

Hello everyone

Today, we celebrated our **love of reading** by embracing **World Book Day**! We were thrilled to share the school with some fantastic characters and enjoyed swapping teachers for a magical story time - please take a look at the school Twitter account for some more awesome photos! A BIG 'well done' to everyone who entered the world book day competition to produce a creative piece of work lined to a favourite book or character. We were blown away by the high standard of all the entries and Mrs Mazar is excited to announce our winners and share their creations with you in next week's newsletter.

As we continue to grow our passion for discovering new authors, it was exciting to discover who our **'Author of the Month'** for March is...**Jamar J Perry**. A former teacher, Jamar writes adventure -packed fantasy stories that make you want to read more and more and more!



This week also saw the start of the new after school clubs. The **Groundforce club** quickly got their hands dirty weeding around school and planting pepper and basil seeds! **Singing club** got off to an enthusiastic start and **kwik cricket** an energetic one! The **Formula 1** club saw the children expertly applying their problem solving skills and the **Football club** started some serious training. As for the **Messy makers club**...

Some important dates for your diary are:

**Monday 6th March - 4ZY & 4MJ trip to the Buddhist Temple**

**Tuesday 7th March - 4TW & 4RE trip to the Buddhist Temple**

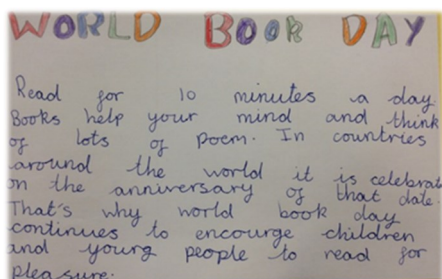
**Monday 13th March - Friday 17th March - Science Week**

Have a great weekend everyone!

Cathy Grace, Headteacher

## ARTICLE OF THE WEEK— Article 13

This week's Article of the week is linked to World Book Day. World Book Day was actually created by UNESCO 28 years ago! Reading books actually links many of our rights, including Article 17 (right to access information), Article 29 (right to a good education that helps us develop) and Article 31 (right to play and relax). In our school, we celebrate books by reading in all our lessons and reading for pleasure! **By Lamaar, Noor, Alyzah and Helah 3SQ**



Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace  
Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason  
Assistant Headteachers -  
Mrs Biddle-Rawbone and Mrs Mazar  
Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali



Thornton Road  
Ward End,  
Birmingham B8 2LQ  
0121 327 0824  
enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk  
Twitter— @ThorntonOwls

# 'Author of the Month' March

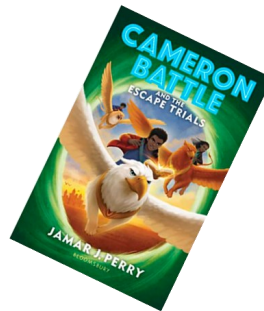
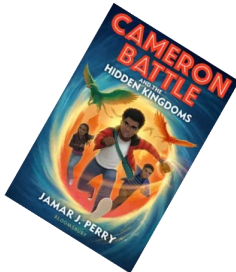
Scan to listen to hear an  
extract from Jamar's book  
'Cameron Battle and the  
Hidden Kingdoms'.



Dr. Jamar J. Perry attended Berea College Kentucky, USA, majoring in psychology and English literature and Education.

After graduation, Dr. Perry became a middle school teacher in the Washington, D.C. area, hoping to instruct the next generation of scholars, thinkers, and writers.

## Jamar J. Perry



## Q&A with Jamar J Perry:

### Did you know?

Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms is rooted in Nigerian folklore – specifically that of the Igbo people. Jamar explains that exploring his roots was very important to him. Jamar's protagonist CAMERON BATTLE has distinct West-African ties, specifically to the Igbo people of Nigeria, and this where Jamar's ancestors originate from.

1. What kinds of books did you read as a child, and why did you want to write your own book for children?

I read any and everything I could get my hands on! I remember going to the library at lunch and at recess to pick out a book to read - my goal was to read at least a book a day. It was books like the Narnia series, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, and the Pendragon adventure series that inspired me to write my own books for children.

