



## HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

With only one week to go until half term, it's difficult to comprehend that the first part of the Spring term is nearly over. We are so impressed with our pupils' commitment and enthusiasm towards their remote learning and have some lovely examples of work to share this week. Earlier this week, we issued pupils with a questionnaire about how they're finding remote learning so far to see if there's anything we can improve. Could we ask that parents encourage their child to complete this if they haven't done so already as we'd like to ensure we have everyone's views.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe,

Lindsay Hamilton



## February Half-Term 2021 What's On

North Tyne Youth is extending its digital provision to offer some exciting sessions this February half-term! They're all **free** for young people, and suitable for ages 8 to 16. No special equipment is needed, just an internet connection, PC, laptop or tablet, and for the Pilates and Street Dance, some space to move.

Get in touch via email ([Lisa.Robinson@northtyneyouth.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Robinson@northtyneyouth.co.uk)), or text or call (07826 020949) to find out more, get hold of a Registration Form, and book on. And if you have any ideas for what activities you'd like to do online after half term (social media challenges, party nights, competitions), we're all ears...We can't wait to see you!

**TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup>**

**6.00-7.00pm: Pilates with Kat-wear comfortable clothes, fill your water bottle!**

**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup>**

**6.00-6.30pm: Street Dance with Molly-wear comfortable clothes, fill your water bottle!**

**7.00-8.30pm: Stargazers Dark Skies Week Special (with our space scientist)-get cosy!**



## Bubble breaks...

KS2 practised their cardboard (and pipe-cleaner) engineering skills to create colourful, character desk buddies.







## Remarkable Remote-Learning Round-up

Staff are always impressed with the quality of work submitted by our pupils, as well as the effort which goes into it! Here's a snippet from this week.



Year 6 were given the challenge of making a character from their current novel, *Street Child*, out of recycled materials.

Well done to Lucy (left) and Isabel (right) who both made an incredible 'Jim'!

Miss Taberham was thrilled with the effort Y8 had put into their research about author, Malorie Blackman, whose novel (*Noughts & Crosses*) they're currently reading. The level of detail and thought about organisation of text and presentation was fantastic. Below you can see wonderful examples from Lucy, Elena, Emily and Katie.

### Malorie Blackman

Insight to the inspiration

**Who is Malorie Blackman?**

Malorie Blackman is a 58-year-old author from Clapham Town, London. Both of her parents, Joe and Ruby, are from Barbados. Blackman is British. She held the role of Children's Laureate from 2013-2015.

During her position as the Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman helped set up the first ever literature convention. She also created a project for creative writing named Project Remix.

**Experiences**

Malorie Blackman wanted to be an English teacher when she was younger. She was also a good student, but her teacher told her that she couldn't become a teacher because of her race.

Due to this, Blackman switched her career to computing. She qualified in computer science and followed the career in the subject successfully. Later on, when she was 28, she released her first book which consisted of short stories named 'Not So Stupid!'

**Noughts and Crosses**

*Noughts and Crosses* is a novel written by Malorie Blackman. The book consists of a racially reversed tale of two teens.

The TV series of *Noughts and Crosses* (2020) contains six episodes. The TV series aired on BBC One, and the rest aired on BBC Player the remaining day. The series shows all of the events in the book, however has a different ending.

The death of Stephen Lawrence partly influenced the writing of *Noughts and Crosses*. Malorie Blackman was also inspired by writing about the slavery and how certain racial relations still influence our lives.

**Stephen Lawrence**

Stephen Lawrence was an 18-year-old black man who was killed in a racially motivated attack. This case is what Blackman was partly influenced by to write *Noughts and Crosses*.

In the author's note, Malorie describes the burning anger she felt about Stephen Lawrence's death.

### Did you know?

Stephen Lawrence was the inspiration behind *Noughts and Crosses*.

Over the last few years she has taken lessons in drumming, piano, Latin and Chinese!

In 2008 Malorie was awarded an OBE for her work, which is a great honour.

One of Blackman's famous quotes is, "BOYS DON'T CRY, BUT MEN DO".

Malorie was such an avid reader that by the age of eleven, she had read the entire children's section of her local library.

Her books have been translated into fifteen different languages, including Japanese, Spanish and German.

Malorie was awarded £2,000 before her first book was published.

Blackman has sold over 15 million books, that's a lot of books!

Her bestselling book *Noughts and Crosses* sold 299,444 copies. A great achievement!

### Malorie's Childhood

Malorie Blackman was born February 8th 1962 in Clapham, London. She said the amount of racism she experienced in her childhood was shocking. Her parents were both from Barbados. At school, Malorie wanted to be an English teacher, but she grew up to become a systems programmer instead.

