

20 September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most."
– Abraham Lincoln

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to have all of our Reception children in full time this week, and experiencing school lunches for the first time too. It's wonderful to see them exploring the learning opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom, including venturing into the Forest School. They have been getting to know each other and growing in confidence throughout the week. We hope that everyone soon feels settled and part of the school family here at William Murdoch.

It has been another busy week with a multitude of learning activities taking place each day including the instrumental instruction of violin, guitar, brass and sitar to name a few. Before and after school clubs are also in full swing. We have a number of intervention strategies in place to support pupils in their learning with the school offering 1:1 or small group tutoring.

I spoke this week to parents of Year 1 children about the Phonics Screening Check that the children will be taking at the end of the year and the importance of phonics as one of the foundational building blocks of learning to read. Reading activities permeate all curriculum areas at William Murdoch and we use every opportunity to develop a reading culture. We ask that children spend at least half an hour each day reading in order to develop a reading habit. I cannot overstate the importance of reading. It develops stronger analytical skills, expands the vocabulary as well as improving your child's ability to focus and concentrate.

Did you know that if you read for 20 minutes a day, you'll read 1,800,000 words per year?

I hope you all have a great weekend and as always, I am available on the playground in the morning and after school if you want to speak to me, or alternatively you can leave a message with the Main Office.

Pupil Data Collection Sheets

We are currently updating our systems and pupil records to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information. Next week we will be sending pupils home with their Data Collection Sheets and we ask parents/carers to go through their child's information carefully and amend where necessary.

Parents' Evening

Please note the Autumn Term's parents' evenings are scheduled for the week commencing 7 October 2024. The Lower School parents' evening will take place on Monday 7 October 2024 with the Upper School parents' evening being held on Wednesday 9 October 2024. Parents' evening will

be held in the traditional way, with a five-minute appointment slot and an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books. A parents' evening appointment letter will be shared with you closer to the time.

Projects

On Friday 6 September 2024, pupils were set an Autumn Term project, which should be handed in on Monday 16 December 2024. Pupils should work on their projects during their weekends, and submit a photo of their progress on Class Dojo every two weeks. Their class teacher will remind them to do this. The titles of the projects which have been set for each year group are as follows:

- Reception: Look at Me
- Year 1: People That Help Us
- Year 2: The Royal Family
- Year 3: The Tudors
- Year 4: Ancient Egypt
- Year 5: Ancient Rome
- Year 6: The Victorians



Your child will have brought a project letter home with further details, which can also be found on Class Dojo. Projects have been a long-standing tradition of the school and provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their research, analysing, organisation and presentation skills. It also provides a chance for parents to get involved by helping their child complete their project.

BCC Wraparound Childcare Parent Survey

Birmingham City Council would like to invite you to complete a survey to help shape Wraparound Childcare for Primary School Age children in Birmingham to meet the needs of children, parents, carers and families. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Litter

Recently we have noticed an increased amount of litter around the school grounds and outside the school gate. Please ensure any rubbish is disposed of using the bins provided and encourage your children to do the same.

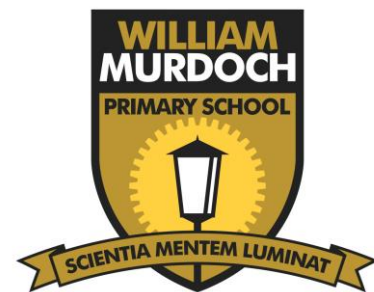


UNICEF Article of the Week

This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

Article 29 (Aims of Education) - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.





Pupils across the school focused on the question 'How can education support you to develop your personality, talents and abilities?' Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of developing pupil's talents and abilities by providing access to music, art, sports, clubs, trips, outdoor learning and supporting health and wellbeing. All these things will enable pupils to become the best person they can be.

Nasal Flu Vaccine

A reminder that Flu Vaccine Forms are to be returned to the class teacher on **Friday 27 September 2024.**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is back up and running and we still have a small number of places available. The cost of this provision is £2.50 per day for the first child, and £1.00 per day for any additional children, and must be paid for in advance on a half-termly basis. If you require any further information, please contact the Main Office at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

After-School Clubs

The school continues to provide an outstanding before and after school club offer. Places will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Pupils who have shown an interest in joining a club will be given a letter for their parents to complete and sign. It should be returned to their class teacher as soon as possible.



