss her very much.







Ero kamano, Mathe. Aheri ahinya.

Thank you, Mathe. I love you very much.

by Mrs Ombok, Head of Year 6

Joyce Evelyn Smith is my great-grandmother, but I call her Nanny Teddy.

I call her that because she would knit teddies to send them to a children's hospital for kids who are not well and maybe need some extra comfort. She died around three years ago, at the age of 98.

I miss her so much but she gave me a couple of teddies to remember her by.

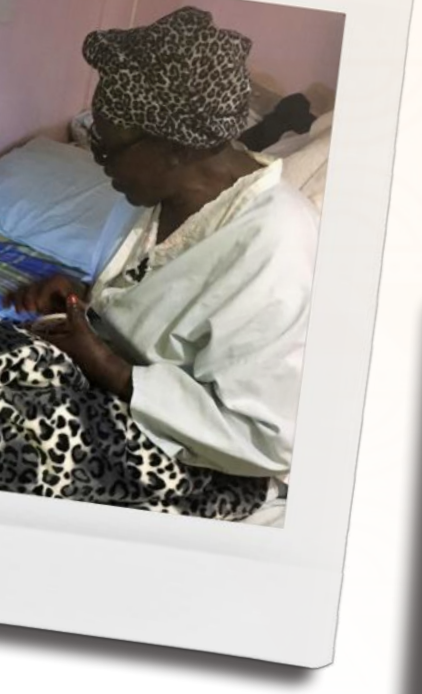
I love you Nanny Teddy.

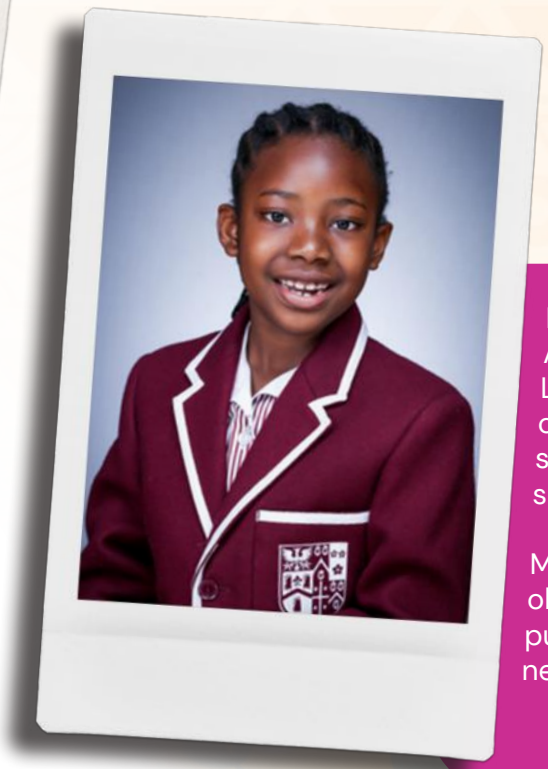
by Ollie M, Year 6













My grandma is from Nigeria in North-West Africa and lives in a place called Ikotun in Lagos. She speaks Yoruba, a language that I can never understand. She loves cooking all sorts of Nigerian foods. I like that because some of them are my favourites.

My favourite Nigerian foods are: semo and okro, jollof rice, plantain, cornbeaf sauce and puff puff. She has taught me how to be a neat girl and to be kind.

by Michelle A, Year 4



My family narrative is about my grandmother, Olina Hanesova. She was one of the first international female Biathlon referees. Biathlon is a winter sport that combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting

She travelled to lots of different Biathlon competitions. She was a member of International Biathlon Union and she was well known for her dedication to sport.

by Jonny S, Year 4



Henry B, 2017

↓

Louise Purchase, 1983
my mummy

↓

Christine Osborne, 1952
my nanny

↓

John Osborne, 1912
my great-grandad

↓

Frederick Osborne, 1880
my great-great-grandad

↓

Charles Osborne, 1858
my great-great-great-grandad

↓

Christopher Osborne, 1815
my great-great-great-great-grandad

↓

John Osborne, 1790
my great-great-great-great-great-grandad







All my family in the Victorian times and the Georgian times all worked on a Norfolk farm.

They had jobs like brick layers, mole catchers, farmers, weavers and labourers.

by Henry B, Year 3

Dadaji was my mum's granddad who passed away when he was 98 years old. I was only 3 years old back then. My strongest memory with him is when he was in his bed singing lullabies to me.

I have a lot of love for him and he inspired me to be kind, helpful, brave and strong. He was born in India and was very smart to go to Scotland and study to be a doctor. I miss him!

by Inaaya G, Year 4













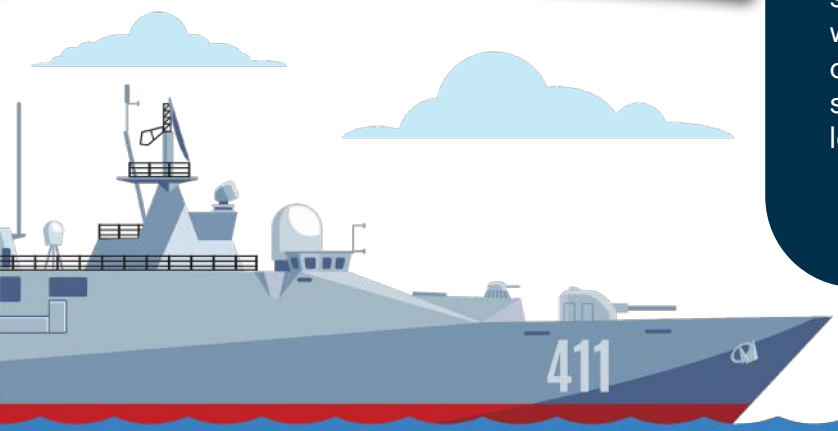


I am going to be talking about my great-grandad named Fredric Powell. He was a chef on a ship in World War 2 and aboard the ship, he had a pet monkey that he got from an island that they stopped at along the way.

He was very close to this monkey as it slept with him almost every night, but unfortunately he did not get to keep this monkey when he docked in from sea.

Also he brought back a hand of bananas to show his wife, but he was a generous man and when asked, he handed them out to people on the bus home, so when he got home to show his wife the bananas there was only one left on the hand.

by Wynona H, Year 6





Our great-great-grandfather's family was from Germany. He escaped to Chile when Germany was under control of Hitler. He lived as a refugee in a Red Indian tribe. They gave him a new name - Maucho.

He adapted to the tribe's culture and learned their language which was similar to Spanish. One day he was offered to choose one of the ladies to marry, as well as the opportunity to teach his language and European skills, in exchange for land. They also helped him to build a house. Maucho and Morfina, my great-great-grandmother, lived together for many years and had nine German-Chilean children.

Maucho never went back to Germany. Below is a photo of Morfina at the age of 100 with her oldest son. She lived up to the age of 100. We don't have any photos of Maucho but he lived until he was 85.

by Sienna & Mylo D, Year 3 & Year 6











I am writing about my grandad, who I call "Nana". He sadly passed away when I was 4 years old, but he was very nice to me and my brother, Samuel.

When he first came to England, he worked hard to find work and earn money to look after his family.

He decided he wanted to do a job which helped other people, so he became an advisor. He helped people who couldn't speak English or didn't know how to get help themselves and he made sure they were looked after.

Because of his job, when he passed away, a lot of the people who he helped came to pay their respects. I find him inspiring and would like to do the same and help people when I grow up.

by Mikael W, Year 4



The 5th Prime Minister of India

Chaudhary Charan Singh is our Great Grandfather's cousin so we are first cousins, once removed.

Singh entered politics as a part of Indian independence movement motivated by Mahatma Gandhi. Singh followed Gandhi in non-violent struggle for independence from the British Government, and was imprisoned several times. In 1930, he was sent to jail for 12 years by the British for contravention of the salt laws.

He resigned as prime minister on 20th August 1979, after just 23 days in office, from 28th July 1979, becoming the only Prime Minister to never face the Parliament.

His father was a farmer belonging to the Tewatia Shivi gotra (clan) of Jats.

Teotia "Tewatia" "Tiwathia" originally Shivi is a gotra (clan) of Jat people in India which were the rulers & founders of Ballabhgarh kingdom and we belong to that gotra.

Our grandfather is Dr Narendra Pal Singh Teotia.

by Ana & Aiden T-D, Year 5 & Year 6

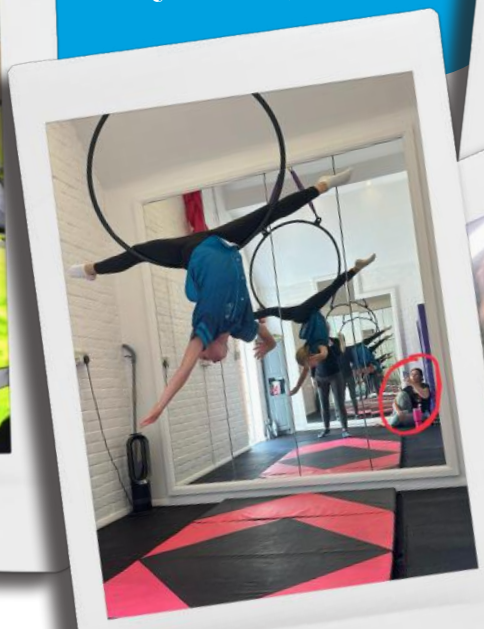


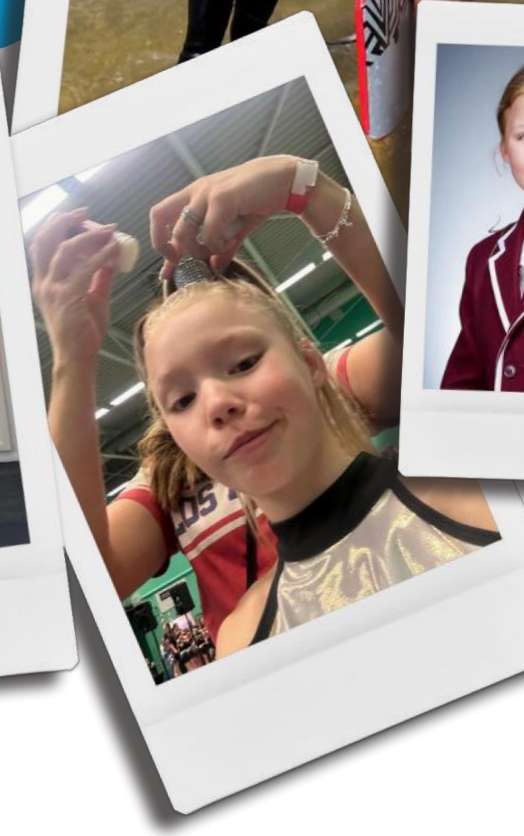
Aimi Palmer is my mum. I think of her as a role model. She has done loads of amazing things in her life and was a gymnast, just like me and she even climbed through my bedroom window once (long story)!

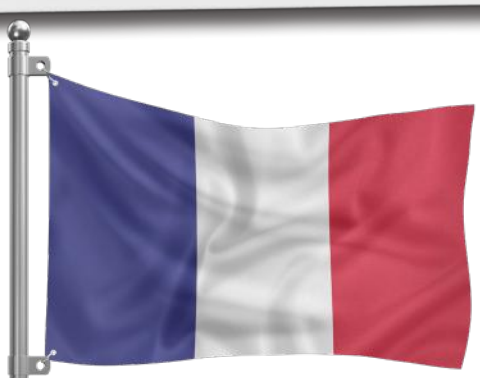
She takes me to cheer competitions and supports me by giving up her Friday night to take me to Aerial Hoop. She helps me get loads of new skills and I'm a lot like her.

by Lexi P, Year 6









Interview with my mummy by Ryan P, Year 3

When did you come to the UK?

I came to the UK in August 1997 by bus from France.



What town did you come from?

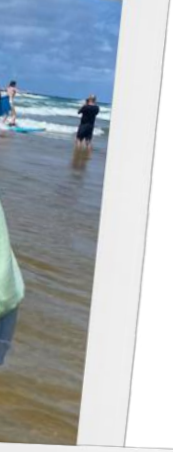
I come from a small town called Maubeuge.

