

27 September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen." – Leonardo da Vinci

Dear Parents/Carers,

This academic year we will be continuing our work on 'My Happy Mind' which is an NHS approved wellbeing approach that helps children understand how their body works and the emotions they can experience. In assemblies this term children will be learning about important parts of their brain and how they might control that 'fight, flight or freeze' reaction that can come on when we get worried about something. I am sure you will hear them talking about their 'pre-frontal cortex' and 'amygdala' at home soon. Hopefully, you will also see them become more confident in understanding how to manage any big emotions that may come along.



At William Murdoch, we are passionately committed to ensuring all of our children and their families receive the support they need to thrive, within nurturing, safe and honest relationships that recognise and celebrates the uniqueness of all. We know that in order for our children to achieve their full potential and thrive, the pastoral care we give is just as important as the academic support.

Our Pastoral Team is made up of Mrs S Baker (Pastoral Manager) and Mr R Harris (Senior Learning Mentor), who are available to offer support and advice to children and their families on a wide range of issues both in school at home. They can be contacted via the Main Office and if they are unavailable you can leave a message. Alternatively, they are available every morning by the Albert Road gates.



We know that the first few weeks can be challenging for children whilst they are settling back into school routines and getting used to new teachers and rooms. With this in mind, please see the links below for advice on how to support your children and two storybooks for you to share with them that we have found to be very supportive to those struggling with separation anxiety.

[Daily Dose - What to ask your kid at the end of the day \(atriumhealth.org\) \(Conversation starters\)](https://atriumhealth.org)

[School Anxiety and Refusal | Parent Guide to Support | YoungMinds](#)

<https://youtu.be/WIUxXexjhYI>



<https://youtu.be/gNfMXLFPjF8>



Parent Governor

I am pleased to confirm that the parent governor vacancies have been filled following the nominations of Mrs R Choudhry, parent of Subhaan (Y6.2) and Sufyaan (Y1.3) and Mr S Kumar, parent of Mavin (Y4.1) and Siyan (Y1.3). No other nominations were received.

Pupil Data Collection Sheets

We are currently updating our systems and pupil records to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information. Today all pupils were sent home with their Data Collection Sheets. Please take your time to check through the information carefully and amend where necessary.

All adults who are responsible for your child must be included on the form and their relationship to your child. As part of the school's safeguarding procedures, we have implemented a 'Password' policy. If anyone would like to change their password or they have forgotten it, please see the Main Office.

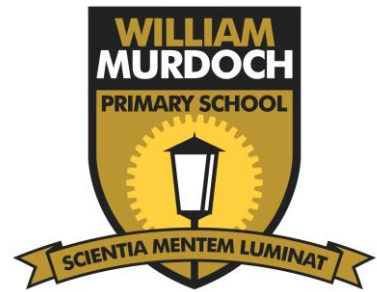
All medical conditions that your child may have, including allergies, must be included on the form.

Please ensure that you provide an email address that you check on a regular basis, as this is the school's main method of communication. The completed Data Collection Sheets should be returned to the class teacher, in the envelope provided by **Friday 4 October 2024**.

National Poetry Day

This year, National Poetry Day takes place on Thursday 3 October 2024, and the theme is counting. With the goal of igniting a passion for poetry, this yearly event offers a wonderful chance to dive into and appreciate the art form. Whether it's reconnecting with beloved, well-known poems or enjoying the creative satisfaction of writing fresh pieces, there's something for everyone.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Reciting and reading poetry aloud opens the door to a world of rhythm, rhyme, and captivating musicality. Great poems often feature riddles, call-and-response, and rap-like flows that resonate with young readers, which is why so many of our pupils enjoy learning poetry at school. To honour this special occasion, children throughout the school will dedicate an English lesson entirely to poetry. They'll explore rhyming couplets, haikus, sonnets, limericks, and much more. It's bound to be an incredible day!

Why is National Poetry Day so important?

1. Poetry provides an outlet for creativity and engagement with poetry is associated with positive literacy behaviours.
2. Poetry is an important tool to express feelings and struggles, escape reality or make sense of the complex events going on in our world.
3. Children and young people who read poetry have higher reading engagement than those who don't.
4. Children who read poetry are more likely to say they enjoy reading (62% vs. 42%).
5. And are more likely to read daily (38% vs. 24%).
6. Children who write poetry had higher writing engagement – and are twice as likely to say they enjoy writing (59% vs. 29%).



Year 6 Pupils with SEND

This QR code (for parents of Year 6 pupils with SEND) is great for families who are attending open days/evenings for secondary school transition. It gives suggestions of what questions to ask the SEND department.

<https://www.senschoolsguide.com/post/what-to-ask-a-senco>



Children's Oral Health

Colgate® cares about the future of Children's Oral Health which is why our Bright Smiles, Bright Futures programme will reach approximately 3.2 million children in the UK this year, ensuring that every young person has equal access to fundamental Oral Health products'.

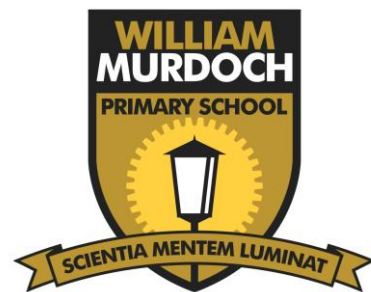
To help facilitate outstanding oral hygiene we are inviting parents/carers to access our digital pack via the following link: <https://bsbf-getinvolved.uk/parents/>

By completing the short form you'll:

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: 0121 554 0999 FAX: 0121 554 6332
EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



- Have access to educational materials to help guide your child
- Receive a coupon for Oral Care products (redeemable one per person)
- Boost your child's confidence

Nursery and Reception Open Days

We are incredibly proud of our early years provision and would welcome visits to the school for any parents who may be considering Nursery or Reception places in the future. We will be holding Nursery and Reception open days on:

Monday 18 November 2024 at 9.30am

Monday 2 December 2024 at 9.30am

Thursday 9 January 2025 at 9.30am

Please contact the Main Office if you or someone you know would like to attend.

