

18 October 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller

Dear Parents/Carers,

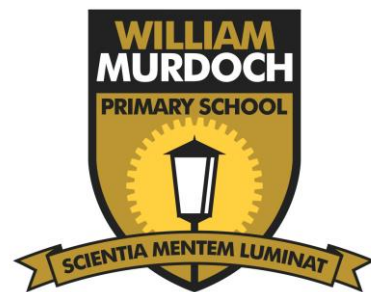
Primary school serves as the cornerstone for academic and personal growth. It is during these formative years that children develop essential skills, build lasting friendships, and lay the foundation for a successful future. At the heart of this journey lies a vital ingredient: regular attendance.

- 1. Learning Continuity:** Each school day is a unique opportunity for your child to learn and grow. Consistent attendance ensures that they don't miss out on valuable lessons, essential concepts, and the chance to build a strong educational base.
- 2. Building Routine:** Attending school regularly helps children establish a daily routine, teaching them important life skills such as time management and responsibility. These skills will serve them well as they progress through their educational journey and into adulthood.
- 3. Social Development:** Primary school is not just about academics; it's a place where children form bonds, develop social skills, and learn to work collaboratively with others. Regular attendance provides the consistent environment necessary for these important social interactions.
- 4. Confidence Boost:** Success at school can boost a child's confidence. Regular attendance allows them to participate in class, engage in activities, and showcase their talents, all of which contribute to a positive self-image.
- 5. Punctuality Matters:** Punctuality is a life skill that begins at primary school. Being on time for school sets a precedent for future commitments, ensuring your child develops the habit of showing up on time and ready to learn.
- 6. Legal Requirements:** It's important to remember that regular school attendance is not only beneficial but also a legal requirement. Ensuring your child attends school as scheduled not only supports their education but also keeps you in compliance with the law.
- 7. Educational Success:** Studies have consistently shown a direct link between good attendance and academic achievement. The more your child is present in school, the better their chances of excelling in their studies and achieving their long-term goals.

In conclusion, primary school attendance is the cornerstone upon which your child's educational journey is built. It's not just about being physically present; it's about actively engaging in the learning process, forging friendships, and setting the stage for a bright future. Let's work together to ensure that every day in primary school counts.

I wanted to inform you that next week, we will be reaching out to some parents regarding their child's attendance at school. Please don't be alarmed if we contact you about this; we simply want to

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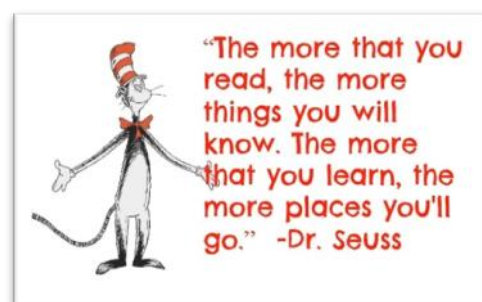


keep you updated and work together to ensure the best possible educational experience for your child.

Our aim is to keep you informed about your child's attendance and to provide any assistance or support that may be needed. By flagging up any attendance issues early on, we can collectively address any concerns and help your child stay on track. Your partnership in your child's education is highly valued, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us.

WMPS Book Fair

Come and support your children and the school next week by visiting the WMPS Book Fair which will take place after school from Monday 21 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024 in the new library area. See for yourself over 500 titles of the very best quality and range of children's books available today. The Book Fair will have all of your children's favourite books including those just published, some famous, some entertaining and amusing, some informative but all of excellent quality and at affordable prices. There are books to suit all pockets ranging from £1.00 - £10.00, with most picture story books and reading books costing between £4.00 and £6.00.



Every book you buy will help the school as the Book Fair donates books as a way to say thank you. Please support us by coming along on one of the days, which promises to be a very enjoyable experience for everyone. Specialist book advisors will be available to help you with choices and give you the best and latest information about children's books. We look forward to seeing you there.

Exclusive WMPS Offer for Disney's Aladdin at Birmingham Hippodrome

The school has partnered with Birmingham Hippodrome to provide drama and arts lessons for our pupils. Birmingham Hippodrome have kindly sent a special offer for the families of their partner schools, and we kindly ask that this is not shared more widely other than through our school community.

£5 off all tickets* at the following performances:

Thu 17 Oct, 7.30pm
Thu 24 Oct, 7.30pm
Tue 29 Oct, 7.30pm
Wed 30 Oct, 7.30pm
Thu 31 Oct, 7.30pm

Available on Price Bands A - E

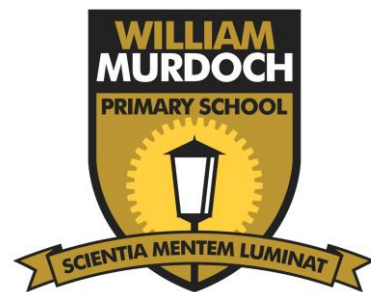
Limited to 6 tickets in total, per person



WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Use promo code **ALADDINHEN** or click the booking link below. Select '£5 Off Offer' when choosing your seats.