Why did you come to England?

I came to do a work placement and loved it! I met some lovely people, ate great food, listened to new music and thought 'I want to live here!'

How long have you been here?

I've been here for 27 years!













King Wen of Zhou 周文王

I am going to write about my (who knows how many greats) grandfather, King Wen of Zhou. There aren't many texts about King Wen of Zhou because of the time passed, even the Chinese don't know much about him. So I will try my best to introduce him to you. Here goes...

King Wen of Zhou was one of the most respected emperors in the history of China. He founded and ruled the Zhou dynasty. He was respected not only because of his achievements as a king, but also because he was an extremely wise and virtuous person. Modesty was Zhou Wen Wang's most valued trait.

When he was in his early 80's, Shang Zhou Wang imprisoned Zhou Wen Wang because he was scared of his ability. Even in jail, my great-great-great... grandfather didn't waste his time complaining. He started to study Ba Gua 八卦 and wrote an extraordinary book called Yi Jing 易经 which is also known as I Ching or the Book of Changes. Yi Jing is a famous book full of wisdom which could supposedly predict the future. The great philosopher Confucius later studied this book and rewrote it with his students to produce the current Yi Jing. In this book, he said that modesty is most important and that you can obtain wisdom and respect through modesty.

King Wen of Zhou was a modest person, even as a king. Sometimes, when he was bathing, guests would come and visit. Since he didn't want to keep the guests waiting, he would get out of the bath and quickly dry himself and go to meet the guests. Or sometimes when he was eating, a messenger would come and bring news to him. He would immediately put down whatever he was eating and go to hear the news.

At the time, a lot of people admired him and went to live under his rule. That was how the Zhou Dynasty became the most powerful empire in Ancient China.

by Sishan Z, Year 6







This is my dad, Jason Fergus and he is my role model. I look up to him so much. He is so kind, friendly and funny. Whenever I'm sad he helps me. He takes me out all the time. The last time he took me out we went to watch basketball. It was such a fun time he is the best dad ever!

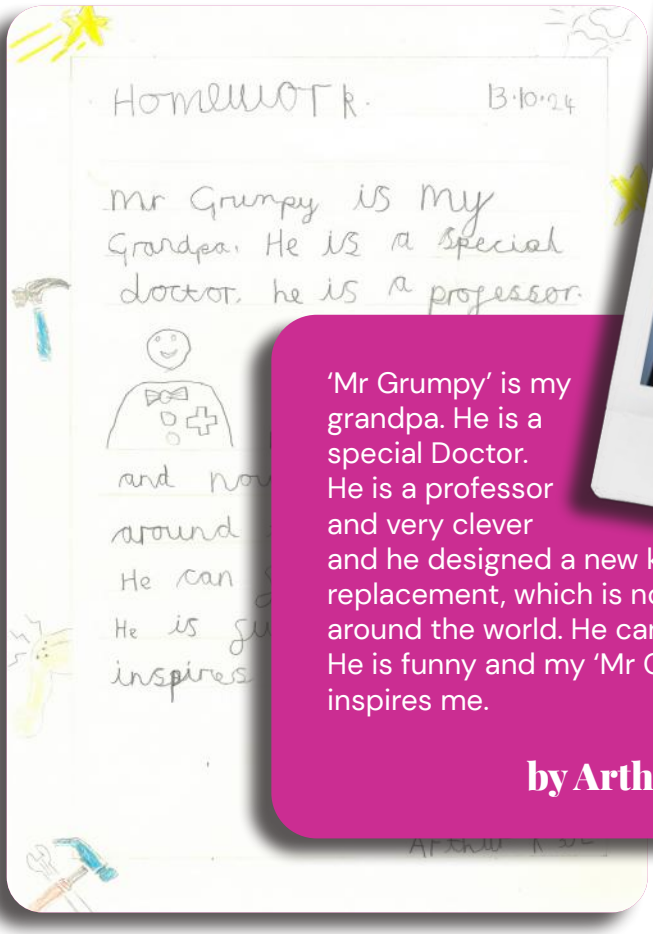
Here is a photo of my dad taking me out to see loads of different animals. It was really fun. The other photo is when my dad took me to see fireworks when I was 7. I loved it. The last photo was when I got to sit on the bus driver's seat when we went to London to see the Tower of London. It was a really great day. I remember all these things like they were yesterday. I love my dad so much he is the best person I know and he will always be my role model.

by Ella F, Year 6









'Mr Grumpy' is my grandpa. He is a special Doctor. He is a professor and very clever and he designed a new knee replacement, which is now used all around the world. He can fix anything! He is funny and my 'Mr Grumpy' inspires me.

by Arthur R, Year 3





by Thomas B, Year 6

Genna, my Mom

My mom is caring and is kind-hearted to our family, her friends and coworkers. She works hard and has long nights with clients. She is relentless, powers through sleepiness and gets the job done well. She takes no shortcut in any work she needs to do. I admire her for that.

Terry, my dad

My dad is cheerful and tender to our family and his friends and coworkers. He is hardworking, constantly every day. He has motivation to carry on when he is tired and is lacking energy. He takes no shortcuts through work. He is a resilient person and I admire him for that.

Penelope, my sister

The little girl in the picture is my sister, Penelope. She is 5 years old. Penelope goes to Brentwood School and is in year one at the moment. She is a nice, kind and caring sister to my family and friends in school. I admire her for that.

My grandad built Christmas grottos across Germany.



He did 2 tours in Northern Ireland when it was dangerous.



He was qualified as a tank gunner.

My grandad trained in aircraft mechanics weapons. This included building bombs, fitting bombs and missiles to aircrafts.



He was qualified in pyrotechnics. This is when someone is trained in using fireworks professionally.



My grandad served 26 years in the RAP.



My grandad was in the RAF which stands for the Royal Air Force. He was 17 when he joined.





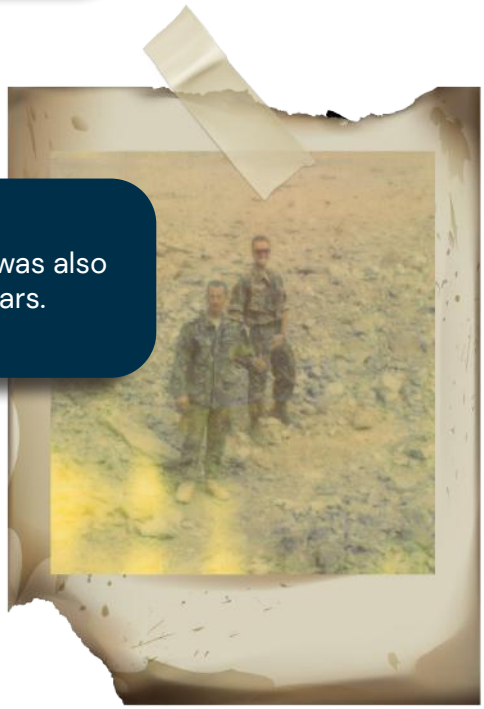
He was awarded several commendations for his work in charity and for serving in the RAF.





He travelled to many places through his times with the RAF such as Germany, Saudi Arabia, Corsica, Las Vegas, Spain, Sardinia and other places around Europe.

My grandad was also in the Gulf Wars.



He also qualified in bomb disposal and IED disposal. IED means Improvised Explosive Devices.



by Darcey A, Year 4

My grandad, Allen Carver, is an inspirational person to me as he perseveres when things get harder and always tries to make time for everyone, always listening to new ideas.

Some examples of how he has persevered throughout life are that his first job was being a coal man so he carried sacks of coal to peoples houses. They then bought their own lorry and delivered car parts which had been cleaned in chemicals. This inspired them to create their own chemical cleaning plant to sell but, soon after, he and his older brother created a chemicals company called ICL, which stands for Industrial Chemicals Limited.

The chemicals are the type of chemicals you use to clean pools. All of the steel tall tunnels are where the chemicals are actually being made and kept.

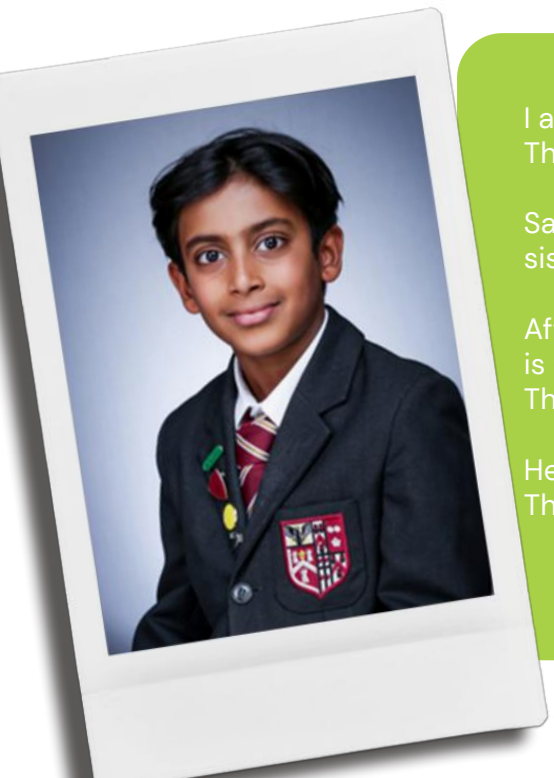
Other things my grandad did which showed perseverance was the fact he never stopped trying in sport.

The achievements in which he succeed were:

- He never stopped in football so he was welcomed to the West Ham Youth Team for boys aged 7 to 8.
- He had a pilot license and used to fly his plane to France for lunch on some weekends.
- To this day he still holds his record for his pole vault at his school. He also won the Essex and England championships in pole vault.



by Millie C, Year 6



I am going to write about my great-grandfather. He was a very famous doctor in Thanjavur, better known as Tanjore.

Sadly, my great-grandfather's Dad died at a very young age and was left with hi sister. He studied at a British school, and was known to be one of the smartest

After he finished school, he went to a prestigious medical college in the capital is the state my family are from. In college, he graduated with a gold medal. He b Thanjavur and Tanjore.

He was a very successful doctor and built his own hospital. After 36 years peop Thanjavur and Tanjore, there is even a bus stop named after him.



cture shows were the chemicals
made, stored and shipped.





n a town in India called

is younger brother and elder
students in the whole school.

of Tamil Nadu, Madras, which
became the first doctor in

ple still know his name all over

by Ajith B, Year 6

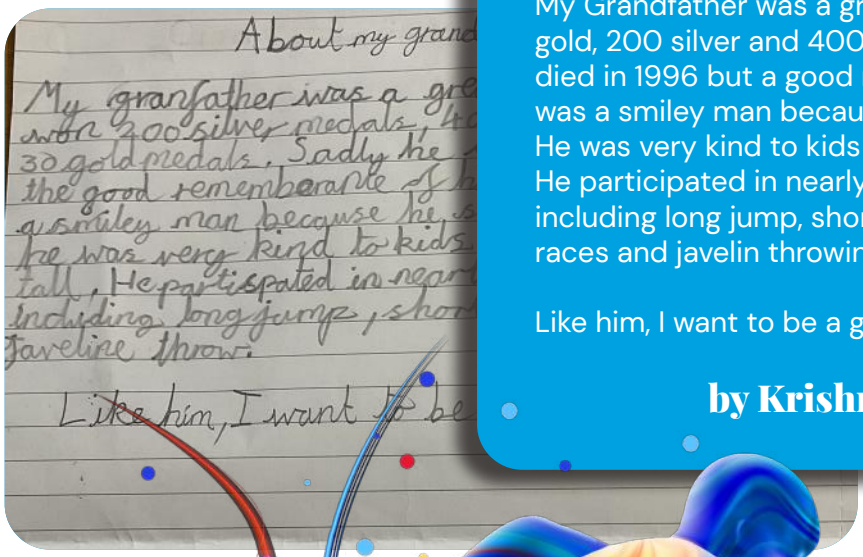


I'm inspired by my grandad John. My 'Gam Gam's' mum was poorly so my grandad's dad had to take care of the children, but unfortunately my grandad had to go to a children's home.

