

25 October 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." – Albert Camus

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have somehow raced to the end of the half-term. It has gone at a blistering pace and autumn is well and truly here, so it is the perfect time to go on a local family walk and enjoy the abundance of wildlife in our local parks during the half-term break. If you would like to stretch further afield, the following link to the National Trust website will provide you with places to visit in the Midlands. All the places shown are open, but there may be restrictions in place. Please make sure you check web pages for individual places before you travel for booking details and the most up to date information about visiting.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/half-term-in-the-midlands>

I have spent a lot of time around school and in classes this half-term and have been really impressed by the quality of work and the effort that pupils are putting into their work. They have settled really well and I am sure that there are great things ahead for the rest of the year. We have celebrated so many successes across school and we look forward to continuing on this journey next term.



Diwali Assembly

Year 6 led a wonderful assembly this morning celebrating Diwali. The epic story of Rama and Sita, their 14-year exodus, the battle with demon king Ravana, and their victorious return was all re-told. There was plenty of singing, adventure and battles, all set against a colourful backdrop. The assembly ended with a traditional Indian stick dance and the lighting of lamps.

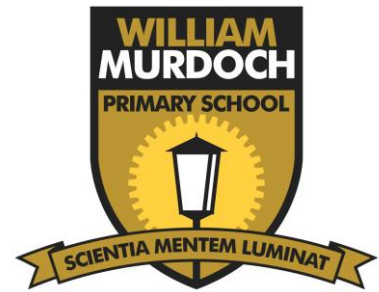
DT Day

Our topic in **Nursery** this half term is 'All About Me'. We have been learning all about ourselves, our families and the area in which we live. We have been learning about different kinds of houses. For DT day, we used junk materials to create houses.



The children in **Reception** have designed and made pumpkin soup for DT day. They learnt the importance of each ingredient and developed their fine motor skills by cutting a range of different vegetables for their soup. All the children enjoyed eating their pumpkin soup: "it was delicious"!

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



During DT day, **Year 1** made jam tarts. The children discussed the recipe and designed their jam tarts before making them. They all worked as a team to sort, measure and prepare the ingredients. Each child had the opportunity to mix, roll and cut their dough before adding jam to their tarts. Once the jam tarts were cooked the children tasted them and evaluated them. The children enjoyed the day and were all very excited to have the chance at becoming a chef for the day. The jam tarts were very tasty, and all the children should be very proud of themselves

Run, run as fast as you can... you can't catch me I am the ginger bread man... but Year 2 did! **Year 2** became bakers for the day... The children got stuck in and began their day researching about the origin of gingerbread and understanding that ginger is a spice.

The fun began when the fingers came out to pour the flour and mix the ingredients together, the flour was everywhere but so were the smiles. The smell of the gingerbread lingered throughout the corridors which left mouths watering. The children thoroughly enjoyed icing their gingerbread friends and adding many sweet treats. The gingerbread was scrumptious and the day was sweet!



In **Year 3**, the children honed their sewing skills by designing and creating beautiful stuffed bauble decorations. Whether for a Christmas gift or a personal keepsake, each child worked hard to bring their designs to life. Though the task was tricky at times, everyone enjoyed the challenge and got to practice this invaluable skill while having lots of fun!

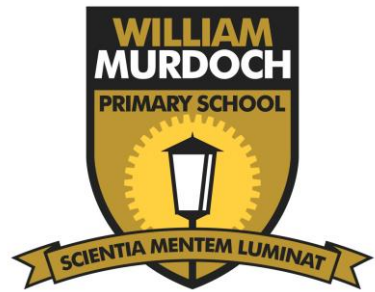
WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Our **Year 4** pupils had a blast on their Design and Technology day, turning their imaginations into reality! After researching various cushion designs and purposes, the children embarked on a creative journey using appliqué. They skilfully added their designs or patterns to their cushions using a whipstitch, showcasing their artistic flair. Next, they expertly sewed the front and back pieces together using a running stitch. Before filling their cushions with soft stuffing. They finished their creations with a backstitch, ensuring a neat and professional look. This hands-on activity not only fostered creativity but also enhanced the children's fine motor skills and provided a therapeutic end to the half-term.

