



## HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 32

Friday 12th June 2020

[www.hollyparkschool.co.uk](http://www.hollyparkschool.co.uk)

### **Clarification On Wider Opening From 1<sup>st</sup> June**

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, we are following government guidelines and opening more widely now to identified year groups. Parents should note that these were always intended as guidelines only and not mandatory. We are allowed to do this in our own way and Barnet LA are keen that schools do so safely and in the way that is best for them. Every school must do what is right for them – we all have different sites and staffing. As you can imagine I am in constant contact with other Barnet Headteachers especially those very locally to us. Our offers are very similar. We are opening in a safe and controlled way. Unfortunately, parents may have been led to believe after the government announcement that selected year groups would all be back at once and fulltime –but generally this was not possible in the majority of schools due to staffing and space and following risk assessments. Schools were to open FROM 1<sup>st</sup> June not on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Local schools did not open on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Most Barnet schools have interpreted the guidelines as WE have – rotas and part time with year groups returning gradually over the coming weeks. Holly Park was not in any way behind with opening as there was no deadline – the government gave advice only. In the last few months we have been asked to respond to circumstances we could never have imagined, redesigned and reorganized our school and worked through the practical considerations of welcoming more children back. We prepared well in advance, we made road maps, we put PPE in place and changed provision. We tested out our plans. We delayed by a week based on NEU advice and on the Independent SAGE committee advice. We made sure to the best of our ability that our staff and pupils would be the safest they could possibly be. The only reason we have gone slowly and cautiously is because we care about health and safety and putting that first. I am sure that the vast majority of parents would prefer that the school was cautious and careful – having regard for H&S during this deadly virus – than rush in.

### **What Is Happening Now At Holly Park?**

I can tell you that our plans are going very well. Systems and procedures are working well and children who have returned are very happy. We are looking forward to welcoming back Y6 next week.

We have been forward thinking in our planning and we have a plan that we can scale up– with pupils attending part time and on a rota basis. We have also been forward thinking with staff doing training for the emotional wellbeing of children when they return. We have also had staff attend Zoom courses about reshaping the curriculum and catching up on learning. We are working very hard at the moment to not only manage the current situation of children returning but also to continue remote learning, think about secondary transfer for current Y5, welcome new intakes for nursery and reception in September, get refunds for residential trips that didn't happen this year and also to think ahead to whatever the near future may look like with more pupils returning week by week. It is extremely busy.

We feel that we have done well so far during lockdown - with calling parents, writing reports (which we didn't need to do this year) keeping newsletters going, even arranging for class photos etc because our Holly Park community is very important to us. We are of course still learning and developing.

Thank you for the very positive feedback we have had about how we are managing all of this – it is very much appreciated.

### **Government News This Week – Change Of Plan**

Schools are having to deal with and manage change in circumstances where government advice comes late and changes. Only this week we heard that there was a change to the original plans and schools will no longer need to bring other year groups back before the end of term. The government has given schools flexibility to manage the rest of this term as they see fit. At Holly Park, I am delighted to say that we have a plan that is scalable and to that end, we have made the decision to also invite back Y5 pupils for a few weeks before the end of term. Had the term been longer we would have had time to bring back pupils from other year groups.

### **Welcoming Children Back To School – The Longer Term Picture**

We have no idea as yet what government plans are for our return or for schools in September. There are some rumours that we will be back in September as normal with all children and 30 in a class – on the other hand - there are also rumours that schools will not be back normally until January 2021 with children doing part time

school and part time home learning. We really don't know.

There has been nothing official. As soon as I have more information I will let you know. I would ask parents to exercise caution when they see information on social media regarding this as there is no official information yet. Of course, along with my Headteacher colleagues we are considering various options.

However, I would also ask parents to be aware that plans for September are not in the control of schools at this time but are in the hands of the government and the DfE and we are not consulted on them or given any advance notice.

What I can say is - that if schools are expected to return with all year groups in September and still in bubbles of 15 then there will not be a single primary school in the country who could do this without part time education and rotas in place.