His three brothers and sister and him were all separated and my grandad spent 30 years trying to find his siblings. Eventually, he found them so when they went home, my grandad told a story of his life and experiences.

by Alexandra F, Year 3



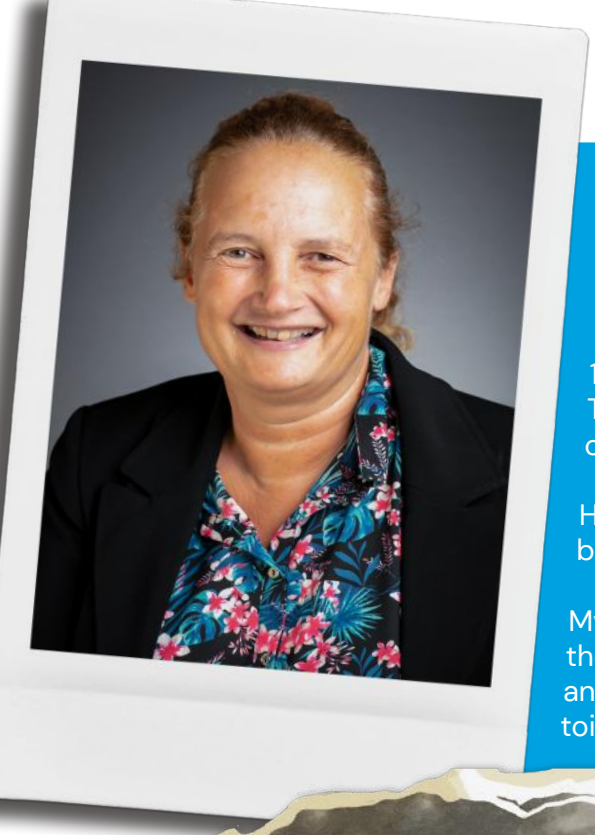


My Grandfather was a great sportsman. He won 30 gold, 200 silver and 400 bronze medals. Sadly, he died in 1996 but a good memory of him was that he was a smiley man because he smiled at everyone. He was very kind to kids and he was really tall. He participated in nearly all the sports, including long jump, short jump, running races and javelin throwing.

Like him, I want to be a great sportsman.

by Krishnav R, Year 4





Unfortunately, I have no photos of my grandfather, but he was an interesting character.

My grandad was born in London in 1881. He fought in World War 1 and was a 'Gas' handler. He married my nan when he was 17. They had seven children, four boys and three girls. Their second oldest, died at age 4.

His oldest son was born in 1902, and his youngest, my father, was born in 1934. This meant my dad had nephews older than him.

My grandad lived all his married life in an upstairs maisonette in the East End of London. They had two bedrooms, a front room, and a scullery which was a tiny kitchen - cupboard-sized. The toilet was in the backyard. There was no bathroom, so baths happened once a week in a tin bath in front of the front room fire. Everyone used the same water, and the oldest went first. My dad got into cold, black water!

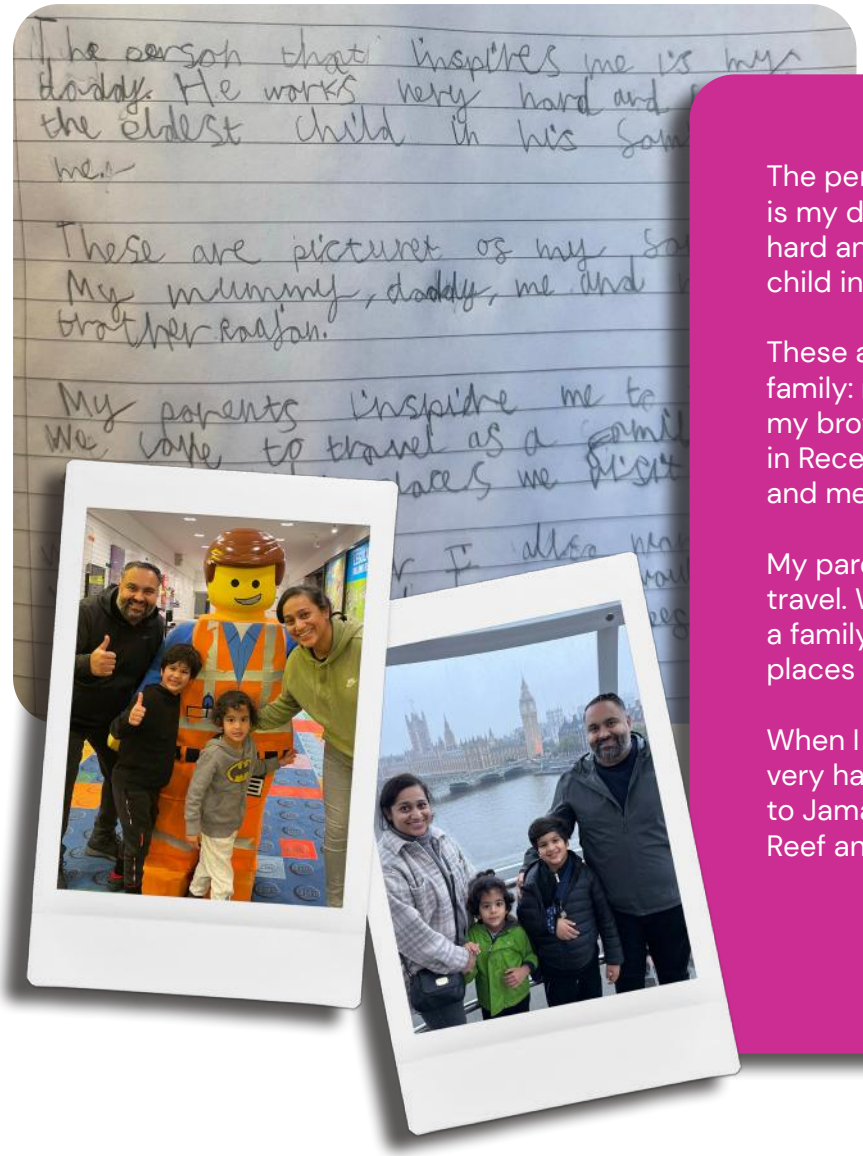


After the war, my grandad became a 'Totter', a Rag and Bone man. He kept his horse in a yard at the bottom of the street and went out daily to collect junk from people in the area. This was not a very lucrative business, so he was also a bare-knuckle fighter and a 'Strong Man' at local fairs to supplement his income. He died aged 82.

I never got to meet my grandad, but I have heard many stories. It is hard for us to imagine living in the conditions he did, but all my aunts and uncles seemed to have a happy upbringing - racing pigeons was the highlight of the week.

by Mrs N Roberts, Year 4 Teacher









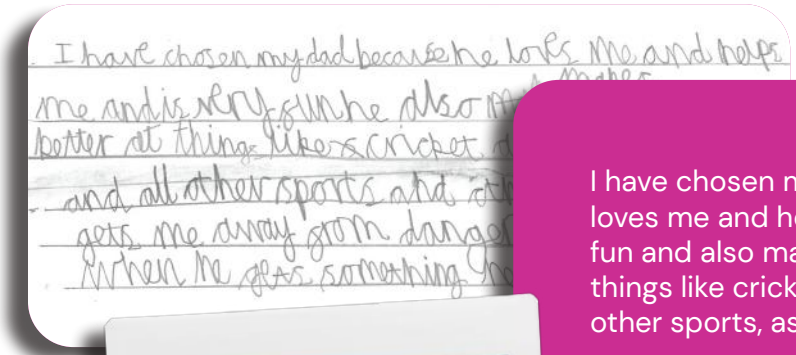
The person who inspires me is my daddy. He works very hard and he is the eldest child in his family, like me.

These are pictures of my family: my mummy, daddy, my brother Raajan, who is in Reception at the Prep, and me.

My parents inspire me to travel. We love to travel as a family and explore the places we visit.

When I am older, I also want to work very hard and travel. I would travel to Jamaica, to the Great Barrier Reef and to China!

by Saajan J, Year 3





I have chosen my dad because he loves me and helps me. He is very fun and also makes me be better at things like cricket, football and all other sports, as well as other things.

He also gets me away from danger sometimes. And he is very generous! When he gets something, he gives it to me.

by Isaac B, Year 3







I interviewed my grandfather, Subhransu Ghosh, who now lives in Kolkata, (though it used to be called Calcutta), when I visited him in India over October half term...

Where were you born?

I was born in Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

Can you tell us about your family?

My Dad was an engineer. He worked for the government of India in many places. My Mother was from an aristocratic family in Mymensingh. We lived in Assam after the partition of India. We are a family of 5 brothers and sisters.

Where did you go to school?

I went to a boarding school called St Edmunds in Shillong. This meant I couldn't come home to see my Mum and Dad a lot.

What was your favourite subject?

My favourite subject was Maths.

What was your most favourite childhood memory?

I remember the playing fields at school and my friends. I liked school and I enjoyed all the games. Those are my best memories.

How did you choose your job?

When I was little, my hero was my Uncle. He was a very well known surgeon in Kolkata. I wanted to become a surgeon just like him.

What was the best part about your job?

I enjoyed working, performing surgery, being able to help people.



Which countries did you live in?

I've lived in England, Brunei and India.

What do you like about retirement in Kolkata?

All my relatives are here so I enjoy it. But I don't enjoy the weather, as much!

Is there anything else you want to add?

I have two lovely girls and a beautiful Granddaughter. I love talking to them and being with them!

by Sophia, S Year 3

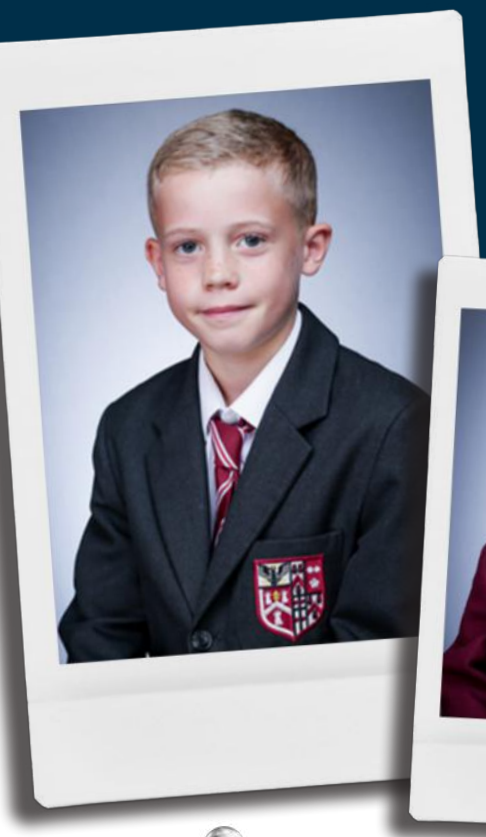
My grandad, Ray Wilkins, played football for lots of good clubs such as PSG, Chelsea, AC Milan and Manchester United. He played with a lot of good players. He was also managing teams and I look up to him because he is special to me, kind and caring. He got caps for England and played with special players Ronaldo, Frank Lampard and more.

I go to every game that Chelsea plays with my family to remember him, happily. My nan lives by herself but she comes to stay with us sometimes. I play for Arsenal and play with the older players, trying to follow in his steps, to play professional football and play with very, very good players. I have dreams like he did and I want to be like him.

by Frankie O, Year 6



Here is a picture of my family after my gr
went on the pitch at Chelsea. The little gi





Midfielder Wilkins netted a stunning curling effort in the 1983 FA Cup final draw against Brighton at Wembley







My great-grandad and great-nan were born in Barbados and came to England nearly 70 years ago. They are a generation of third immigrants in this country.

by Callum J, Year 3



andad died and we
rl is my sister, Ava.

My great-grandfather was a shoemaker in the capital city of Kenya, Nairobi. He made and repaired shoes for the Royal Air Force in the early 1900s. My great-grandfather moved to Kenya by steamboat because of the British Empire in India. He then moved around the late 1920s from India to Kenya. My great-grandmother moved around the mid-1930s.

