



## 73,324 VOTERS HAVE THEIR SAY

Should autoplay be switched off?  
The majority of young people say yes.

Visit [www.votesforschools.com](http://www.votesforschools.com) for the full story.

## UP FOR DISCUSSION: BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

This week, VotesforSchools voters will be answering the question: "Do we know how to appreciate other people's heritage?" in celebration of Black History Month.

Why not discuss what you think about this question at home? How would you show appreciation for other people's heritage?

## THIS WEEK'S BIG READ: BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH

Dr Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was a celebrated poet, writer and musician. He was born and raised in Handsworth, Birmingham, but moved to London at age 22 to find a bigger audience for his poetry and music.

He was a fierce campaigner for a range of issues, including anti-racism, veganism, and mental health.

Although his music was very popular worldwide, he is best known in the UK for his poetry. Between 1998-2019, he received doctorates from 17 different universities and won many awards. He died in 2023 after a short illness.



## GUIDED READING CHALLENGE

- Where was Benjamin Zephaniah born?
- Why did he decide to move to London at age 22?
- Choose one cause that Benjamin supported.
- Find and copy a phrase that means "famous for".
- How many times could Benjamin call himself "Doctor"?

## DEAL OR NO DEAL?

Rail strikes are on track to end after staff accepted a one-year pay rise deal. However, nurses in England have said that the offer of a 5.5% payrise is not enough. This comes a week after junior doctors accepted a two-year payrise of 22%.



## PM FACES PRESENT PRESSURE

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has said he will no longer accept donations of money for work clothing. He was heavily criticised for receiving over £16,000 to pay for things like suits and glasses. The Deputy PM & Chancellor have said they will do the same.



## FLOODS HIT EUROPE

Scientists have said that climate change is what made flooding in central Europe much worse this year. Storm Boris took a huge toll on countries such as Poland, Romania and Italy, leading to 24 deaths. The damage will cost billions to repair.



## PLEASE HOLD...

Parents at a Primary school in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, have signed a pledge saying that they will not give their child a smartphone until the end of Year 9. They have asked all 25 Primary schools in the area to join them so that no children feel left out.