There has been talk in the news about using empty local community spaces e.g libraries, church halls, scout huts etc. However these ideas are perhaps slightly naïve and don't consider staffing, furniture, lunches, play spaces, first aid, safeguarding etc. Any idea for increasing classroom space on our own site with the use of portakabins from September to allow for more classroom space for children to come back to school would also not work. Whilst at first glance this idea would seem plausible, it doesn't work within the wider picture of the school, financial constraints or complexities and requirements of the operational procedures necessary in a school.

- Although there is a good amount of outside space at Holly Park – this cannot be used for more classroom space as firstly we don't have any extra money for extra classrooms - they are hugely expensive (even to hire) and Barnet Council could not support this across all 88 primary schools.
- More importantly we couldn't use up our outside space with extra temporary classrooms because with children in bubbles and not allowed to mix, even with staggering breaks etc there is not enough outside space now to make the outdoor zones we need for the 17 bubbles of children we will have. We need the space for break times and lunchtimes as children cannot mix outside of their groups of 15.
- To accommodate all children back in September in bubbles of 15 children – we would need at least 8 portakabins. We have neither money nor space for this. Most of our land isn't flat.
- We need all of the outside space we are lucky to have. Guidelines and risk assessments say that children should be using the outdoor spaces as much as possible during learning time.
- In addition, in terms of extra staffing for any extra groups returning or extra classrooms – our staffing is being used to capacity and there is no money in our budget for extra staffing for any more groups. If classes are to remain at 15 maximum – it would not be possible to have all children back fulltime as we would have to double our teaching staff which would not be possible either financially or from a recruitment perspective. There would be no money for eight extra supply teachers at a cost of £200 per day per teacher.
- We cannot use funds directed towards our new playground project to support any of this, as this money was raised in good faith by very many people for this specific playground and building project. It would be wrong to divert funds. Also the money raised would be a drop in the ocean compared to what would be needed for salaries and portakabins.

I appreciate that this is a difficult and uncertain time and that you are hearing a great deal about schools in the media with nothing concrete and news headlines are changing constantly.

In some ways September seems a long time away, yet on the other hand so close.

With the end of term only six weeks away, we urgently need the government to provide as much clarity as possible about their plans for September.

It is difficult to plan when we haven't been given any information at all.

We will of course try to do our best within any guidelines given to us – within the school budget and with staff and pupil safety as the main concern.

We appreciate that this lack of clarity (on a national level) with regard to the future is not helpful for parents but we can only operate within what we are told, with the resources we have and within the constraints put upon us. We can assure you that we are always trying to do our best for our families.

Of course school staff are equally anxious and as a workforce we also want to know what the government plans are for September.

Again I would like to thank you for all the work you are doing with your children at home and I encourage you to engage with the online activities and PHSE work as best you can. The staff at Holly Park are itching to get back to a normal routine and nobody is more committed to a full return to education than they are if safe to do so. Schools do not want to be entering the summer holidays uncertain of what arrangements will be required at the other end of it.

Thank you for your ongoing support in what I know as a parent myself is a very frustrating time for education.

Whilst in one aspect of my life I am a Headteacher and planning for school reopening in the safest way possible, in another aspect of my life I am also a parent and can only sympathise with you about the lack of information and clarity for the longer term future of schools.

### Chokmah's 11th Birthday Run for Holly Park School

This week we have looked at the value of determination. Chokmah is a living example of what it is to have determination. It was a magnificent afternoon yesterday when Chokmah completed his 10K run on his 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Chokmah has been doing a 5K run every day for ten days and on the 11<sup>th</sup> day (his birthday) he ran 10K. Chokmah did this to raise money for Holly Park playground as a thank you for the time he has had at the school and because he developed his love of competitive running at Holly Park. There were lots of HPS children, parents, staff and governors there to cheer him on. Now it is our turn to say thank you to Chokmah who has raised over £1,000. Amazing!



### International Charity Day Today

Our International Charity this year is United World Schools. It is a charity that works in some of the world's poorest regions to give every child access to free education. Watch these two video clips to learn more about the amazing work that they do:

<https://youtu.be/ALWla6OPGMA> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfZqiR6Yd0U#action=share>

We are asking the children to reflect on their right, **Article 28: Every child has the right to an education** and to do two things:

1. Design a poster with the Holly Park logo, Article 28 and also the title "School is great because...". There is more information about how they can do this on every class page on the school website.
2. Donate £1 to United World Schools via School Money which is now ready.