The steamship took between 3 to 6 weeks one way to travel. The journey was very risky due to the high chance of getting sick, and it causing death. It was also not comfortable as they slept on benches and floors of the boat.

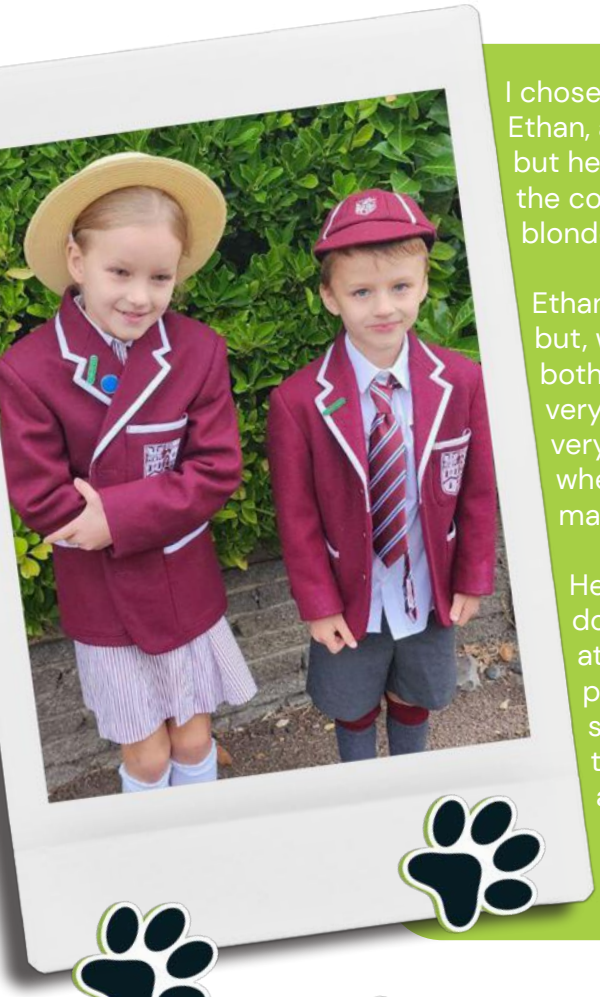
When I was about 4 or 5 years old my dad and I went to the Roald Dahl museum in Great Missenden, where we discovered that he was in the Royal Airforce in Nairobi at the same time my great-grandfather was there. Therefore, it is very likely that Roald Dahl wore shoes made by my great-grandfather and I think that is very cool.





My grandfather then migrated to England during Kenya's independence. This was because it was becoming unsafe for them, and the citizens had a choice between keeping their British passport or changing it to a Kenyan one. When they moved here they settled in London, Birmingham and Leicester.

by Vedh S, Year 4



I chose to write about my brother, his name is Ethan, and he is six. He was born in England, but he is ethnically East European. He likes the colours gold, silver, and blue. His hair is blonde, and his eyes are turquoise.

Ethan likes to play with me most of the time but, when I do my homework, he doesn't bother me at all - I like it that way! He is very friendly and easy-going. Ethan is a very kind and caring person. Sometimes, when I'm upset, he hugs me and tries to make me smile.

He also loves animals. His favourites are cats and dogs. Ethan really wants to be as good as he can at running and other games he enjoys, so he keeps practising. He knows that if he wants to achieve something, he needs to take steps towards it by training and practising. I think his determination is amazing and inspiring. My brother is awesome!

by Veronica G, Year 4





My uncle's favourite food is sushi because he lived in Japan for 18 years.

My uncle's favourite event is New Year because, on this day in Japan, they got money.

My uncle likes Christmas more than Halloween because you can get presents and watch movies.

by Ryo Y, Year 3



This is me with Guido, who was my step-father.

Guido was born in 1950 in a small village in Italy called Sant'Apollinare. When he was 8 years old, his family moved to the UK and, when he started school in England, he did not speak a single word of English. In those days, there was no support for children who did not speak English and Guido was expected to keep up and learn. He regularly got into trouble for writing the number 7 with the line through the middle. Whilst he was never academic (and in later life there were suspicions that he might actually have been dyslexic), Guido was extremely resilient and he soon learnt to speak, read and write English.

Guido was inspirational in my life for so many reasons...

He came into my life when I was 7 years old and married my mum when I was 11. My birth father had very little to do with my brother and I so Guido was our dad. He took us on as his own children, loved us, cared for us, protected us.

]He taught my mum (and us) to cook the most amazing Italian food. It is still, without doubt, my favourite type of food.

After working as a painter and decorator for our local council, he decided to become a self-employed builder. His high standards, his extremely strong work ethic and his attention to the tiniest of details meant that he created and sustained a highly successful business. He never had to advertise or worry about a lack of jobs because his high standards meant happy customers and lots of recommendations. My brother went to work with him and the same high standards and work ethic have been ingrained into him. He now also runs his own business.

When we were growing up, Guido took us out to his family in Italy almost every year for the summer holidays. These times in Italy are some of my fondest memories: collecting snails for dinner after a heavy rainfall, visiting Rome and Pompeii, watching my step-grandfather build a temporary swimming pool for us children, taking food to the town 'forno' to be cooked because my family's chalet near the beach didn't have an oven in those days, eating the most astounding, enormous pizzas, learning to ride a moped, eating mussels for the first time, going to several Italian weddings that went on for hours and involved at least 10 courses of food...the list goes on.

Guido used to 'rescue' my brother and I if we'd misbehaved and made our mum angry. He was the protector and the peacemaker.

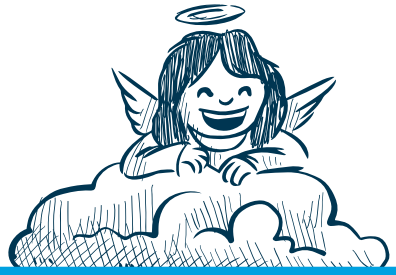


He loved animals and often came home with some waif or stray creature from rabbits to parakeets, doves and even a grass snake (which I didn't thank him for).

He used to come out to pick us up from nights out or to help us fix our cars when they broke down. He was there for us, always.

Guido was a quiet, ordinary man but was kind, gentle and loving and he was, without any doubt, extraordinary to me. He died 20 years ago and I miss him every day.

by Mrs Willett, KS2 Teaching Assistant





My auntie Rachel was born on 12 August 1990. She was a kind, strong and brave person, always putting a smile on everyone's face, with her funny personality and big blue eyes. Sadly, she got diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer at the age of 19, it was a tough time for my family but Rachel always had a smile on her face and was fighting hard to overcome cancer. That smile got even bigger when she was told that she was cancer-free and her life continued by going on various holidays with my parents, her fiancé, friends and she carried on living her life to the fullest.



At the age of 23 she got re-diagnosed with cancer, this time it was a rare and aggressive cancer called Sarcoma. She went through intense rounds of chemotherapy and had three quarters of her lung removed in order to beat the disease. My family and I have done lots of fundraising events to raise money for Sarcoma UK.



Rachel fought as hard as she could and always so remained positive, which I really admire, but sadly her battle ended on 30 March 2014, at the age of 23. I am so glad I got to meet Rachel, even though I was only a tiny baby when she passed away. My Mum said that Rachel was so looking forward to being an Auntie and meeting me, so much so that my middle name is Rachel.



Rachel is always watching down on us. We know this as, when my siblings Freddy and Elsie were born, they both had stork marks in the middle of their eyebrows. My mum did some research and found out that it meant that they had been 'kissed by an angel' and when my brother was born the midwives were called 'Rachel' and 'Love'.





Rachel will always be so special to me.

by Megan T, Year 6





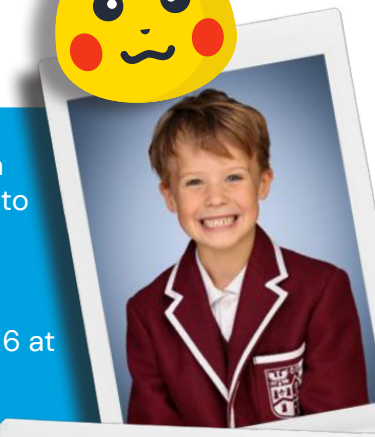
This is a picture of me and my cousin Archie.

I introduced Archie to Pokemon by giving him some of my trading cards. I showed him how to make good trades, and now he has a big collection of cards in a folder. Archie had a Pokemon-themed party, with lots of yummy pizza, some had Nutella on top. Archie turned 6 at his party.

When I go round his house, I teach him how to get better at football. He is decent at football and he gets better bit by bit and now he's so good, he has joined a team.

I also got Archie two football kits for his birthday, and a massive Pikachu squish-mellow. Archie lives opposite me, so when I get home from school I do my homework then go round his house to play football with him.

Archie is like a brother to me as I see him so often. I never forget his cheeky face.





by Freddy T, Year 4









This is a picture of my Greek grandad, Papa, and I on a bus leaving the Natural History Museum.

He was born on 12th October 1931 in a village high in the mountains in Kampos, Cyprus.

He came to England to study in his twenties, when he met my Greek grandma, Yaya. They settled in London and had a family. My grandad teaches me Greek and takes me out to places to learn new things, like going to museums and galleries.

by Leo P, Year 6





My Nana's Story

I think it's important to celebrate Black History Month because from the time of slavery, Jamaicans have been resilient and strong.

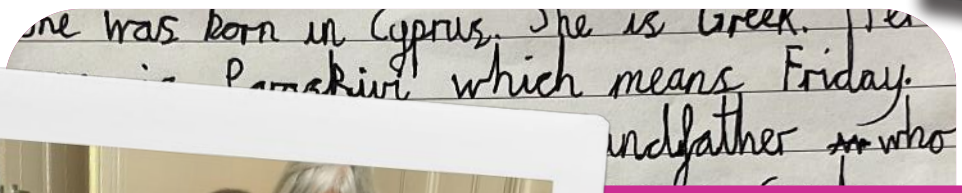
Black History Month allows Jamaicans living in England to tell their own stories.

Jamaicans were happy to travel to England on the Windrush Ship to help to rebuild the country after World War 2.

Nurses, bus drivers, miners, teachers all did their part to make England a better country. Jamaicans also brought tasty foods to England to share.

by Xanthe H, Year 4







This is my grandmother and me. She is Greek and was born in Cyprus. Her name is Paraskiui, which means Friday. She was married to my grandfather who was called Kyriaros, which means Sunday. I call her Yia Yia. She was born in 1939. Yia Yia is 79 years old and she will be 80 in January. She was a dressmaker and had nine siblings. She came to England in the 1960's by aeroplane.

She had so many siblings that some of them had to sleep on the floor! She was 17 when she came to England. Yia Yia learned how to speak English by listening to the radio and watching television. She was the first to travel by aeroplane in her family. Before that, everyone travelled by boat.

by Alexandra P, Year 3





Sohen Singh Takher was born in part of Pakistan which is now in India, on 12th March 1928. He lived at the time when the British empire divided India and Pakistan apart. It was horrible. Muslims were capturing Sikhs (Sohen was a Sikh) and either killed them or cut off all their hair. Feeling scared, he and his family fled like many other Sikhs and entered India, to start a new life.

Sohen became a soldier in the Indian army when he joined in 1958. First, he was the head of the catering team but, in 1965 he was told to be a signaller for the war of India against Pakistan. He fought hard and retired from the army in 1975. According to my Mum he gave the best hugs! He sadly passed away in 2016 at the age of 85, but he will never be forgotten.