Age guidance 6+ (no under 3s admitted)

*Prices and discounts can be changed at any time and are subject to limited availability. Only one concession is applicable per ticket and discounts cannot be offered retrospectively. Please do not share this offer on social media as we may be forced to withdraw the offer.

Booking link: <https://bookings.birminghamhippodrome.com/events/42443?promo=ALADDINHEN>

Musical Instruments

The school spends a considerable sum of money on specialist musical teachers who teach our children to learn a range of different instruments, including violin, guitar, flute, brass, and sitar and tabla to name a few. Unfortunately, the music teachers are finding that a small number of children are regularly turning up to their sessions both during the school day and after school, without their musical instrument. Please ensure your child regularly brings their musical instrument to school. Where clubs are concerned, if a child regularly fails to bring their instrument to the club then they may have to forfeit their place as many of the clubs are oversubscribed.

Aston District Football Tournament

On Tuesday, Mr Harris and 8 children went to Aston Villa's Inner-City Academy to represent our school in a Gifted and Talented Premier League school football competition. This competition runs throughout the school year and is only open to children in Years 5 and 6. We played against schools from across Birmingham getting a mixed bag of results. The experience of playing at such an illustrious venue was fantastic with the children having an amazing time even if some results didn't go our way. Well done to those who attended, you represented our school in the manner we always expect.



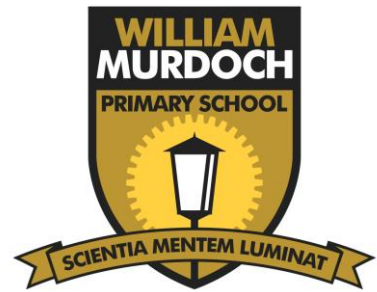
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Year 3 visit to Birmingham City Centre

In an exciting and educational adventure, Year 3 children embarked on a captivating journey to Birmingham City Centre as part of their Spatial Sense Geography topic. Exploring the city they have been studying in their lessons, this field trip brought their classroom learning to life in a remarkable way. The young explorers had the opportunity to visit local landmarks that had hooked their curiosity in class. They witnessed first-hand the significance of the city's historic canals and how they played a vital role in Birmingham's growth. The canals were not just lines on a map; they were vibrant arteries that once powered Birmingham's industrial heart.

One of the highlights of the day was their visit to the Library of Birmingham. Here, our inquisitive learners not only discovered the treasure trove of knowledge within its walls but also learned the art of proper library etiquette. They found out how to borrow books and, most importantly, how to treat these literary gems with care and respect. This invaluable lesson will stay with them as they continue their reading journeys. The day was nothing short of an adventure that allowed our Year 3 children to connect their classroom knowledge to the real world. Birmingham's rich history, its canals, and the library experience all came together to create a memorable day of learning that will leave a lasting impact on these young minds. We can't wait to see how this experience will shape their understanding of the world around them.



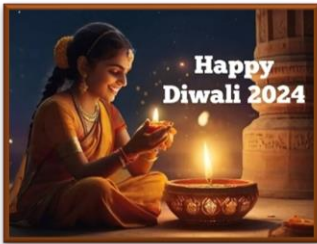
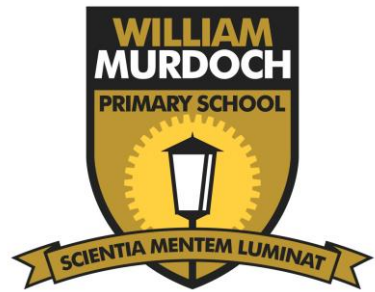
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Diwali Assembly

As part of our Diwali celebrations, Year 6 will be performing in a special assembly on Thursday 24 October 2024 at 9.00am. Access will be from the Upper School Hall. We warmly invite parents to attend the assembly.

Harvest Donations

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the very generous donations that we have received in school, this week and last. We will be sharing the donations between two local foodbanks that are supported by Sifa Fireside and the Handsworth Association of Schools.

Aston Villa's Half Term Soccer Schools

This half-term, Aston Villa Foundation will be hosting Soccer School for pupils aged 5-12 between the 28 October and 1 November 2024 at a range of locations.

- Aston Soccer School - **Aston Villa FC City Academy**
- Sutton Coldfield Soccer School - **Sutton Coldfield Town FC**
- Harborne Soccer School - **Lordswood Girls Academy**
- Solihull Soccer School - **St Peter's Catholic School**

Please visit: [AVFC Soccer Schools](#) to get your child's place secured this half-term.