### Music News - Barnet Education Arts Trust - Instrumental Tuition for Autumn Term 2020.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM BARNET EDUCATION ARTS TRUST REGARDING INSTRUMENTAL TUITION at Holly Park School.

There is still uncertainty of when and how the schools will open fully and there is no guarantee that the situation will be fully resolved by the start of the Autumn term. However, we will try to remain flexible with regards to the bookings for the Autumn term. If you wish to resume lessons in the Autumn term, email [admin@beatrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@beatrust.org.uk) with your requirements and we will make every effort to organise the lessons to start during the term.

We have now launched our Online Music Tuition: <https://beatrust.org.uk/enrol/online-lessons>

We would like to encourage both current and new pupils to sign up. Prices and Terms & Conditions are listed on the Barnet Education Arts Trust website under 'School Based Instrumental Lessons'.

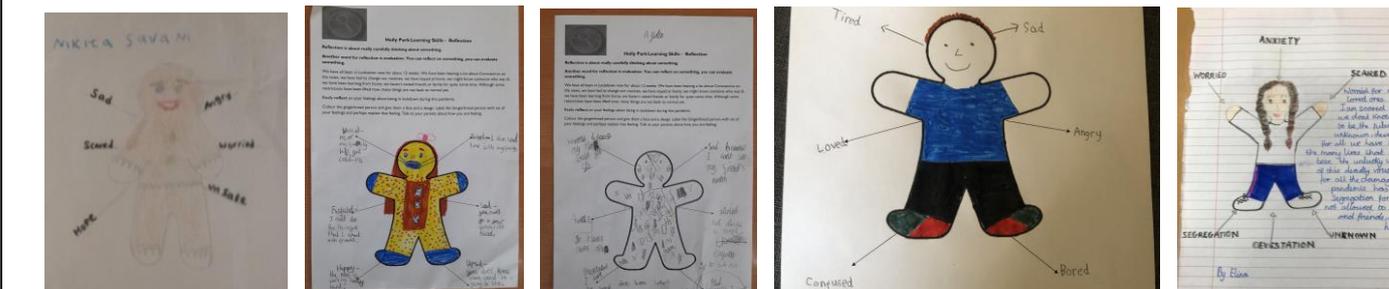
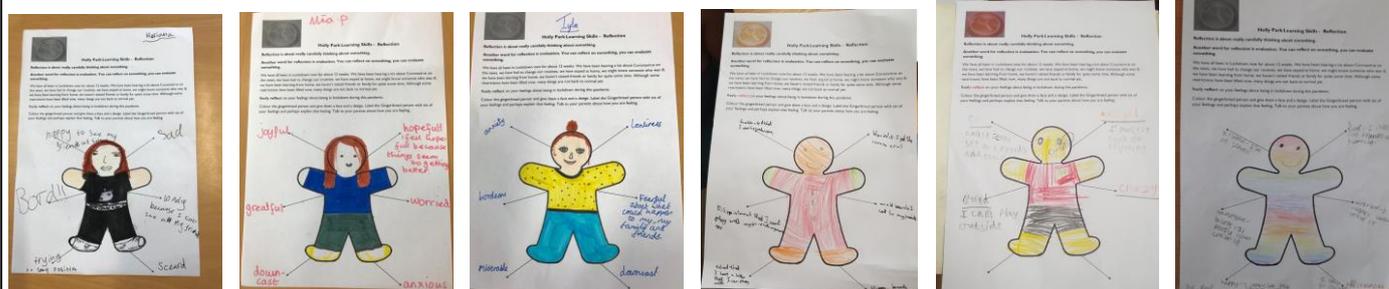
### The Holly Park Staff