UNICEF Article of the Week



This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

Article 12 (Respect for Children's Views) - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.



Pupils across the school focused on the question, 'Why should you be able to share your views and opinions on matters that affect you?' Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of being listened to and their views are respected and valued. It also helps them prepare for adulthood. Relationships between children and adults improve when there's communication.

Nasal Flu Vaccine

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

Attendance

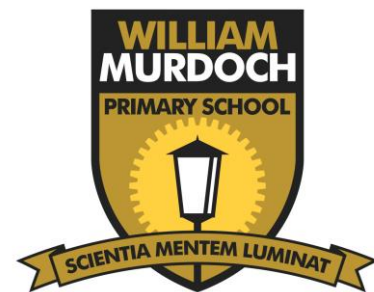
Attendance has been very good so far this term. Thank you for your help in making sure that your children attend school and arrive on time. Although we continue to maintain a soft start to the day, punctuality is vitally important. All school doors close at 8.50am. Any children arriving after that time will need to enter via the Main Office and will be signed in as late. Children undertake important learning first thing in the morning and it can be unsettling for children who arrive late. If your child is unable to attend school, it is extremely important that you inform the school of this before 9.00am on the day of absence. Please either email the school at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk or leave a message on the absence line, giving your child's name, class and a brief reason for absence. If we are not informed of a reason for an absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised.

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



Please also arrive promptly to collect your child(ren) at the end of the day.

If your child is booked on a club and will not be attending for any reason, it is really important that you, and not your child, speak to a member of the office staff before the club is due to start. This is for safeguarding reasons. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

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.

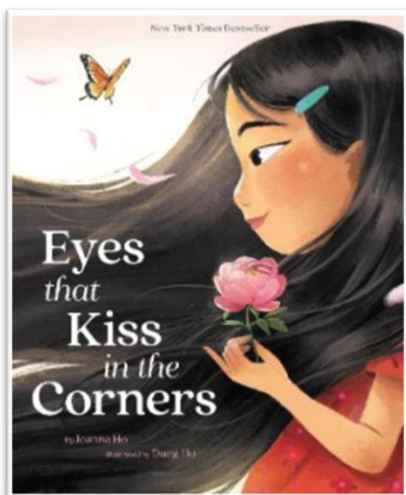
Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. Your application must be submitted by **Thursday 31 October 2024**.

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

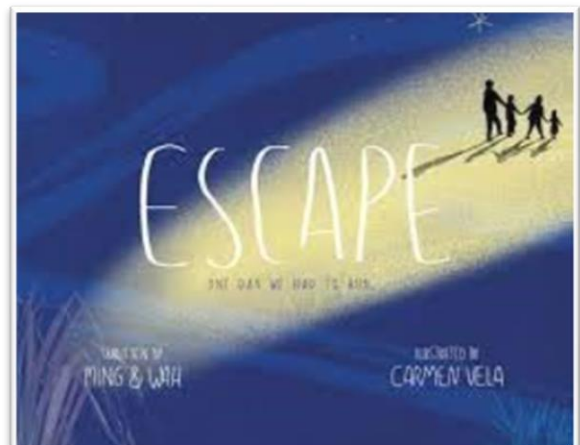
Eyes that Kiss in the Corners - Joanna Ho and Dung Ho (Illustrator)

I'm not going to reveal too much about this charming book but what I will say is that I adore a poetic picture book and they don't come much more captivating and lyrical than this gem. It's a magical celebration of diversity that mirrors a similar message to that of Hair Love by Matthew A Cherry (another great modern picture book worth exploring!). You should definitely buy this for your child and let children get lost in its beauty!

Upper School

Escape: One Day We Had to Run - Ming & Wah and Carmen Vela (Illustrator)

At first, this book seems very simple and aimed at younger readers as it looks more like a picture book. However, don't be fooled! Using 12 action verbs, this book introduces children to groups of refugees and individuals who were left with no choice but to escape their own country. Spanning both the geography and history of our planet, this book is a compelling look at refugeeism and its history. Its stories are charted on a map and timeline and each one offers new insight for young readers. This would be a book I'd relish sharing with KS2 students because this book is rife with talking points throughout.



Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week



Nandi Y2.1

In Year 2 the children have been learning about how artists use colours and shapes in their work. The classes investigated tints and shades and explored how different tones of paint can be placed together to create a piece of work. Year 2 had fun creating different tints and shades and creating concentric circles in oranges, yellows and reds. Nandi mixed paints together effectively and produced a piece of art full of vibrancy.

Ravnoor Y3.3

In Year 3 the children have been exploring how artists use lines in a variety of ways within their work. Each child drew a picture of their hand and arm and used line in such a way to create a three-dimensional effect. The final results were excellent. Ravnoor produced a detailed sketch and paid particular attention to the proportions within his artistic study.

Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 3 pupils, Zayd, Maidah and Ayaan for their hard work and effort this week. Keep it up!



Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

3 October 2024	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting
4 October 2024	Year 6 visit to Ironbridge Gorge Museum
7 to 18 October 2024	Harvest Donations
7 October 2024	Lower School Parents' Evening
9 October 2024	Upper School Parents' Evening