**ASTON VILLA
FOUNDATION**

A promotional poster for Aston Villa Foundation's October 2024 Half Term Soccer Schools. The poster features the Aston Villa logo and the text 'ASTON VILLA Foundation OCTOBER 2024 HALF TERM SOCCER SCHOOLS'. Below this is a photograph of a coach interacting with children on a soccer field. At the bottom, there are four buttons for the locations: ASTON, HARBORNE, SOLIHULL, and SUTTON COLDFIELD. The time is listed as 9:30am - 3:30pm, the dates as Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov, and the age range as 5-12. A circular button says 'CLICK HERE TO BOOK'.

Half-Term Holiday

Please note that school will close for pupils on Thursday 24 October 2024 at 3.20pm/3.25pm for the half-term holiday. The school will re-open again for pupils on Monday 4 November 2024 from 8.30am for morning Nursery and from 8.40am for all other pupils.

BBC 500 Words Competition

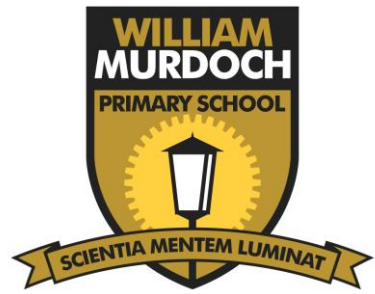
Since 500 Words began, it has inspired over a million children across the UK to write their own short-stories. This year the BBC want to hear from even more children, no matter what their ability. The competition is a celebration of children's creativity, so stories will not be marked on spelling, grammar or punctuation. There will be two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less.



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The closing date for entries is Friday 8 November 2024 at 9pm.
More information on how to submit your entry can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk#zsfk239>

Parents of Year 6 Pupils - Open Mornings at King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys
King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School are holding Open Mornings which are aimed at boys who have already sat their 11+ and still considering their secondary school options. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

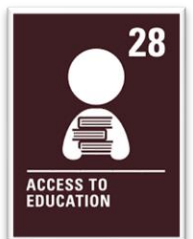
UNICEF Article of the Week



This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

Article 28: Access to Education

All children across the world have the right to access primary education for free, and secondary education must be available to every child.



But, just as important is the quality of the education that is received – just being in a school is not enough. Article 28 also speaks of the importance of children being treated with dignity in their school setting. Also, it places additional responsibility for global education on richer countries, as it makes clear that they must help poorer countries to ensure that all children can access their right to education. Children's rights are universal and indivisible and the right to a good quality education is an example of how rights are interdependent. For a child to enjoy a good quality education lots of other rights need to be accessed too – health, for example. You can't learn effectively if you are unwell.

Pupils across the school focused on the question, 'Why education is so important for children and young people?' Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of education and how it supports other articles of the Convention. All children have the right to learn.

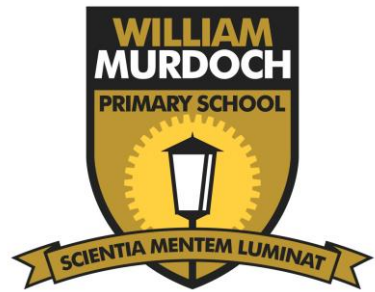


Nursery and Reception Open Days

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.

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Parents of Nursery Pupils



Applications are now open for the 2025 Reception intake.

The application must be made directly with the local authority and **must** be submitted by **Sunday 15 January 2025**. Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. If you need any help or support in completing the application for your child, please speak to Mrs Kullar in the first instance or contact the Main Office.

Parents of Year 6 Pupils

Families with children due to start secondary school in September 2025 are now able to apply online for secondary school places. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2024 and places will be offered on 3 March 2025.