**Later Life**

She graduated from Britain's National Film and Television School and began writing scripts for Byker Grove and other children's television series. Malorie wrote many scripts in her life as a computer scientist and her love for writing grew from there.

In 1992 Malorie married her husband Neil Morrison and their daughter Elizabeth Morrison was born in 1995.

### Malorie Blackman

**Her writing Career**

Malorie Blackman published her first book in 1990 (age 28) called *Not So Stupid!* The book is filled with short science fiction and horror stories for young adults.

Malorie Blackman has produced over 50 books in her forty-year career. The majority are children's novels, but she has also written Young Adult novels, early-reader books and picture books. She also writes short stories and television scripts, including episodes of the children's television drama, *Byker Grove*.

**Children's Laureate**

Malorie Blackman was the children's laureate between 2013-2015 after she took over from previous laureate Julia Donaldson.

The Children's laureate position is awarded every two years to a writer or illustrator for excellent work and achievements in their field.

During her time in the position Malorie set up the first ever Young Adult Literature Convention. This is a three-day event to celebrate the very best young adult books and authors.

**Noughts and Crosses**

She began writing *Noughts and Crosses* after the death of Stephen Lawrence, a young boy killed by a gang in London because of his skin colour. Malorie said she felt like she needed to write the book. The book gives the perspective of a girl with black privilege and a white boy who is hated on. She said she knew it would make people uncomfortable and everyone could finally see everyone's view.

### Year 8 Information Sheets

**NOUGHTS & CROSSES**

malorie blackman

BLACK AND WHITE RIGHT AND WRONG

INCLUDES THE STORY STORY CALLUM

*Noughts and Crosses* is the acclaimed novel by Malorie Blackman and the book is aimed at young teenagers and above. It features a dual narrative between Sephy, a Cross and Callum, a Nought. The book has a prejudice theme running through it, as well as romance and danger woven through.

I am sure readers will enjoy this book and identify with the themes of racism. The book makes you wonder if Sephy and Callum do eventually get together.

### Noughts and Crosses

*Noughts and Crosses* was published and released in 2001. Malorie wrote this book because of a tragic racial murder which happened in 1992. This was the murder of Stephen Lawrence. She felt that she had to write this book to show people how black people are treated, by switching the black people and the white people's lives around. This book took a long time to get published in America probably because some people didn't believe that black people should be treated the same. The book was a great success and there are still hundreds of people reading and buying it to this day. The book was such a hit that it got made into a TV drama series featured on BBC 1.

**Stephen Lawrence:**

Stephen Lawrence was a black 18-year-old teenager who lived in Eltham in South London. He was studying for his A-levels and wanted to be an architect when he was older. He lived with his mum, dad, brother and sister. On 22 April 1993, Stephen was killed by a gang of white men in a racist attack. He had been waiting for a bus with a friend, when the gang attacked them. Stephen's friend escaped unhurt, but Stephen died from his injuries. Stephen's case is linked to the novel because Malorie had heard what had happened to him so she thought that if she made it into a book then people would start to realise how badly treated black people are, and start to see that we are all the same, just with different coloured skin. It is horrible that someone thinks that they can just kill someone because they don't like the colour of their skin.

**Conclusion:**

Malorie Blackman is a type of person to see good in everyone and make a difference to how some people are treated. Malorie was right to make a novel about what happened because she has shown people what it's like to be black and that she was trying to send that out to people who are racist. People's opinion of the novel is that it gives you a good understanding of how badly we



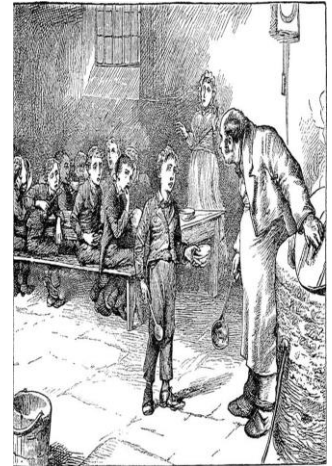
Y6 created some very impressive poetry, inspired from their study of Wes McGee's, 'The Chimney Boy's Story'. Their poetry was based on the lives of children in Victorian workhouses. Here's a super example created by Lucy.

### The Workhouse

As I stitch my sack, I look up to the sky.  
I dream of fresh air and then I sigh.  
When I close my eyes, I can see fresh flowers.  
When I open them up, I realize I'll be here for hours.  
Will we ever be happy, clean and free?  
Stay strong, be tough, wait and see!

At lunch when I sit on the bench in the hall,  
I dream of dragons crashing through the walls.  
As my friends put down their mouldy, stale bread,  
The dragon swoops us up and out over his head.  
Will we ever be happy, clean and free?  
Stay strong, be tough, wait and see!