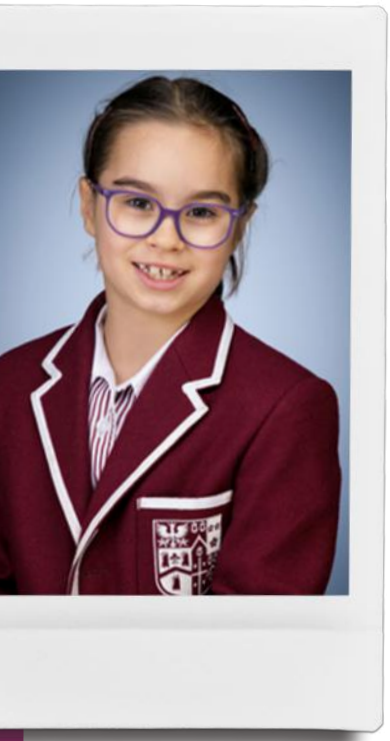
ਅਸੀਂ ਉਸਨੂੰਹਮਸੇਾ ਯਾਦ ਰਖੱਾਂਗੇ
ASĪṂ USANŪ HAMĒŚĀ YĀDA RAKHĀṄGĒ
We will always remember him

by Krishan C, Year 6



My nan used to work three jobs for her family. She had many brothers and sisters and her parents were very, very strict. All they wanted was to help my nan. She is a very loving person and I couldn't have a better Nan. She is from Indonesia and has an astonishing house. Also, she makes amazing Indian food.

by Vivaan B, Year 6









Our mum has a business called Elizabeth Ash Interiors. She is known for transforming houses into homes and has been recognised by many people. She also has a studio and likes taking pictures.

by Nichelle & Naomi A, Year 6





This is my Mum's brother, my uncle. His name is Brinder Singh Dhillon. He is a Politician for the Congress party in India.



What is he doing?

He is protesting against the Modi government. He wants the government to take back the new farmer's laws which are really bad for the farmers. Indian farmers will not earn good money and their profit will go to bad people.



by Anaa

Police didn't want him to keep marching forward. They did not want him to protest against the government because then Modi will look bad.



Why did police spray water on him?



Why did the police take him to jail?

They wanted to stop him from protesting but he kept protesting and didn't give up.



Why is he shouting "We'll never give up" ?

He was telling the police and government that they couldn't stop him from protesting and that he isn't scared to do the right thing.



Why did the police release him ?

Police could not find anything bad or wrong against him. He is an honest man who was protesting against farmer laws.



Why does he think we should never give up?

He says that if you know that you are doing the right thing, then have faith in yourself and keep going. Never give up on what you believe.



ahath S Year 3

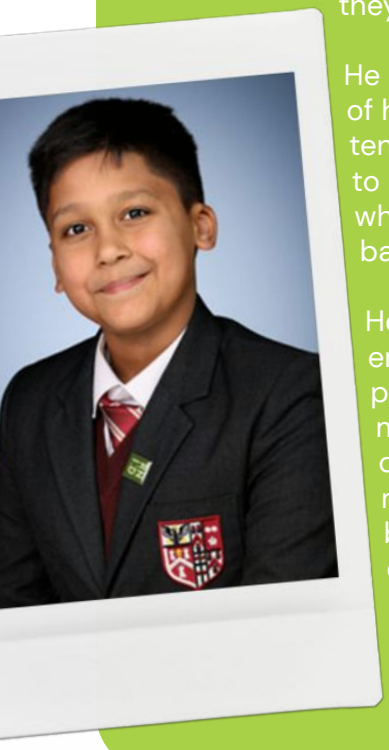
For this project I have chosen to interview Devendra Jain, my Nanu (maternal Grandfather) as he has done some amazing things during his life.

Here are some interesting facts about him...

He was born in New Delhi, and grew up in Delh, capital of India, in a family of 7 brothers and 3 sisters with a twenty year gap between the oldest and youngest. I find this almost impossible as I can barely spend 2 minutes with my sister without getting into a fight!

He worked in the Atomic Energy department in India during his career and loves to help out his son, in my Uncles' shop.

He loves being active whatever the weather, whether that's taking a stroll around his apartment complex or jogging behind me when I cycle through busy streets of Mumbai, one of the major cities in India. It is also the city where they currently live.



He is always ready to be active and some of his favourite sports are badminton, tennis and cricket, though he always likes to play football and table tennis with me when I come over. He also tried to teach badminton but I couldn't get the hang of it.





He loves gardening and is in many environmental groups dedicated to preserving India's natural beauty. He managed to stop some people trying to destroy a lake that had been attracting migrating flamingos for centuries. He has been on the news before for his work in environmental groups.

by Aarav G, Year 6





My Dad is Roshan Ram and he was b
lots of things including having a chil
boss of his team.

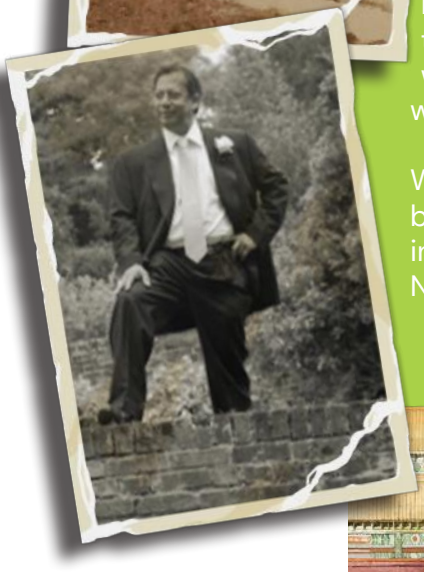
My Dad also helped get the Chase C

He worked in three different countri
working at JP Morgan for around 18 y









My Grandad's story

My grandad, Richard, was born in Fiji. He had five siblings, three boys (including him) and three girls. He was the second oldest out of all of them after his older sister. At the age of 16, he travelled to New Zealand to be in the National Service. He then came back Fiji at the age of 17, to find out his dad and brother had already moved to England. He decided he was quite bored in Fiji, even though it was beautiful and he was missing his family, so he travelled to England.

Fiji is far away, but guess what... he travelled by boat, which took him six whole weeks, and every morning he woke up looking out of his window thinking "Oh, more sea!"

When he finally arrived in England, he got a job at a McVities biscuit factory controlling how much sugar and other ingredients went into the biscuits. He later got a job at Natwest Bank, where he met my nanny.







by Charlotte M, Year 5



born and grew up in India. He has also achieved
d, working at JP Morgan Chase and being the

Card working and is looking for ways to improve it.

es, the UK, India and Singapore. Dad has been
years.

by Kiara R, Year 6

My interview with Nana



What was it like living in war?
I didn't know much about it and the time it ended I was 4.

What changes have you seen?
Innocent people were executed but now there have been new discoveries or similar - we can use DNA to find real criminals.

What did your house look like?
Two houses together made of bricks.

Did you have a favourite toy?
No because there was no toys to buy except things for war.

What were your parents like?
Lovely and caring.

How did you handle stress?
I didn't have any stress or have memories of having stress.

What was school life like?
It was ok and lovely enough for a school built after war.

What was your happiest memory?
I was happy when my daughter got married.

Which invention were you most amazed by?
Electricity.

What was favourite outfit?
I liked casual clothes like trousers, cardigan and a top.

by Wynter B, Year 5







My grandpa, Jean-Paul Martin (my Dad's father), was born in Vichy, France on 14 November 1947. His father was a pharmacist, who owned a pharmacy in the town and he expected Grandpa to become a pharmacist too when he grew up.

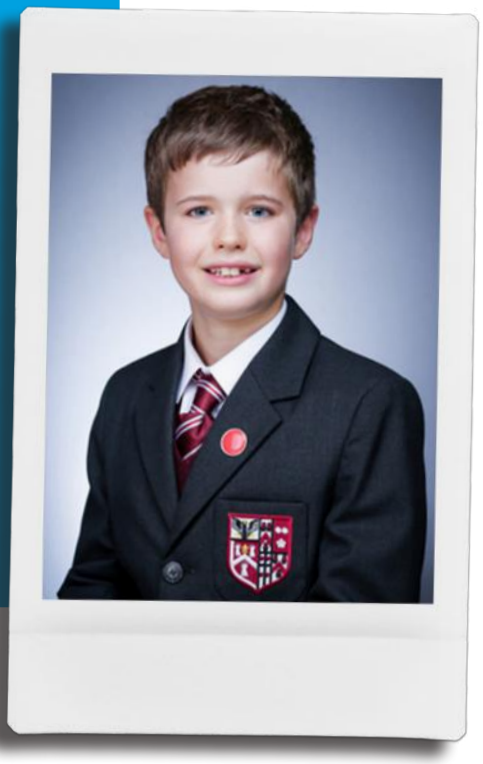
Grandpa went to university to study pharmacy. When his father died suddenly, he took over the pharmacy when he was still a young man. Grandpa had many ideas and wanted to invent new medicines so he bought a laboratory to experiment and create in.

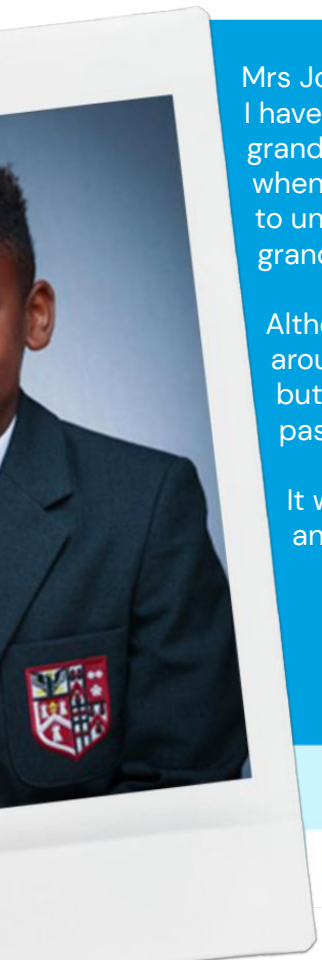


Over his career, he invented several new medicines which include Broncatiole, which is still one of the main children's cough medicines used in France today.

When my dad was a child, Grandpa used him as a taste tester to choose if he should use banana or strawberry flavouring and my dad chose banana for the medicine.

by Elliot M, Year 6



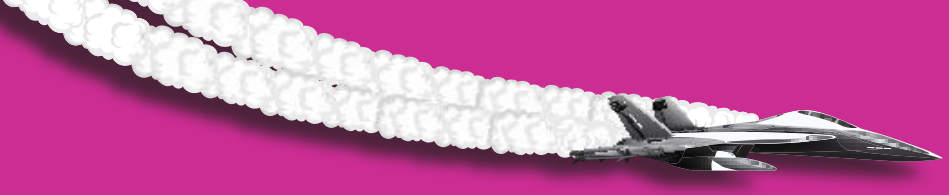


Mrs Joyce Mathe, known as Gogo, was a very loving person. She was one of 10 siblings and I have always looked up to her because she was a hard worker. She was a loving wife to my grandpa, Mr Henry Mathe Likando. She always made sure that her family was happy, even when they where adults. Although, my grandmother sacrificed her career. She did not go to university but all her children went to university and they have great jobs. She had 16 grandchildren who she loved very much.

Although my grandmother never travelled when she was younger, she was able to travel around the world to visit her children and her grandchildren. Her first trip was to the UK but she also travelled to Malaysia, Bali and Australia. She was born in 1953 and sadly passed away in 2022.

It was really sad because her mum was at her funeral and her mum is still alive. I love and miss her very much and I hope to achieve at least half of what she achieved.

by Immanuel L, Year 6



My Grandad

I know that my grandad had an amazing past when he was younger, so here we go...

Is it true you worked for the Royal Air Force a long time ago?

Yes, I did.

How old were you when you joined the Royal Air Force?

20 years old.

Why did you want to join the Royal Air Force and what was it like?

When I left school I wanted to join the army but my parents would not allow me to go. I had to do an apprenticeship when I finished but there were no jobs, so I joined the RAF.

What type of jobs were there in the Royal Air Force?

Car mechanic to an aircraft mechanic, electrician to radio operator.

What job did you have in the Royal Air Force and what did you have to do?

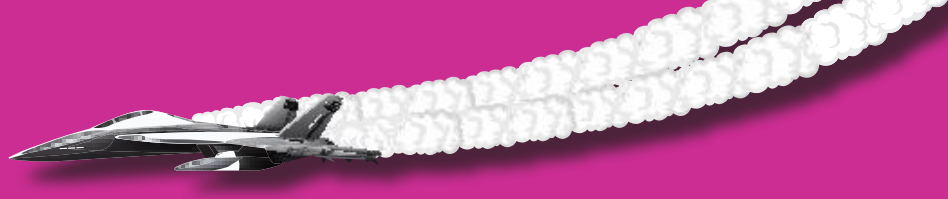
I wanted to become a dog handler in the police but there were no vacancies, so I completed a course and did tactical communications. I did 2 different types of work. The first one was working in the field and the second was working in air traffic control. When working in the field we were once living in a forest with a clearing where the harrier jump jets landed.