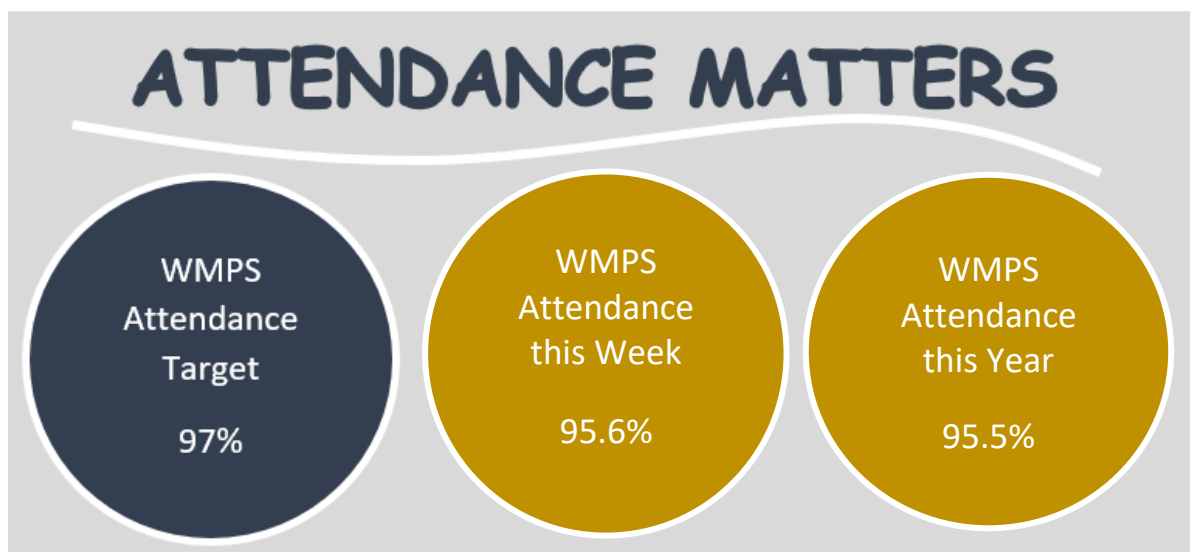
All the information families need to make their applications is on the council website:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1

It is particularly important that families carefully consider the school's admission criteria and name at least one school on their application where their child would have been offered a place in previous years. Please be aware of the deadline as parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.

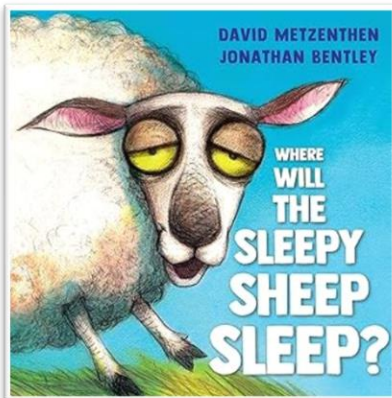
WMPS Attendance Stats

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



Where Will the Sleepy Sheep Sleep? - David Metzenthen & Jonathan Bentley (Illustrator)

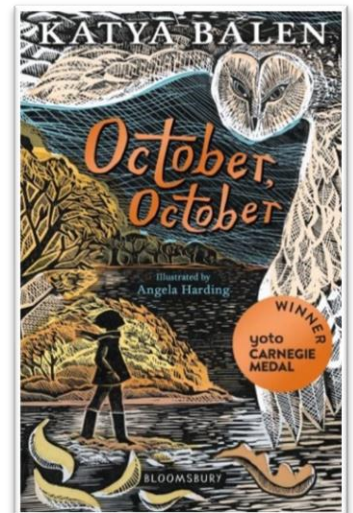
This delightful and funny book employs rhythmic rhymes and clever wordplay to captivate young readers as they follow a sleepy sheep in search of the perfect resting spot. The interactive question-and-answer style encourages children to experiment with tongue twisters, alliteration, and assonance, helping them expand their vocabulary and improve word recognition. Jonathan Bentley's illustrations depict a sheep whose eyelids grow increasingly heavy, reflecting the deepening colours of the evening sky and surroundings. This charming story is ideal for bedtime

reading with little ones, and it also lends itself to engaging craft activities.

Upper School

October, October - Katya Balen & Angela Harding (Illustrator)

October was born in the month of October, "when the trees begin to shed their leaves onto a colourful patchwork floor and the ground glows like fire." She shares her life in the woods with her father, their existence intricately woven into the natural world around them. However, everything shifts when her dad has an accident and her mother, who has long been absent, returns to her life. This beautifully crafted novel tells the story of October's resilience and growth as she navigates these changes. Reading it is akin to uncovering one of the rare, earthy treasures nestled within October's woods. It will truly leave any reader feeling captivated.



Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week



Farhah Y1.2

In Year 1 the children have been using different materials to show a stormy scene. They applied paint and colourful paper to a seascape carefully to create the effect of movement. Farhah produced an outstanding creation with great attention to detail.



Liyana Y4.2

In Year 4 the children have been practising their drawing from life skills. They drew a selection of objects that they observed in front of them onto a background that they had painted in advance. Liyana showed some great observation skills and she should be very proud of herself.

Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 1 pupils, and our Year 2 pupils, Zoya, Ariyanna and Hassan for their remarkable attitude they have shown this week. Keep it up!



Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

21 to 23 October 2024

24 October 2024

24 October 2024

4 November 2024

WMPS Book Fair

Year 6 Diwali Assembly

Pupils break up for half-term

Pupils return to school