On DT Day, **Year 5** researched, designed, made and evaluated cam toys. The children learnt how different types of mechanisms can be used to make a cam toy work effectively and had the opportunity to put their learning into practice. Everyone had lots of fun assembling their cam toys and were very creative with their designs.



WMPS Book Fair

It was that exciting time of the year again when the Book Fair came to school. Last year's Book Fair was so popular and loved by pupils, parents and teachers alike that we just had to get the Primary Books people back in. Again, we didn't just have a book fair. We went even bigger. We hosted a Book Event. For three whole days, children attended storytelling workshops based around the themes of Australia and Polynesia. They got to sing songs, converse and even dress up in traditional Australian/Polynesian attire before hearing a traditional story. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and this was evident with the long queues of children waiting every day after school to purchase new books.

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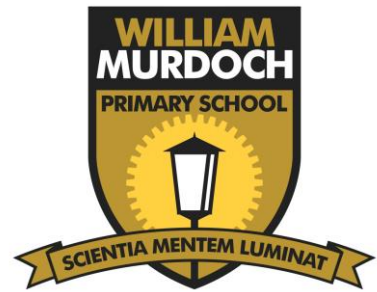
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Thank you to all of you who helped support it. It was a great few days and the children and the school got a lot of out of it. Thanks to your help, the school has been able to buy over £600 worth of books which we will now be able to use to further support lessons for all children.



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. The food will be packed into boxes to be passed on to people who are struggling with the current cost of living. The donations have been shared with the Handsworth Association of Schools Foodbank.



Clocks Go Back



Clocks will go back an hour in the United Kingdom in the early hours of Sunday 27 October. This will mark the end of British Summer Time.

Trick or Treating

We have been asked by the Police to encourage parents and carers not to allow their children to go Trick or Treating unsupervised. This can cause unnecessary stress and can be very frightening to members of the community. Thank you for your support.

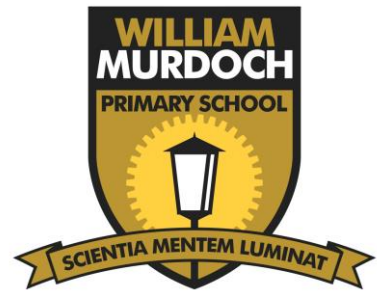


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UK Health Security Agency

Norovirus, also called the "winter vomiting bug", is a stomach bug that causes vomiting and diarrhoea. It can be very unpleasant, but usually goes away in about 2 days.

The main symptoms of norovirus are:

- feeling sick (nausea)
- diarrhoea
- being sick (vomiting)

You may also have:

- a high temperature
- a headache
- aching arms and legs

The symptoms start suddenly within 1 to 2 days of being infected.

You can usually treat yourself or your child at home.

The most important thing is to rest and have lots of fluids to avoid dehydration.

You will usually start to feel better in 2 to 3 days.

Protect others from norovirus by washing your hands regularly with soap and warm water, especially before preparing food and after going to the toilet. Alcohol gels do not kill norovirus, so it is important to wash hands regularly.



SMART Internet Rules

Over half term, it is likely children will be spending more time than usual on their tablets and other devices. Do help them to stay safe when using the internet and technology by making sure they are showing you what they are doing. We teach children to stay safe by never sharing any information with people they don't know, even if they say they are another child and always telling an adult about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. If you would like any support with setting up child locks or firewalls to prevent children accessing adult material, do let us know. Please see the attached SMART rules poster for using the online space.