Have you been in a battle before and did you win?

Not a battle but when I was in Cyprus, I was walking with a friend when terrorists attacked a police car. We were in the middle of the fight but managed to escape uninjured.







Have you ever been sent away and how long did you have to stay there for?

I spent time in Newfoundland, Canada. We were based there for 3 weeks. I also went to Malta for 6 weeks, then was posted to Cyprus for 2 years and 6 months. When I was doing field work, I had approx 18 different addresses in 12 months.

If you were sent away would you miss your family?

Yes, I would.

What type of machines did you use?

The radio equipment I used varied and I can not remember the names but I worked with various squadrons that use aircrafts such as hercules transport, nimrods (which were spy aircraftS) and buccaneers fighter planes.

Did you make any friends at your work?

I made many friends but as we all moved around to different places I lost contact with them.

What is one of the most memorable things in your career?

Whilst I was serving in Cyprus I came home for 6 days and got married in Chelmsford, Essex to your Nanny, Sandra. Nanny Sandra joined me in Cyprus but the Turkish invaded Cyprus in 1974. Nanny Sandra had to leave and I followed 6 months later.

I have learnt more about my grandad asking him these questions. There was a lot of interesting stuff that they did in the Royal Air Force.

I sure had fun interviewing him.



by Liliana F Year 4

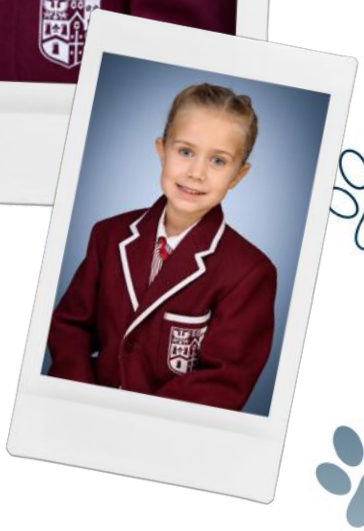
My nan is a brilliant role model. She cares about dogs and looks after them really well. She has been by my side ever since I was born and has done that with Emily, my younger sister.

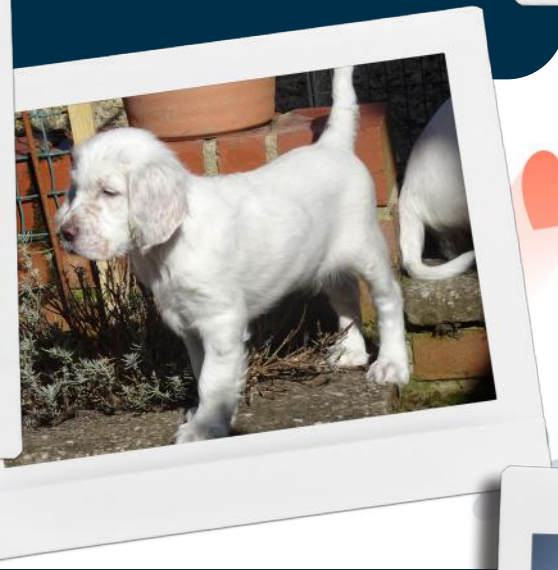
In the past, she has had 5 dogs which have been English Setters. They were called Lucy, Phoebe, Margot, Rose and Freddie. Now she has another Setter called Eric. He is 3 months old and is a friendly pup. I love him so much.

by Jessica A, Year 6





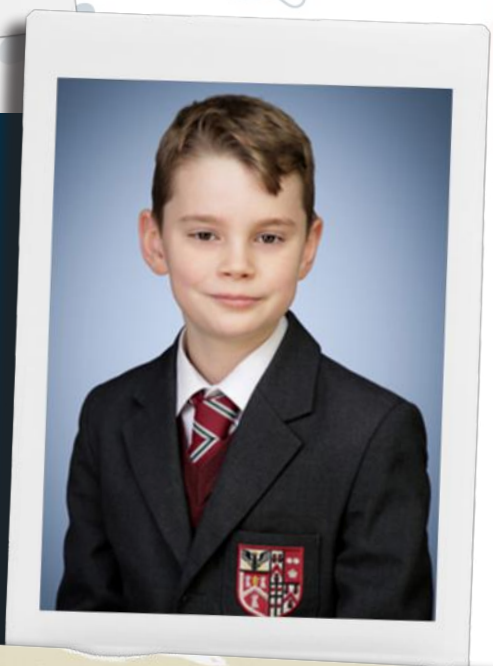




Herbert William Osborne (aka Bert) was the captain of Leigh United Football Club in 1933, and he was my great-grandfather. He also joined the Navy in World War 2. The building that the photo was taken in is still there today, and it is part of the Crooked Billet pub in Old Leigh. He was the owner of the Renown that blew up in Operation Dynamo in Dunkirk. He also survived the war.

Frank Osborne was the skipper of the Renown, captain of a small boat and was killed in the explosion. He was also Herbert's brother.

Lukie Osborne, whose real name was Leslie, was the son of Frank Osborne and was also killed in the same explosion.





Harry Meddle was Herbert's cousin, and even though I don't quite know how he died, I know he didn't die on the Renown.

George Osborne was in the same family, and he survived the war.

They don't really inspire me, but during Remebrance, we celebrate people who fell in the war. They are also famous in Leigh-On-Sea, and there's a memorial for them.

by Finley H, Year 5



The way back to Gogo

My mother was Zimbabwean and despite living in the UK on and off since she was 18 she always maintained a mild twang in her accent. As a child, I couldn't detect this twang and it wasn't until my friends remarked on how funny my mum sounded on the phone that I noticed it. To me, she just sounded like Mum.



Gogo and my mother at Gogo's home in Bulawayo.

I have many fond memories of travelling to Zimbabwe to spend time with my grandfather, uncle and cousins. My grandfather had gained the nickname "Gogo" as a young man, which is the Zulu for grandmother, he would become fond of this teasing nickname and retain it his whole life. Gogo was resourceful and didn't see the point in spending money when you could build or repurpose something. So in order to entertain his grandchildren, my two cousins, who lived in Zimbabwe, my brother and I, when we visited, Gogo built the 'Gogo Mobile' – a pram chassis with a large wooden tray nailed in and painted blue. With one of us sitting inside it and being pushed by one or two others, you could get up a great speed across Gogo's dry, rocky garden. My Father would test Gogo's workmanship by pushing both my brother and I together as fast as he possibly could. My mum couldn't watch as she was certain one of us would end up being hurled from the Gogo Mobile and have to be admitted to a Bulawayo hospital.



Mrs Goodfellow and brother Nick in the Gogo Mobile at Gogo's house with Gogo in the background.

I explained to the Prep pupils in one of my assemblies how visits to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins stand out in all my reminiscing. The Great Zimbabwe Ruin is a sprawling stone city set amongst green hills and golden grassy plains. It was probably a thriving community and a major trade and travel hub between the 11th and 15th centuries. It is believed that the people who built these incredible stone structures were part of the Shona culture. Gogo and my mother would talk in dramatic, hushed voices about the many theories of Great Zimbabwe and the mysterious symbolism of the bird sculptures found on its walls. These birds have become synonymous with Zimbabwe and the image can now be seen on the Zimbabwean flag and currency. They were carved out of soapstone, with each bird perched on top of a column.



Mrs Goodfellow at Great Zim Ruins.

Amongst the speculation of the symbolism of these birds is the theory that they were a spiritual emblem that represented the connection between the living and their ancestors – a way to bring closer the earthly realm to the spiritual world. I was able to show the Prep pupils the little carved soapstone Zimbabwean bird that my mum gave me on a trip to a museum with Gogo. I have treasured it for over 30 years and now that both Gogo and Mum have died, it carries even more meaning. It's a way to feel closer to them both. With the weight of it in my hand and my eyes closed I can almost hear Gogo and Mum's voices in the distance sitting on the verandah talking long into the evening.



by Mrs Goodfellow, Head of Prep

My Family
by Alice E, Year 5

Name: Alice (me!)
Age: 9
Hobbies: Drawing & iPad
Favourite Colour: Rose gold
Favourite Animal: Rabbit
School Year: Year 5

Name: Aurelia, my cousin
Age: 6 (nearly 7)
Hobbies: Swimming & horses
Favourite Colour: Pink
Favourite Animal: Capybara
School Year: Year 2

Name: George, my brother
Age: 11
Hobbies: Switch & darts
Favourite Colour: Yellow
Favourite Animal: Mandrill monkey
School Year: Year 7





Name: Lily, my cousin
Age: 4
Hobbies: Swimming & ballet
Favourite Colour: Pink
Favourite Animal: Rabbit
School Year: Reception

Name: Henry, my cousin
Age: 6
Hobbies: Football & Swimming
Favourite Colour: Yellow
Favourite Animal: Elephant
School Year: Year 2

Name: Tamalie, my cousin
Age: 2
Hobbies: Colouring
Favourite Colour: Yellow
Favourite Animal: Hippo
School Year: Foundation next year



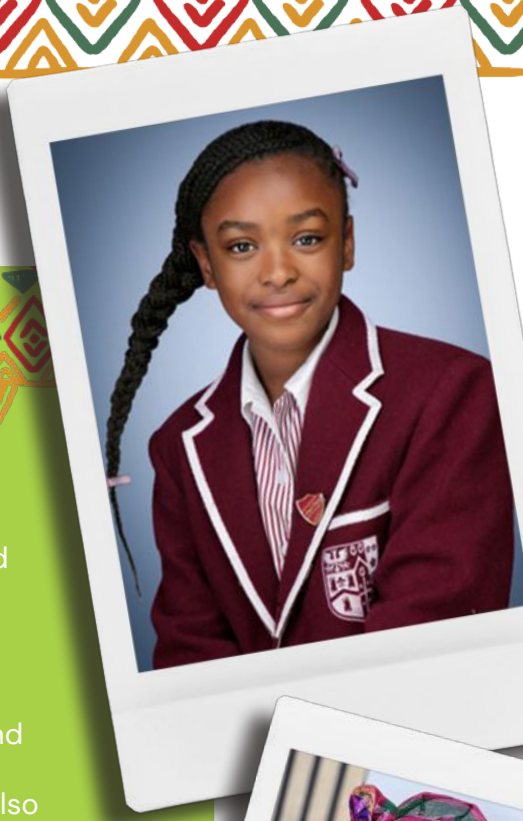
















My Nigerian Culture

My mum is from Abia state and my dad is from Imo state in Nigeria.

My mum is known as 'Nwunye Odogwu' in the Igbo culture, and she is a nurse. The attire she is wearing is very vibrant which also demonstrates how the Igbo women dress in the Eastern part of Nigeria.

A gele is also known as a hair tie made out of a wrapper and it is traditionally worn at ceremonies in the Igbo culture.

The costume is worn at social events made from an Asoebi ('family cloth') and is a basic wrapper that can be designed and tailored into a custom style. This style is common around the Eastern part of Nigeria which is the Igbo culture.

by Kristine I, Year 5









Biography of our Grandfather

In loving memory of our Nana and our late Nani.

Our grandfather, Mr Prithvi Raj, was born on 15th January 1939 in India prior to the partition of India. He was part of a large family with three brothers and three sisters. He lived in an apartment of three bedrooms and one bathroom. He used to share his bedroom with his older brother. They were a close-knit family and regularly visited their Grandparents.

His parents were very loving and polite but his father was stricter than his mother. His most vivid memory was when he was rude to his grandma and got a good telling off! His mother was a housewife and his father was a stockbroker working at the Stock Exchange.