At the end of the day as the clock strikes midnight.  
We go to our beds wishing on the starlight.  
Our dreams are quite simple, we do not ask for much,  
Just a safe place to live and our Mum's kind touch.  
Will we ever be happy, clean and free?  
Stay strong, be tough, wait and see!



Dear Captain Smith,

I am writing to you to express my anger and disappointment regarding my experiences so far on board HMS Titanic.

Firstly, my champagne was both too cold and too fizzy. It made me hiccup, which was highly embarrassing, and I felt chilly all day long. HMS Titanic should be serving champagne to perfection.

Furthermore, my steak at dinner last night was too thick and extremely tough. It was rather hard to chew and dislodged my gold filling. I was very disappointed to find there was no dentist on board to repair it immediately. I would expect Titanic to provide dentistry for first-class passengers, and at least a decent steak. After luncheon, I went to take my afternoon dip, only to find the water in the pool was too salty, which irritated my skin. The water in the pool on HMS Titanic should be checked daily to ensure it has the correct amount of salt.

Finally, for now, the sofa in my lounge is too soft. I can feel the springs through the cushioning, which is extremely uncomfortable. This is not a first-class sofa, despite me paying for a first-class suite. Please replace the sofa with one of higher quality by tomorrow.

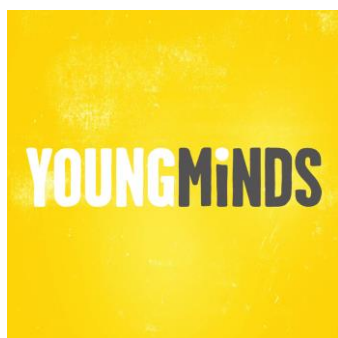
Yours sincerely, and in anticipation of improvements,  
Mrs Carstairs

Y5 have looked at formal writing this week and have produced some fantastic letters of complaint, writing as a very dissatisfied 'first-class' passenger on board Titanic.

Here is a brilliant example written by William!







We've had some lovely examples of pupils 'expressing themselves' for Children's Mental Health Week, which we will share in next week's bulletin. Young Minds have some great resources and 'top tips' for parents too about how to support their children during lockdown. All information can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February is Safer Internet Day 2021. This will be celebrated across the UK with the theme: An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world. Pupils will be exploring this next week in their IT classrooms. There are some excellent resources for parents too which can be accessed on their website:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>

## Competition Time!

Miss Read has launched our very own BMS Pancake Challenge! How creative can you be?



Challenge A - design and make a creative sweet or savoury pancake that uses at least two fruits or vegetables in its design.

Challenge B - design and make a 3D pancake object or scene using either sweet or savoury pancakes.

Entries must be submitted to the Food Tech classroom by 22nd February to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Marks will be awarded for creativity and imagination; structure and design; use of colour and pattern.

## The Great Outdoors!

Looking for a 'screen break'? Here's a couple of examples of some challenging family projects for the great outdoors!

Build a bug hotel from the RSPB:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>

Woodland Trust – Make a Bird Feeder:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>





## Discover the world of classical singing!



Music Partnership North have a fantastic opportunity for anyone who wants to know more about classical singing. They are hosting a **FREE** online workshop on **Thursday 25th February from 4:30-6:00pm** aimed at students in Year 7 and above. Find out what it takes to be a classical singer, with opera star Milan Siljanov, actor James Garnon and singers from Samling Academy.

Pupils can learn about the wide range of skills that classical singers use to bring a performance alive; find out what life is like for a professional musician in a Q & A session; watch a world-class artist coaching young singers from the North East; explore how acting skills can enhance a musical performance in an interactive activity with Shakespearean actor James Garnon; and discover how young singers in the North East have benefitted from Samling Academy.

To register for this free workshop, please contact David Francis on 07818 011722, or via email [david.francis@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:david.francis@northumberland.gov.uk)



A reminder about safeguarding...

The NSPCC Helpline is always available on 0808 800 5000, if you have concerns for your own, or another child's safety. **If you feel that a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.**

Alternatively, if you would like to speak to someone in school, please do not hesitate to contact one of our designated safeguarding leads: Mr Ramshaw or Mrs Hamilton.

## Who knew...?



Some lighthearted news to round off with...who knew BMS had a 'celebrity' in its midst?

Mrs Ingledew's pet sheep, Hope, has clocked-up over half a million views on social media of her 'turning the tables' and chasing the family's border collie, Mist!

The hilarious footage shows 10-month old Hope chasing six-year-old Mist across the lawn, leaping over flower beds and even cornering her around a climbing frame and swings! Her antics are so famous, they even earned her a spot in national newspaper, The Daily Mail.

If you're one of the 'few' who haven't yet seen it, it's well worth a watch! The article and video can be seen [here](#).

