



Commonwealth Day 2022

Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration observed by people all over the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe.

As you will be aware our city is hosting the prestigious Commonwealth Games this summer too. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we wanted our children to feel part of it and remember this moment in time for the rest of their lives.

As a school we have a few things planned over the year which we are very excited to share with you.

Each class have been given a focus country from the Commonwealth to learn more about in depth. Work will take place to present and share their learning with others at a later stage. This will include information about key geographical features and climate, food and culture, flags and currency and plenty of fascinating facts.



Bring the Power workshops

The workshops will be a mixture of 1hour workshops for KS1 pupils and 1 ½ hour workshops for KS2 pupils that really engage and encourage pupils to learn more about the Birmingham 2022 Games through interactive activities focusing on the "Journey to the Games" and "Finding Common Ground". These will be led by visitors from the Commonwealth Games committee and may (fingers crossed) include a sportsperson from the Commonwealth Games itself.

Queen's Baton relay

Birmingham 2022 is staging the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – an epic journey across the Commonwealth, with The Queen's Baton visiting all 72 nations and territories.

The Relay began on 7 October 2021, with Her Majesty The Queen placing her Message to the Commonwealth into the Baton. The Baton is now on its 294-day long journey to every corner of the Commonwealth.

This collective journey will ignite hope, solidarity and collaboration, as it connects communities embraces unique cultures and shares inspirational stories.

Precious Emily – Stan's Café

Precious Mckenzie became a weightlifting legend when, after an extraordinary childhood in apartheid blighted South Africa, he emigrated to England and won four consecutive Gold Medals in the Commonwealth Gold Medals.

Fifty years later, Emily Campbell stepped onto the Olympic stage and, in a moment described by The Guardian as "surely [the] most powerful, heart-warming and potentially life-changing story of these games", she lifted more than any British woman has ever lifted before.

Stan's Café are making a theatre show about these two wonderful athletes and the inspiration they give us when it comes to lifting up heavy things.

This will be an inclusive first bi-lingual show as, with the support and guidance of DeafExplorer, the cast mixes deaf and hearing actors. British Sign Language will be integrated into the performance with the aspiration that formal interpretation won't be required.

As an inclusive school, we were very excited to be involved and have been selected to have a funded place working with this company on developing this project. They will be working alongside our Y4 children in a series of workshops from now and until the summer term.

As if it couldn't get any better, posters of this show (that is open for bookings to the public), will have billboard posters around the city and the Commonwealth Stadium and the two children who modelled for the campaign.... Yes, they are from Raddlebarn and are proudly donning our uniform!



COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS

Commonwealth Connections

We have been successful in our application to be part of the Commonwealth Connections project. This is a joint project from the British Council and the Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, running until July 2022, twinning 60 schools in the West Midlands with counterparts from the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Raddlebarn has secured a place within the Arts partnerships and have been twinned with a school in Trinidad and Tobago! There are 6 other schools in our cluster who are also twinned with Trinidad and Tobago and together we will be working with a print maker (Anne Brierley) to create a wonderful Art exhibition in July of this year.

Throughout the project we will be doing lots of communicating and getting to know our partners through the form of school correspondence, digital postcards, questions about geography and culture and much, much more!

All of our children will be involved in some way and our overall school country that we are focussing on will be Trinidad and Tobago. Our partner school is

<https://hfcpenal.org/> - Holy Faith Convent, Penal



Junior Bake Off

Back by popular demand! This year our official Junior Bake Off will take place at the end of this term and there will be opportunities for pupils from Years 3-6 to be involved. The required dishes to be created will come from the inspiration of Trinidad and Tobago, our partnership country. So watch this space!

EYFS and KS1 will not miss out though as we will also be hosting a Commonwealth Games inspired Bake Sale for EYFS and KS1 too. More details coming soon.

As before this will be run with our community partners and friends at Morrisons, Digbeth Dining Club CIC and our school governors who will be judging our event.

Opening Ceremony

Last week, 5 of our children in school were called to audition for an acting role to be in the actual opening ceremony. Only 17 children will be picked to take part in this element, so to have 5 audition from Raddlebarn is a real honour! Our children all did amazingly well and their skills, talents and personalities shone through but now it is the wait to find out if any of them have been selected. They will find out in early April, so please join us in wishing them the best of luck and watch this space!