Our grandfather was a quiet and respectful boy who was always reserved. He had little in the way of friends and enjoyed going for walks and playing hockey, cricket and football. He used to play hide and seek with his siblings and often resorted to hiding under the bed. As it was so hot, they wore shorts and light cotton t-shirts indoors and outside.

He was very intelligent in his studies and devoted all his time to this and had no other jobs outside of school. He was always top of his class! His favourite subject was Arithmetic and his least favourite was English. His favourite teacher was the Maths teacher because he was strict about homework and discipline. Grandpa used to study under kerosene oil lamps at night.

They used to sometimes travel to other parts of India where they had family such as aunties, uncles and grandparents. They never left India until the partition happened and they had to leave when the country was divided. Holidays were often spent climbing and playing with the numerous trees that surrounded the flat.

Our most famous festival in the Hindu tradition is Diwali, the festival of lights and colour. They would light candles outside the home, distribute Indian sweets to friends and relatives and offer prayers. This day is the equivalent of our New Year and the whole community would rejoice with fireworks.

Grandpa's most memorable toy was a wooden horse that he was gifted for his birthday with a swinging base. This was colourful and he shared it with his siblings.

He distinctly remembers the partition of India when the country became divided. He had to leave his cherished home and move to another part of the country. He recalls his father moving from place to place to make arrangements for them to stay somewhere until they found a permanent home.

He also remembers the invention of the radio and how fascinated they were that they were able to listen to the news, music and sports.

He was not allowed to go anywhere after school and a servant would collect them to take them home. He did get into trouble a few times when older when he did not inform his parents that he was going to be late. They were never allowed to answer back or explain; keeping quiet was the key!

Grandpa won a scholarship and studied mechanical engineering at Benares University. He worked as an engineer and travelled abroad to Italy, America and the UK where he eventually made his home.

During his youth, Grandpa was not allowed to choose his future bride. His parents would arrange the marriage through friends and chose the person they felt was most suitable. He didn't even get to see his wife before marrying her, but she was beautiful and had an Arts degree. They married on 21st November 1965. Together in the UK, they set up a successful clothing business with showrooms in Carnaby Street and Fulham, in London.

They had two daughters, Gayatri and Lakshmi, which are the names of two Hindu goddesses. My mother, Lakshmi, was five years younger than my Aunt. Both my Aunt and Grandfather live in Ealing and my Grandmother passed away on 17th July 2018.

Our grandfather considers himself lucky to have been born into a loving and privileged family and misses the good old days when life was carefree. All three of his brothers have passed away and his three younger sisters are still in India.

He said:

"I feel blessed to have two grandsons, Jai and Veer who are the apple of my eye and have filled my life with joy and laughter. Their cheeky smiles, Veer's love of styling his hair like a punk, their fights and their ability to speak their mind is a sharp contrast to how I was raised. I have learnt from the importance of allowing children to express themselves and accept change."

by Veer and Jai A, Year 3 & Year 8









Interviews with my family, by Prince M, Year 3



My Mummy

How old are you?
Darling, you don't ask a woman her age!

What's your favourite colour?
I don't think I have one favourite colour - I like gold, royal blue, dark green and burgundy.

What are your hobbies?
My hobbies are travelling, photography, watching films or theatre shows, cooking and reading novels.

What's your favourite ice cream flavour?
I can't make up my mind between cookie dough and rum and raisin.

What's your favourite food and/or type of food?
I enjoy trying out new foods - but if I had to pick it would be Pilau or Chapati.

What's your favourite thing to do in your spare time?
I like listening to music, reading, watching a movie or TV series when indoors, watching nature and people watching, when out and about

What's your favourite game?
I think I will like playing Kirby once I can learn how to coordinate my fingers fast enough.

What's your favourite drink?
I like coco pine - it's the best mix of my favourite juices.

What's your favourite animal?
My favourite animal is a Parrot.

What's your favourite pet?
It's been a while since I kept a pet but when I did it was a cat.

What's your favourite subject?
My favourite subjects in school were English and Geography.

My sister, Princ

How old are you?

What's your favourite colou
I don't have a favourite colour s
5 not in order - baby pink,
whipped cream white, navy

What are your hobbies?
My hobbies are singing, acting, p

What's your favourite ice cr
My favourite ice cream fla
chocolate chip or vanilla be

What's your favourite food
food?
I don't have a favourite food bu
hea

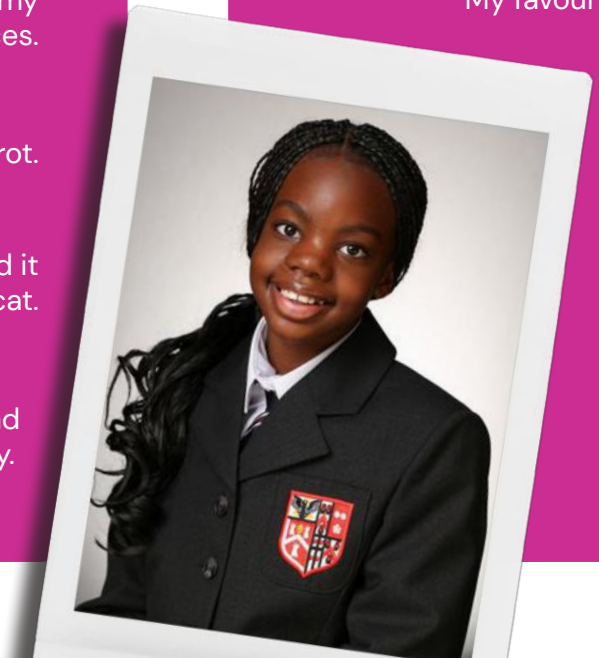
What's your favourite thing
spare time?
I love to sing, dance, run, readir
to musi

What's your favourite drink
I like baja blast from Taco B

What's your favourite anima
My favourite animal h

What's
pet?
My f
be a

What's yo
subject?
My favo
Drama,





My Daddy

How old are you?

Old enough to be your Dad!

What's your favourite colour?

Blue

What are your hobbies?

Football, travelling and reading

What's your favourite ice cream flavour?

Vanilla

What's your favourite food and/or type of food?

Jollof Rice and beef

What's your favourite thing to do in your spare time?

Watch the news and football

What's your favourite drink?

My favourite drink is Coca-Cola.

What's your favourite animal?

My favourite animal is a lion.

What's your favourite pet?

I don't like pets but would like a goldfish.

What's your favourite subject?

My favourite subject in school was English literature.





The Yoruba culture

The Yoruba culture is part of South Western Nigeria.

Native Languages & Ethnicity

There are over 525 native languages spoken in Nigeria. The official language and most widely spoken lingua Franca is English.

Nigeria has 3 major languages which is "Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa". There are approximately 371 tribes in Nigeria across 250 ethnic groups.

My family

We are from south western part of Nigeria, Osun State to be precise. We speak Yoruba language and that's our ethnicity.

What do Yoruba females wear?

The female garments are styled into four pieces of Iro (wrapper), buba (blouse) and ipele (shawl) with the gele accessory (headgear) made from Aso-Oke native wears.

What do Yoruba males wear?

The male wears an agbada (robe), buba and dansiki (baggy shirts), sokoto (trouser) and fila (cap accessory) with Aso-Oke materials.

Our food

Moin moin - A classic steamed pudding made from ground brown beans, onions, sweet red peppers and sometimes eggs and fish.

Akara - Fried bean cakes that are popular for breakfast.

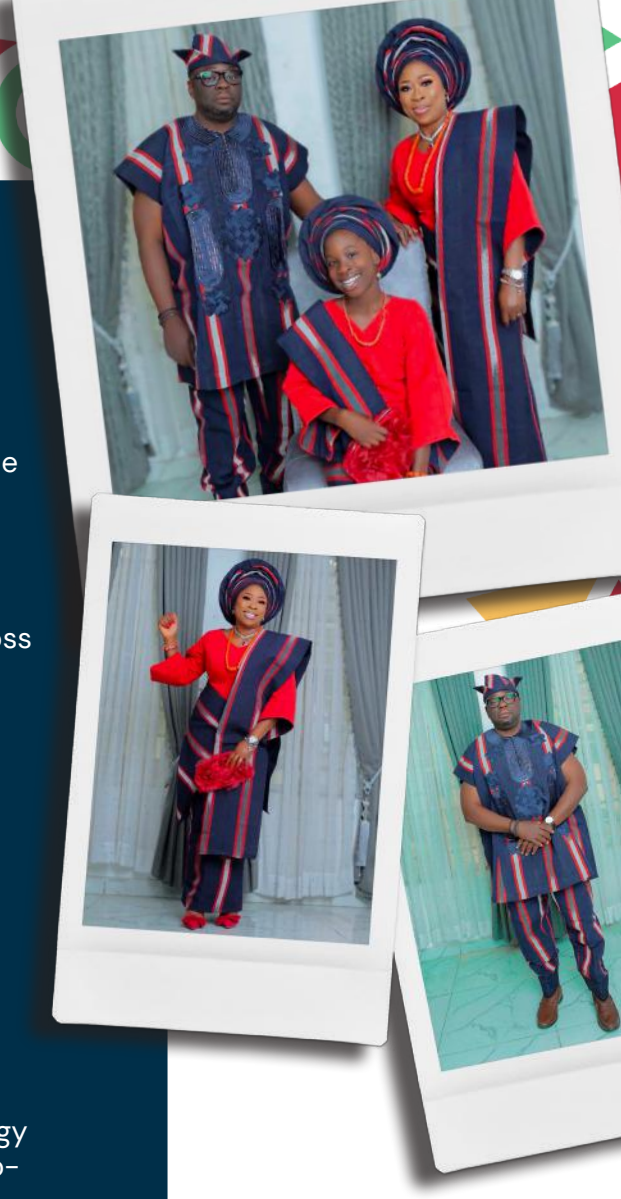
Efo riro - A spinach stew that is popular in the southwestern part of Nigeria.

Amala and Gberi with Ewedu - A solid meal made from yam flour with purée soup made from peeled beans usually black-eyed peas or Nigerian honey beans and jute leaf.

Ofada rice - An indigenous rice named after the ofada community in southwest Nigeria.

Egusi Soup - The national dish of the Yoruba people, made from ground melon seed and bitter leaves.

by Anu O, Year 5







Many of my early memories are of Sunday visits to see my granny. When we arrived my sisters and I would usually spend some time in the garden. I always loved the autumn when we would rake up the leaves or climb up the tree to pick apples, which would then be carefully stored in the box room, giving off a sweet aroma whenever you entered.

While we were doing that, Granny would be preparing tea. She would butter the loaf first before cutting thin slices to have on our side plate and tea was always served in the best china cups and saucers. There would be a delicious homemade cake although her specialities were lemon meringue pie or buttery, crumbly fudge.

She often tested me on my spellings giving me a coin from the 'copper pot' for every word I got right. Back then, you could buy plenty of sweets with a few pennies!

At Christmas, we would always have to finish lunch (and the washing up) before sitting down to watch the Queen's seasonal message, after which we would open presents from under the tree. She would always carefully unwrap her gifts, smoothing out the paper and saving pieces of ribbon to be reused. She always took care not to waste anything, which taught me the importance of recycling and reusing.



She was born in 1904 and had five sisters and two brothers. Although her brothers died at a relatively young age, she and her sisters lived well into their 90's. This is a picture of her, with three of her sisters taken around 1910 in Bradford on Avon where she lived at the time.

I wish I had spent more time talking to her as she must have experienced so many developments and changes in her lifetime. Like me, she was a teacher but life in the classroom would have been very different for her. I often wonder what she would make of children working on iPads.

by Mrs Trowell, Deputy Head Pastoral


2025

My father is from Nigeria and came to the United Kingdom to study computer systems and networks at the University of Plymouth. He is currently working as a Chief Information Security Officer for a Specialised Services Group of Companies. He helps stop unauthorised access to each company's internal systems, so that their sensitive data is protected. He has helped many people in his time working in cybersecurity, including me.

My father is amazing in different ways, especially when he helped me use AI to build an astronomy website with a kid's quiz. He let me use his laptop, and I started building the website. I made lots of mistakes, but my dad helped me along the way.