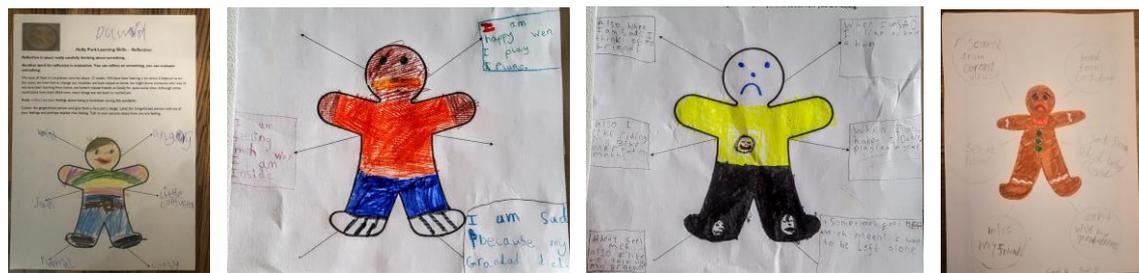
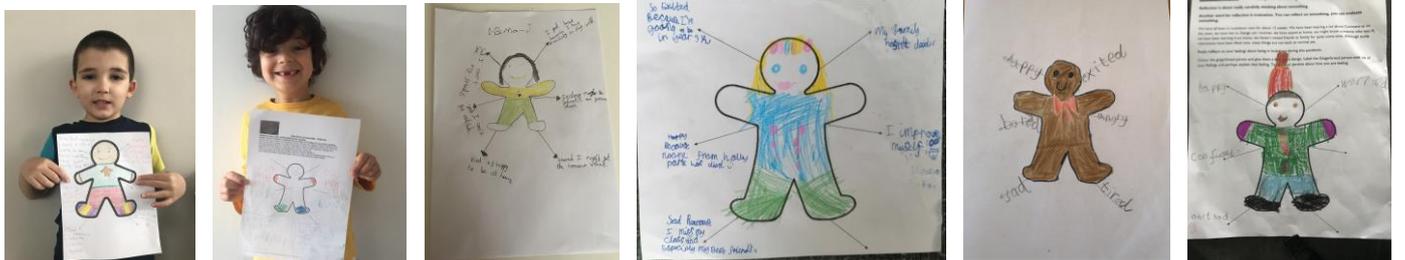
Several parents have commented how lovely it was to see the Holly Park staff in the newsletter last week – I hope that the children enjoyed seeing them too. I inadvertently left Mrs Tsenti off. Here she is – a lovely picture of her washing her car. I am sure that Year 3 and Year 4 children especially would like to see her.



## Learning Skill – Reflection

Our Holly Park Learning skills which are part of our own Holly Park curriculum have never been so important as they encourage children to be good learners and not just knowledge absorbers. Each week we are asking the children to focus on one of these skills. This week we looked at reflection. We have all been in Lockdown now for about 12 weeks. We have been hearing a lot about Coronavirus on the news, we have had to change our routines, we have stayed at home, we might know someone who was ill, we have been learning from home, we haven't visited friends or family for quite some time. Although some restrictions have been lifted now, many things are not back to normal yet. We asked the children to really **reflect** on their feelings about being in lockdown during this pandemic.





## Online Art Club

Eden (who ran after school art classes at Holly Park last year) is starting a new online Art Club!

Sessions are aimed at children aged 5-11, but grown ups and older and younger siblings are welcome! Enjoy some creative downtime as a family.

Sessions will be really informal and open ended, so your child(ren) can be led by their imagination when creating their artwork. They will be held on Thursdays, 5pm - 5:45pm, via Zoom. £3.50 per screen. If you are interested but the timing doesn't suit you, please get in touch as I'm happy to add another session in the week if there is interest. For more info and to book your place, go to: [www.edensilvermyer.com/online-art-club-what-to-expect](http://www.edensilvermyer.com/online-art-club-what-to-expect)

**ART with EDEN**

# ART CLUB!

Join artist Eden Silver-Myer for a super informal art club, led by creative prompts that allow your kid(s) to express themselves however they'd like to!

**Thursdays 5pm - 5:45pm via Zoom**  
£3.50 per family

Activities will be aimed at children aged 5-11. Grown ups are encouraged to join in if they'd like to! Siblings absolutely welcome too.