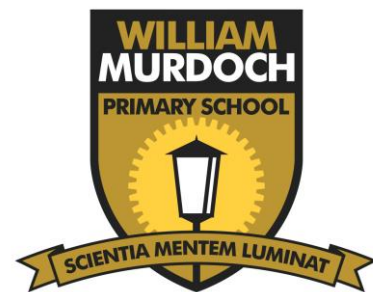
School Meals - ParentPay

From Reception to the end of Year 2, children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. From Year 3 upwards the cost of school lunches will be £2.30 per day. Families in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). If you think you might be eligible and have not yet applied, please contact the school office in confidence, or visit <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> for eligibility details and to apply online. Even if your child does not take the free meals up, or is currently having free meals because of their age, his/her entitlement to FSM will attract additional funding to the school. Please do apply if you think you might be eligible.



For children going up to Year 3 from September 2024, please remember that Universal Infant Free School Meals (UFSM) stop at the end of Year 2. The cost of school meals for Year 3 upwards will be £2.30 per day.

We ask that parents settle all Parent Pay outstanding balances by Friday 27 September 2024. We will continue to chase any outstanding payments until they have been paid in full. The school operates a No Debt Policy with regard to school meals, however families are well informed and supported through the process.



Nursery/Reception Places for September 2024

There remain a limited number of Nursery and Reception places for this academic year. If you have a child (or know of a friend or family member who has a child) who is born between 1/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 (Nursery) or 1/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 (Reception), we strongly encourage you to apply as spaces are strictly limited. Please register your interest by either telephoning the Main Office on 0121 554 0999 or via email on enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk. We are more than happy to help with completing the application process.

Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer Meeting

You will be aware that your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2025. The school has shared an information letter from the Local Authority for parents/carers on how to apply online. To support parents and pupils, answer your questions and explain the process as clearly as possible, a Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting has been arranged on **Thursday 3 October 2024** at **9.00am** in the Upper School hall and again at **3.30pm** in the Upper School hall.

Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. Your application must be submitted by **Thursday 31 October 2024**.

Class Dojo

At William Murdoch Primary School, we use Class Dojo as our remote learning platform. Class Dojo provides a way for children to complete learning online and submit work to their class teacher. As parents, you can see the work set by the class teacher and the completed homework submitted by your child. On the 'Class Story', you will be able to see the latest information and updates. There is also a messaging feature for you to contact your child's class teacher; however, this should not be used for sensitive issues, nor for reporting absences. All messages will be responded to within two working days.



If you experience any technical issues, then please contact the Main Office for further assistance.

WMPS Attendance Stats

Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days, which equates to 380 sessions. Registration takes place at 8.50am in the morning and after lunch in the afternoon. Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session including registration.



Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



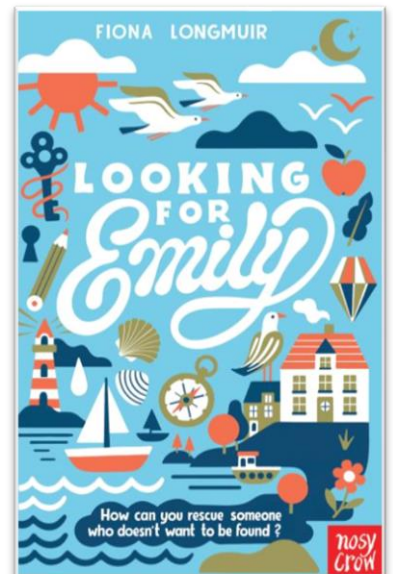
The Golden Hare – Paddy Donnelly

Meara embarks on an adventure with her grandpa to find the legendary Golden Hare. Guided by Grandad's nature journal, they follow clues and take time to appreciate the natural wonders around them. Along the way, Meara creates her own journals, filled to the brim with drawings, notes, and natural treasures. The shape of the Golden Hare is cleverly hidden on each page - sometimes in the ripples of water, between the trees, or even in the steam rising from a coffee mug. Readers are encouraged to slow down and look closely, discovering new hidden hares with every reread. At the end of the book, informative pages reveal that the Golden Hare is, in fact, a real animal! This story is perfect for inspiring children to explore the outdoors and start their own nature journals.