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

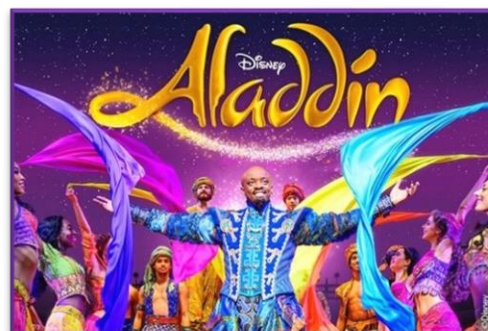
Limited to 6 tickets in total, per person

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>



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](https://www.avfc.com/soccer-schools) to get your child's place secured this half-term.



**ASTON VILLA
FOUNDATION**



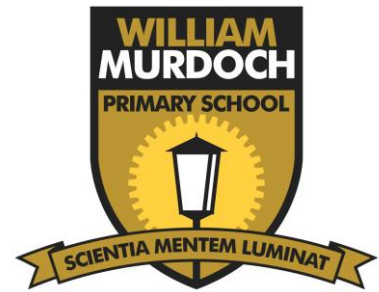
**ASTON VILLA
Foundation**
**OCTOBER 2024 HALF TERM
SOCCER SCHOOLS**

ASTON HARBORNE SOLIHULL SUTTON COLDFIELD

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm
Dates: Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov
Age: 5 - 12

**CLICK
HERE TO
BOOK**

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



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.



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 6: Life, Survival and Development

This week pupils across the school have focused on Article 6 which is life, survival and development. Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

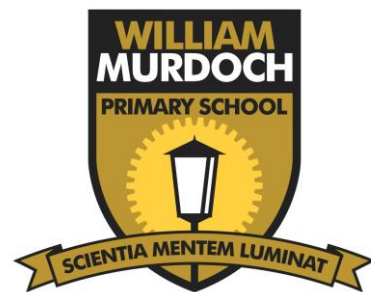
Pupils across the school focused on the question, 'What are all the things that you need to survive and to develop?' Staff and pupils have discussed all the things they need to flourish, thrive and develop to their full potential. This includes good health – physical and mental, education, people to look after them, protection so they are safe from abuse and neglect and a good standard of living. We also looked at all the things they are looking forward to learning and experiencing in the future.



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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.

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.

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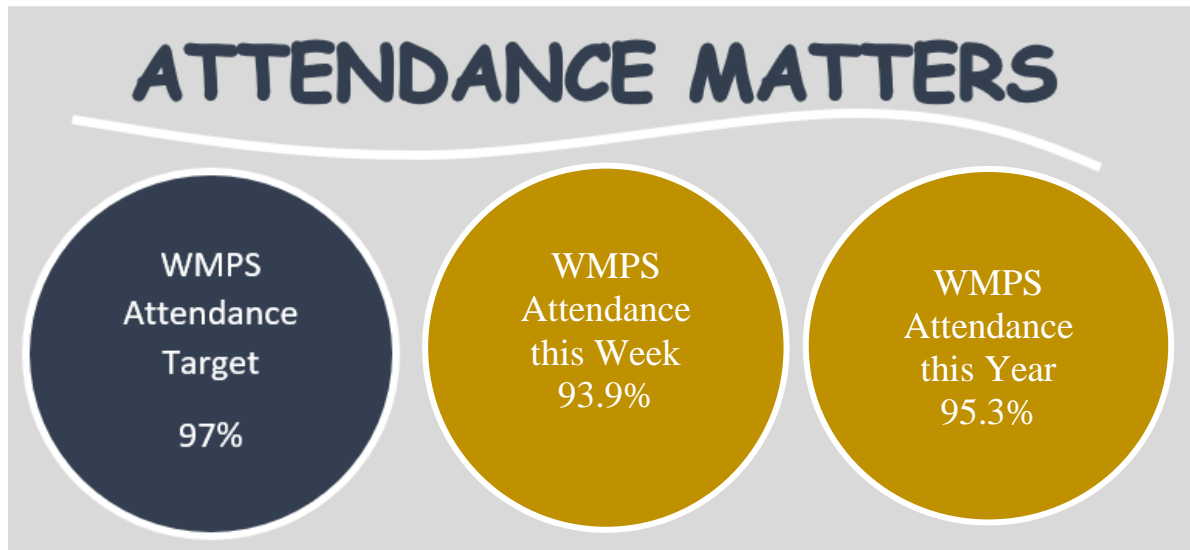
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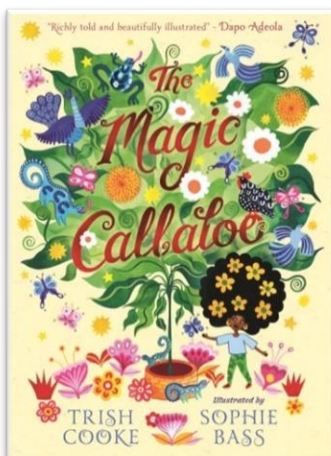
WMPS Attendance Stats