Commonwealth Community Cookbook – Digbeth Dining Club CIC

One of our huge strengths as a school that we like to celebrate is our amazing and unique diversity – it really is special! We have families from over 37 different countries attending Raddlebarn and we couldn't be prouder. There is so much to learn from one another. DDC totally agree and have invited us to be partners in a wonderful project called Commonwealth Community Cookbook. This will involve children interviewing their close and distant relatives to find out about recipes and foods that they have introduced from their home countries and how they have been passed down through generations. What has changed? Are the same foods available here in this country? Tips and tricks that they have learnt to maximise the true flavours and of course the fascinating stories that accompany them.

Following the process of learning about recipes, foods and the places that they originate from, there's hope of a published recipe cookbook so that these can be shared and celebrated with new families too. How exciting!

Sports Day

We are so excited about having a sports day this year, having had to cancel for the past two years due to the pandemic! In partnership with Jimmy Harrhoff (Funshine manager and Steps to Sports manager) we will be arranging a sports day with a Commonwealth edge to it. We have already had children learning curling in school and so we will be looking to introduce some different activities, some of the same traditional activities and even some that we want you to join in with too! We are hoping to invite a Commonwealth Sportsperson to host the day but this is yet tbc.

Commonwealth Games Advisory Board for the Learning Panel

Miss Lowry is one of 4 Primary School senior leaders who have been invited to sit on this panel and will be bringing you hot off the press opportunities as we hear of them. We have also submitted an application to have a visit from the Commonwealth Games mascot Perry!



And for the grand finale..... our

As we are partnered with Trinidad and Tobago and because the last two years have been filled with pandemic restrictions, we wanted to end the school year on a high and with a smashing celebration and to say thank you. Our aim is to create a wonderful family day out for all.

We have started working with Garry Jones (Off your trolley arts – St Patricks Day parades, Pride parades, CocoMad and of course our Raddlebarn mural!) for each class to design a centre piece and costumes that represent their class Commonwealth Country and will then perform a parade around the space on carnival day.



Alongside this, all children will be working with Johnny Autin from Autin Dance Theatre to learn an international style dance to perform at the carnival also. Many of you will remember him from our 2020 leavers performance, dance for home learning

or of course from his amazing visit from his sea giant puppet Eko in summer 21 (which is now a book by the way, see our Twitter feed!)

Visiting our school on this day will also be the award-winning City of Birmingham Brass Band, that includes some familiar faces.

Yes, Mr and Mrs Bolton (choir teacher and regular visiting teacher and parents at Raddlebarn). We are also waiting to hear from the music service, to see if we can have some visiting drummers and steel pans to liven up the day too.

This event will be filmed and documented with the help of Saima Gonsai (film maker) so that we can celebrate again and again, keep a copy to look back on and learn from in many years to come.

We hope that the day will be filled with colour, character, music, dance, art and maybe even some exotic foods (fingers crossed!) but we would love you all to come a long with a picnic blanket or garden chairs and enjoy the day, seeing the trooping of the flags, the art exhibition and fun performances from your children to end the year with.

This year more than ever, its important to count our blessings. Together we can stand strong to support, encourage and learn from one another. After going through some really difficult times that have been quite isolating for many, it is a time to look forward to a brighter future but to also be really grateful for how fortunate we are despite the difficult times.

All of the above could not happen without us working together as a community – as a school, parents, local businesses, local artists, practitioners and organisations.

So, we look forward to you joining us for a really exciting event that concludes a great year of opportunities and life-long memories for all.

The 'Games for Everyone' mission:

- **BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER** These Games will embrace and champion the youth, diversity, humanity and pride of the region and the Commonwealth.
- **IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** Inspire, engage, and connect communities and athletes to realise their full potential and live happier, healthier lives.
- **HELP THE REGION TO GROW AND SUCCEED** Transform and strengthen local communities, working together to deliver new and improved homes, facilities, and transport links.
- **BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE** Drive sustainable growth and aspiration, creating opportunities through trade, investment, jobs, and skills.
- **PUT US ON THE GLOBAL STAGE** Deliver an unforgettable, global Games in partnership, on time and on budget to showcase the best of Birmingham, the West Midlands, and the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Day 2022 itself will be celebrated today, Monday 14 March, with a service held at Westminster Abbey. Follow activities on social media using #CommonwealthDay and learn more on the Commonwealth Day hub.

Other Commonwealth related links:

<https://www.birmingham2022.com/power/schools>

<https://www.birmingham2022.com/>

<https://thecgf.com/>

<https://tickets.birmingham2022.com/>