2. What other kinds of work do you do, and how has this helped you as a writer?

I used to be a teacher, and most of my work was done in the middle school classroom. This work has allowed me to craft middle school main characters, because my entire career has been built around them. I love how they can be funny, while having a serious side when they realize that they are going to high school soon.

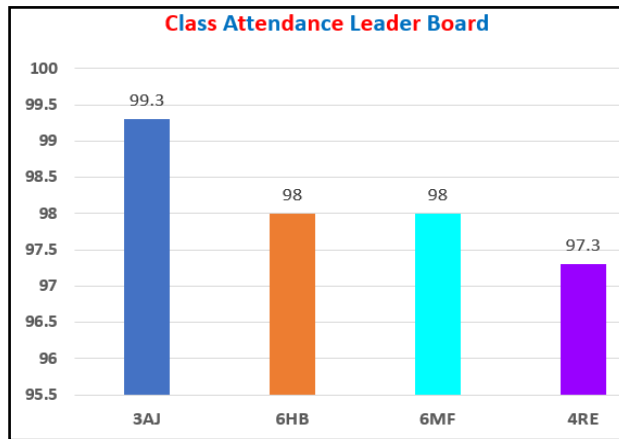
3. Can you tell us about your new book, Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms?

Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms is a fantasy novel about Cameron Battle, a Black boy who finds a magical book in his grandmother's attic, a book that his parents used to have, a book that has been passed down through the generations of his family. He remembers the stories his parents used to tell him when he was younger, before they disappeared. When he reads from the book with his best friends, Aliyah and Zion, he is literally sucked inside the book and goes to Chidani, the hidden West African country of his ancestors.

## School Attendance

### Class Attendance

Well done to all the classes who achieved our school attendance target of **97%** and above last week of Spring Term 1.



**Our school attendance for last week of Spring Term 1 was 94.6%**

### The Magic 20 Raising Attendance and Punctuality Project

In order to work in partnership with parents, we will be introducing 'The Magic 20 Raising Attendance and Punctuality Project' in Spring Term 2. This project is targeted at children with attendance below 90% and the main aim is to reward them for the achievement of attending school every day. It is a fact that children are much happier and settled if they attend school every day consistently without taking any days off. Our reward system helps raise attendance and encourages children to achieve at least the school target of 97% by attending every day.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Year 4 Buddhist Temple Trip

**4ZY-4MJ Monday 6th March**

**4TW-4RE-Tuesday 7th March**

### Story Time Workshop

**Friday 10th February  
3.45pm-4.15pm**

**Collect a ticket in advance from Reception to attend the family story time workshop.**

**Term Ends:**

**Friday 31st March 2023**

**Summer Term 1 starts:**

**Monday 17th April 2023**

KEEP CALM  
AND  
GET TO SCHOOL  
ON TIME EVERY DAY

## PE TIMETABLE

**Monday 6th March**

**Year 4**

**Tuesday 7th March**

**Year 6**

**Wednesday 8th March**

**Year 3**

**Thursday 9th March**

**Year 5**

**Friday 10th March  
Swimming for classes  
4MJ & 5TR**

**Children in 4MJ will need to be in school for 8.25am**

## School Meals

Changing from dinners to sandwiches? or vice-versa? Please make this change at the start of each term and not mid-term. We would be very grateful if you could please call the office at the beginning of the term if you wish to change your child's dinner preference so that we can make the necessary changes to our records and inform the school kitchen. Thank you.

## Payments

Could you please ensure that all Dinner, Breakfast and Afterschool club debts have been cleared at the start of each week. If you are having any issues with payment please contact the school office for support.



Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace  
Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason  
Assistant Headteachers -  
Mrs Biddle-Rawbone and Mrs Mazar  
Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali



Thornton Road  
Ward End,  
Birmingham B8 2LQ  
0121 327 0824  
enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk  
Twitter— @Thornton0wls