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 Magic of Callaloe - Trish Cooke & Sophie Bass (Illustrator)

Mister and Missis take the final leaf from the village's enchanted callaloo plant, hoping for a child. Their dream comes true with the arrival of their sweet-natured daughter, Lou, whose stunning Afro curls reach towards the sky. Tragically, Lou is soon captured and held captive by a malevolent man...

This retelling of the classic fairy tale, Rapunzel, draws inspiration from tales shared with the author, Trish Cooke, about enslaved Africans who wove patterns into their cornrowed hair to create escape maps. Sophie Bass's vibrant illustrations add a captivating visual element. Suitable for ages 5 and up.

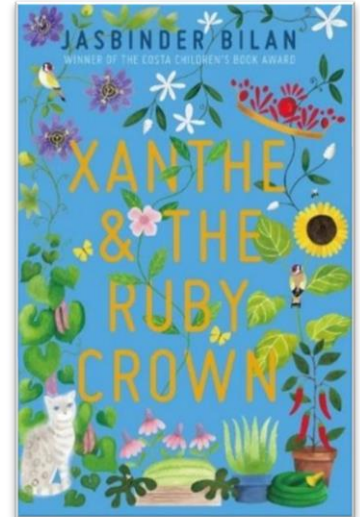
Upper School

Xanthe & the Ruby Crown - Jasbinder Bilan & Steve Wells (Illustrator)

“Everyone carries a hidden past, filled with unexpected moments...”

Xanthe cherishes her visits to her Nani, especially the time spent in Nani’s rooftop garden. She holds dear memories of their moments together, but now Nani is beginning to forget, leaving Xanthe feeling heartbroken and unsure how to assist her.

This story follows Xanthe, a history enthusiast, as she embarks on a journey to uncover hidden treasures. Guided by a mysterious cat, Xanthe discovers clues about her Nani’s life back in Africa. It’s a touching tale that aims to help Nani remember. I recommend this book for children in Year 4 and up.



Mr Slinn’s Artist of the Week



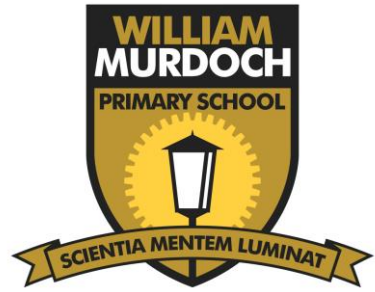
Avnoor Y3.3

In Year 3 the children have been learning about how artists use printing in their practice. Year 3 explored how line can be used effectively within the printing process to create a visual effect. Having looked at many examples of print work Year 3 carved onto a printing block and produced colourful prints. Avnoor produced an excellent image of a flower.

Anu and Huzaifa in Nursery

In Nursery the children have been learning about Diwali and why it is celebrated. The children learnt that Diwali is the festival of lights and that many families celebrate it by going to the temple to pray, wearing new clothes and eating good food. Anu and Huzaifa used a wide range of materials to create a vibrant and colourful piece of art work.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Have a wonderful half term break and we will see you back in school on Monday 4 November 2024.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

4 November 2024

Pupils return to school