Eventually, I presented the astronomy website to my teacher, Mr Blom, and I won a Head of Prep award. I couldn't have done it all without my dad and owe this achievement to him.

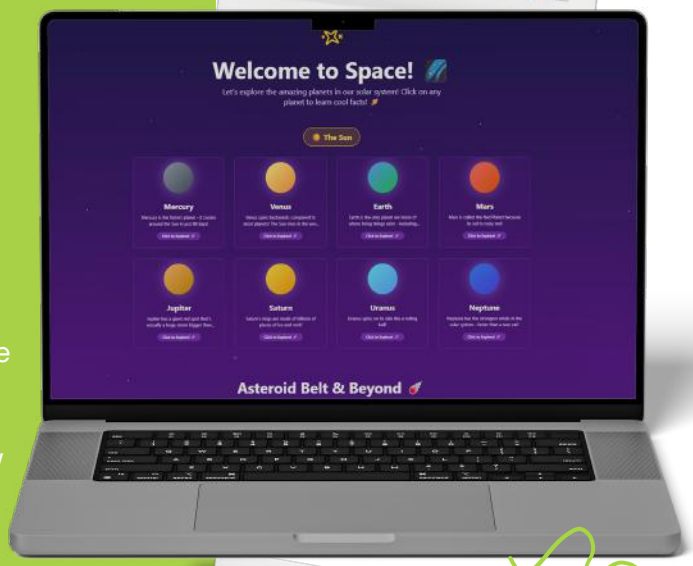
He is the nicest person I know, and he has inspired me to do many things and believe in myself.

I would like to be an Engineer or AI expert when I grow up, and he has agreed to sign me up for coding and AI classes, which I'm really looking forward to.

I would like to be more like him when I grow up.

by Tiwatoni O, Year 5







My grandad's name was Richard and he was born in Fiji.

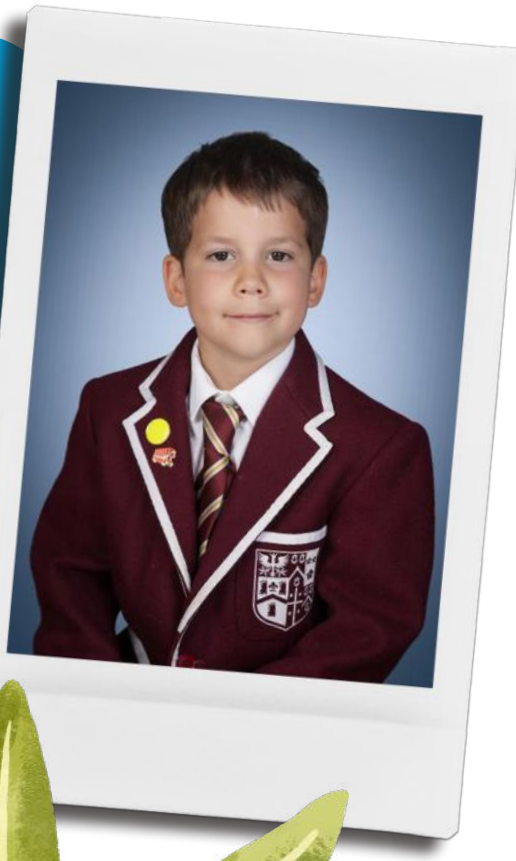
He moved to London when he was 18. Sadly, Richard died before I was born.

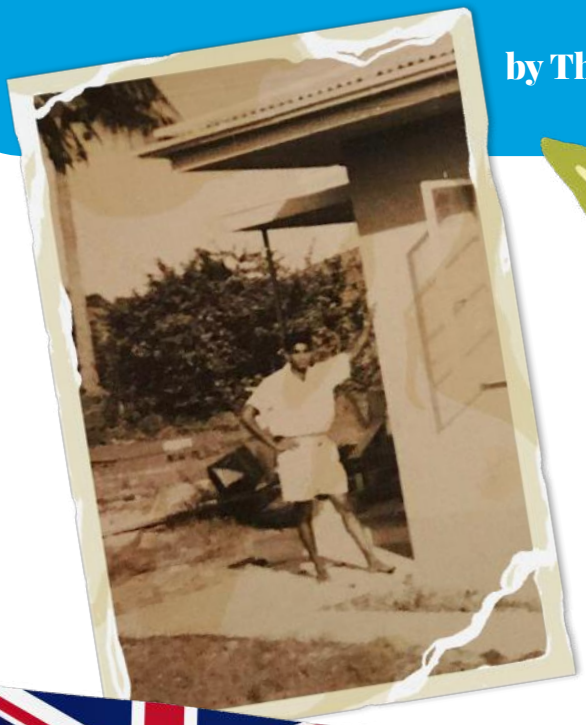
He was a very clever man.

Did you know?

- Fiji is 1500 – 1000 years old.
- There are 928,784 people that live in Fiji.
- There are more than 330 islands in Fiji.
- It takes 24 hours to fly to Fiji from London.
- Although Fiji has 28 airports, only 4 of them have paved runways.
- In my opinion...Fiji is the best country!

by Thomas M, Year 2







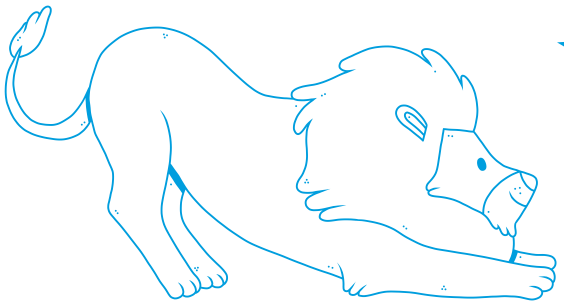




This is the Fijian flag. I'm going to describe the Fiji flag.

The Union Jack flag is on there because it used to be part of the British Empire.

It has a lion on it, a palm tree and bananas.





To add to my previous family story, and to add to my brothers story...

My Grandad's name was Richard Ramsey, but that wasn't the name that he was born with.

In 1963 he came from Fiji to the UK by ship. When he got to England things were difficult for him and his family.

Many people couldn't get a job or a house with names that were not Anglicised.

My Grandad Richard's birth name was Jagdishwar Singh, meaning Lord of the universe.

He and his family decided to change their names to make things easier. His name got changed to Richard, and their surname changed to Ramsey - a mix of my great grandfather's name Ram Singh...so it became Richard Ramsey!

by Charlotte M, Year 6





Updated Interviews with my parents, by Prince M, Year 4

	My Mum
Where are you from originally? Where did you grow up?	I'm from Kenya, East Africa. I grew up in Nairobi, a warm, welcoming city full of people from all over the world.
What languages do you speak?	I speak Kamba, Swahili, English, and a bit of French. Most Kenyans speak at least three languages — their tribe, Swahili, and English.
How do you say hello and goodbye in your language?	"Jambo" or "Habari" mean hello, "Sijambo" or "Mzuri" mean I'm fine. Young people say "Sasa" (hi) and reply "Fiti" (cool). "Asante" is thank you
What tribe are you from?	I'm from the Kamba tribe. Kenya has over 40 tribes, each with its own language and traditions, united by Swahili and the spirit of umoja (unity).
What traditional foods or music remind you of home?	Ugali, sukuma wiki, nyama choma, pilau, and chapati. We have a mixed variety of music from the various tribes and Swahili beats all full of rhythm – makes one dance!
What are some traditions or celebrations?	We celebrate Christmas, and Eid, Jamhuri Day (Independence Day) and Mashujaa Day (Heroes' Day), plus weddings and initiation ceremonies.
What values are most important?	Respect, kindness, hard work, unity, and peace. We believe "It takes a village to raise a child."
What makes you proud of your country?	The strength, warmth, and beauty of our people and land — from mountains to beaches to wildlife.
Who inspires you from your country?	Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
What makes your culture powerful or unique?	Our unity and spirit of harambee — pulling together to make things better.
How has your culture influenced the world?	Kenya is known for its athletes, safaris, food, and art, and for spreading the Swahili language.
What lessons or values do you want to pass on to us?	Always be kind, respectful, hardworking and believe in yourself and be proud of heritage.

My Dad

I'm from Nigeria, West Africa. I grew up in Lagos, a busy and beautiful city full of energy, music, and friendly people.

I speak English and Yoruba. Nigeria has many languages, but English is the main one that connects everyone. Many also speak Pidgin English.

In Yoruba, hello can be "Bawo ni" and goodbye is "O dàbọ." We also say "Ẹṣé" for thank you.

I'm from a mix of Yoruba and Edo tribes. Nigeria has over 250 tribes, each with its own language and traditions.

Jollof rice, pounded yam, okra and egusi soup, to name but a few. We have traditional music and Afrobeats — it's joyful and popular in most parts of the world.

We celebrate Christmas, Eid, local festivals, weddings, and naming ceremonies — always with food, music, and dancing.

Hard work, respect, family, honesty, and faith. Religion is a way of life and community matters most.

Our diverse culture, creativity, and resilience. Nigerians never give up — strong people outlast hard times.

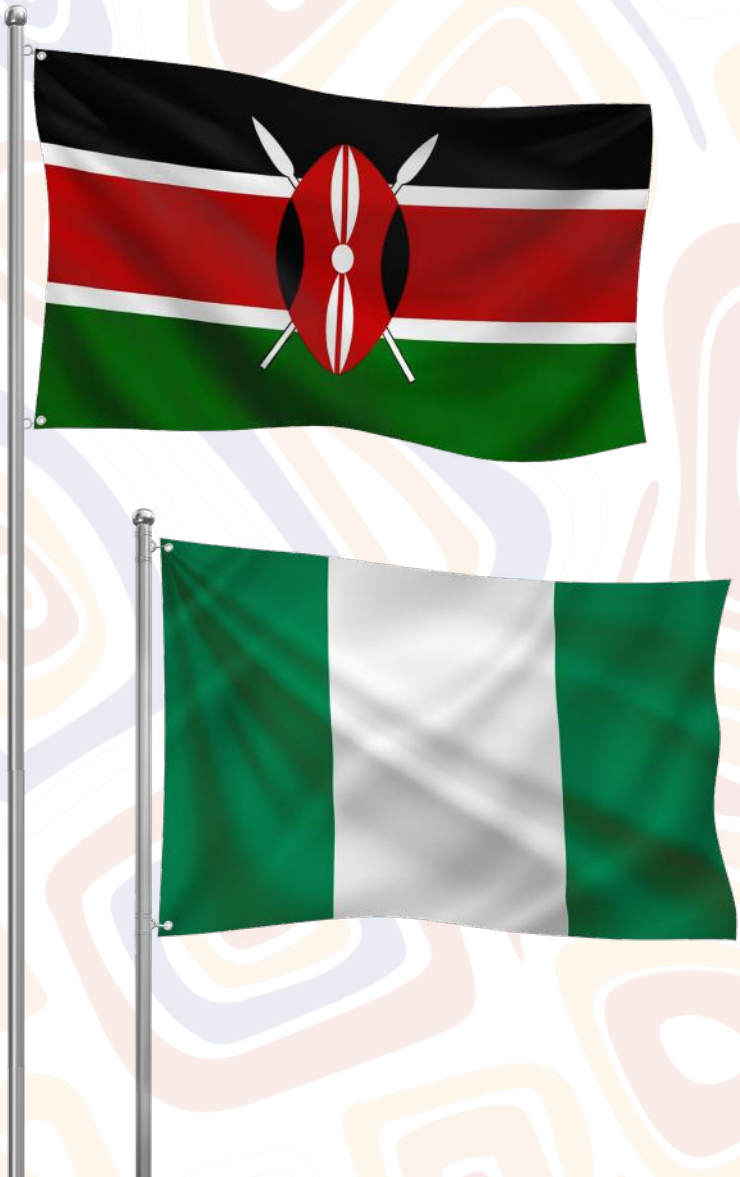
Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Wole Soyinka, who showed the world the power of African voices.

Our music, art, and storytelling — Nigerians always shine through challenges.

Nigeria's Afrobeats, fashion, and jollof rice are famous worldwide — our culture travels far!

Always respect others, work hard, and be proud of who you are. Never forget your roots — they make you strong.





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