

**Grove Park Primary School - Black History Month 2021**  
**"Proud to Be"**

This year we are inspired by the powerful influence of music and poetry.

***"The Motown sound was a very big influence in the civil rights movement. It was not that we marched or paraded; we just promoted it through love."***

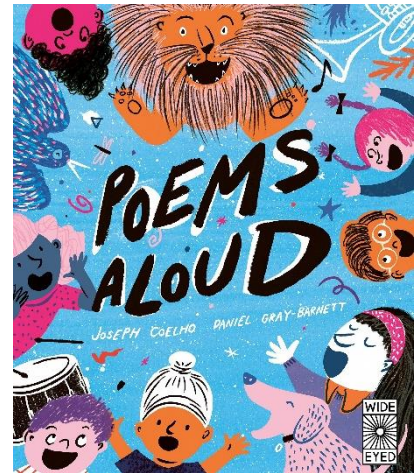
Vocalist Martha Reeves recalls in Susan Whitall's book, *Women of Motown*

October is Black History Month. This is a wonderful opportunity for schools, organisations and communities to be part of national celebrations and events to honour the accomplishments of people of African and Caribbean heritage in every area of endeavour throughout history.

**This year's Black History Month theme was 'Proud to be'.**

At Grove Park this October, our Black History Month celebrations were centred around music and poetry.

During National Poetry Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, the children listened to, studied and performed a range of works written by a diverse range of poets. We were particularly inspired by 'Poems Aloud' by Joseph Coelho and Daniel Gray Barnett.



The rhythm of the poetry continued when all of the children took part in demonstrations and workshops led by the London African Drumming group. We were very excited to welcome Steven and Abubakah to Grove Park! The beat of the djembes echoed through the school.



The music, history and influence of Motown also formed part of many of the children's music lessons and assemblies!

***"It doesn't matter where you go in the world; if you say the word 'Motown', people instinctively smile. There are almost no words that trigger the same international emotional response."***