No fancy art materials needed.  
Enjoy some creative downtime as a family!  
Book here: [www.edensilvermyer.com](http://www.edensilvermyer.com)

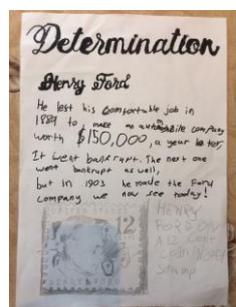
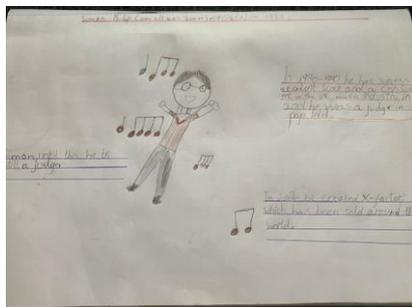
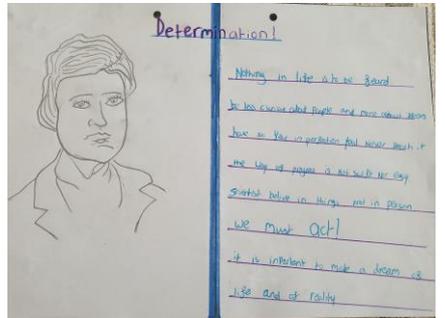
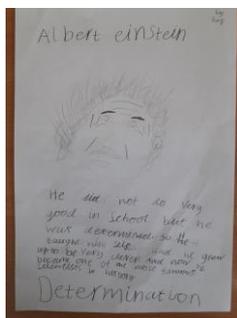
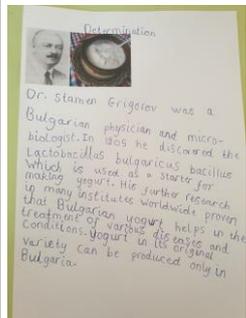
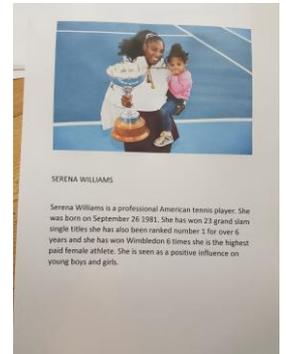
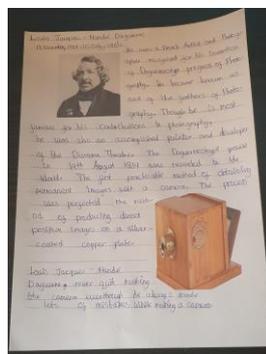
## Class Photos

A massive thank you to Marilena for the hours of work collating and putting together such beautiful class photos for the year 2020 in these very unusual circumstances. The photos look amazing and are an amazing representation of a very different year – which deserved a very different class photo! Every class is done in a rainbow style with a rainbow background, with important words from our school song and featuring the school logo and the staff who work in that class. These will definitely be photos to look back on in the future. I didn't want to reveal the photos just yet but below is a blurred version so you can get the general idea. Thank you so much Marilena. Thank you for sending in your child's picture. There will be more information soon about how you can obtain your print.



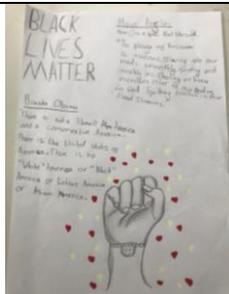
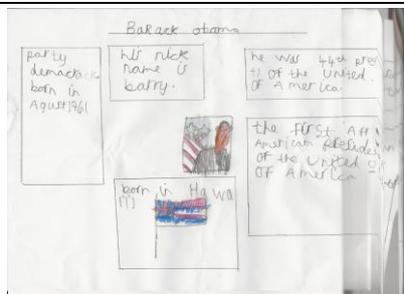
## Determination

It is much easier to give up than it is to carry on at something that is physically and mentally demanding. One of the assemblies this week told the story of Johnny Crow who through determination managed to get the water he so desperately needed. The assembly mentioned many famous people who achieved important things because of their determination: Alexander Fleming – penicillin, Michael Faraday – electricity. It also mentioned other inventors, artists, great leaders and sports people. Children were asked to research somebody famous who didn't give up and to make a poster with the title – Determination.