Upper School

Looking for Emily – Fiona Longmuir

Lily has just moved to a rather dull seaside town when she discovers a hidden museum dedicated to a girl named Emily, who vanished mysteriously years ago. Teaming up with new friends, Lily embarks on a quest to uncover the truth behind Emily's disappearance, but her investigation brings numerous dangers. Though it initially flew under the radar, this book is highly recommended and will prove to be a hidden gem. The dual narrative is particularly effective. Lily navigates the present day, piecing together the mystery of Emily, while Emily's own story unfolds from years earlier, as she grapples with a dire situation and evades various threats. Fiona Longmuir weaves the story together flawlessly, incorporating themes of friendship and belonging. Lily and Emily are compelling and authentic characters. This book is an absolute treasure, perfect for any Upper School children.



Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

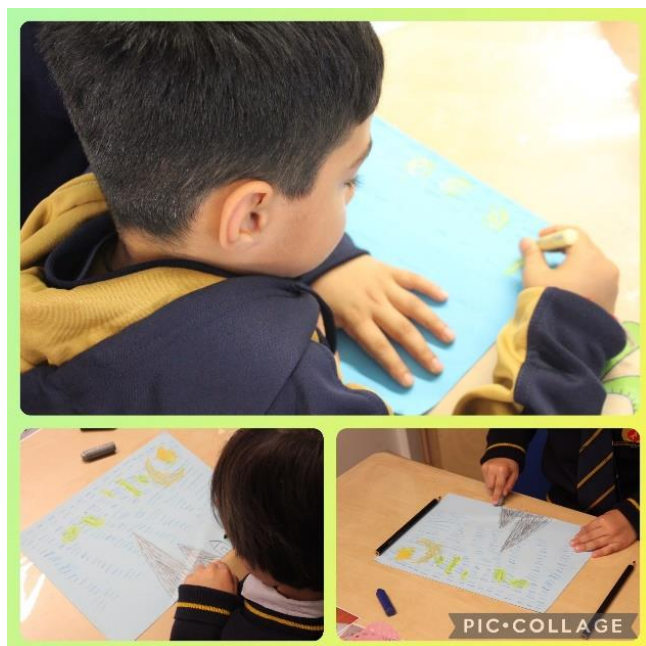


Zoya - Y5.2

The students in Year 5 have been learning about 'style' in relation to art and how different artists create their work in a range of ways. The children produced two sketches of a pear, one in chalk and one in oil pastels and they were instructed to vary the textures within their work. Zoya produced a brilliant image of a pear and added multiple details to her work in order to make it life-like.

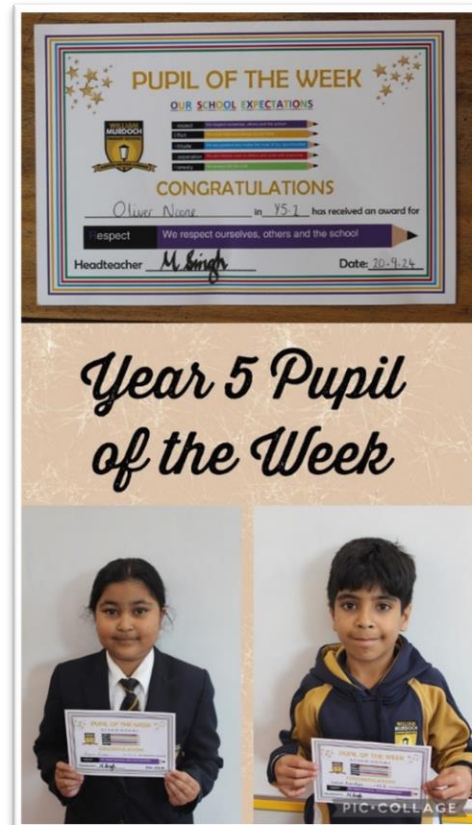
Reception Art Club

In Reception, many children have been taking part in an Art club. They have been using a range of materials to recreate famous pieces of art work, including The Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh. The children worked very hard to improve their drawing skills and the work produced was of an excellent standard.



Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 6 pupils, Jovan, Piya and Romeo and our Year 5 pupils, Oliver, Rayna and Samar for showing remarkable respect this week. Keep it up!



Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

23 September 2024
3 October 2024
4 October 2024
7 to 18 October 2024
7 October 2024
9 October 2024

Nursery School Photographs
Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting
Year 6 visit to Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Harvest Donations
Lower School Parents' Evening
Upper School Parents' Evening