There is a new national competition called '100 Great Black Britons' It would be amazing if Holly Park children could enter. It can be found at [100greatblackbritons.co.uk](http://100greatblackbritons.co.uk). It is open to all Key Stages. Children are encouraged to research about a famous black person in Britain and either submit a drawing or a piece of writing. This is a celebration of the extraordinary contribution of key figures of Black African or Caribbean descent to British life. The closing date is 30th September 2020.



We also wanted to share with you a book list with black and minority ethnic representation. Our KS2 reading challenge books are multicultural and are set in different parts of the world and are written by authors from different ethnic backgrounds. However, we will take a look at purchasing some of these books in September to ensure the books we are offering are as representative of our community as possible.

- Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo
- Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns by Hena Khan
- Stories for Boys Who Dare To Be Different by Ben Brooks
- Zaha Hadid – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
- Planet Omar – Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Main
- Lubna and the Pebble by Wendy Meddur and Daniel Egnéus
- Mahatma Gandhi – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
- The Nothing To See Here Hotel by Steven Butler
- Little Bad Man and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties by Humza Arshad and Henry White
- The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf
- Look Up by Nathan Bryon
- Festival of Colours by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal
- My Pet Star by Corrinne Averiss and Rosalind Beardshaw
- Julian is a Mermaid by Jessica Love
- Ravi's Roar by Tom Percival
- Cece Loves Science and Adventure by Kimberly Derting and Shelli R. Johannes
- The Magic Paintbrush by Julia Donaldson
- Anisha: Accidental Detective by Serena Patel
- Sam Wu Is Not Afraid of Ghosts by Katie and Kevin Tsang

The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman  
The Barefoot Book of Jewish Tales by Shoshana Boyd Gelfand  
Anne Frank – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
The Shark Caller by Zillah Bethell  
No Ballet Shoes in Syria by Catherine Burton  
Ellie and the Cat by Malorie Blackman  
The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad  
Blackberry Blue and Other Fairy Tales by Jamila Gavin  
Fly Me Home by Polly Ho-Yen  
Malala's Magic Pencil By Malala Yousafzai  
Malala: My Story of Standing Up For Girls Rights By Malala Yousafzai  
The Silence Seeker by Ben Morley  
The Young Magicians and the Thieves' Almanac by Nick Mohammed  
Chipatti Moon by Pippa Goodheart and Lizzie Finlay  
Sami's Silver Lining by Cathy Cassidy  
Amazing Muslims Who Changed The World by Burhana Islam  
Akissi Tales of Mischief by Marguerite Aboutet  
Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty  
The Girl Who Stole An Elephant by Nizrana Farook  
Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn by Kenard Pak  
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi  
Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner  
Pelé – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
My Friend Earth by Patricia MacLachlan and Francesca Sanna  
Jean-Michel Basquiat – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
Warrior Boy by Virginia Clay  
Jesse Owens – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
Superhero Gran by Timothy Knapman and Joe Berger  
When A Dragon Comes To Stay by Caryl Hart and Rosalind Beardshaw  
Don't Touch My Hair by Sharee Miller  
Bruce Lee – Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
Ghost By Jason Reynolds  
Muhammad Ali - Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
What If... by Samantha Berger  
Maya Angelou - Little People, Big Dreams by Lisbeth Kaiser  
If All The World Were... by Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys  
My Hair by Hannah Lee  
Young, Gifted and Black by Jamia Wilson  
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly  
Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival  
Amazing grace by Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch  
Little Leaders: Bold Women In Black History by Vashti Harrison  
Martin Luther King Jr - Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
Rosa Parks - Little People, Big Dreams by Lisbeth Kaiser  
Masai and I by Virginia Kroll  
Harriet Tubman - Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara  
Dancing In the Wings by Debbie Allen  
My Brown Skin by Thomishia Brooker  
Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne  
Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry  
Riley Can Be Anything by Davina Hamilton  
Little Leaders: Exceptional Men In Black History by Vashti Harrison  
Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o  
Gregory Cool by Caroline Binch  
Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson  
Counting on Kathrine by Helaine Becker  
Malcolm Little by Ilyasah Shabazz

Let The Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson

Last Stop On Market Street by Matt De La Peña

The Day You Begin by Jaqueline Woodson

Ella Fitzgerald - Little People, Big Dreams by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

I Am Enough by Grace Byers