

8 November 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Nobody lives forever. Our time on this planet is finite. Don't waste your time worrying about stuff that isn't important. Focus on the things that are." – Sir Chris Hoy

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a good half-term break and some much-needed time with friends and family. I am sure you are looking forward to the term ahead- it is always a very busy time of the year with lots of festivals and celebrations.

This week many of you will be enjoying bonfires and firework displays. For information on firework safety and the 'Firework Code', please use the following link from the British Fireworks Association- <https://www.britishfireworksassociation.co.uk/firework-advice-forconsumers/>. We hope all families have a happy and enjoyable time.

The weather, although mild for this time the year, has changed and is certainly more autumnal! Please ensure that your child brings a coat to school and that it is clearly named. We always try and get the children outside to play, even when there may be some light rain in the air. Some fresh air and a chance to run around is always beneficial.

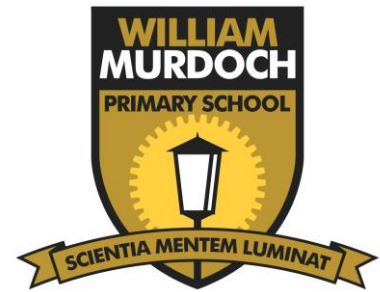
As winter draws in, this is a good time to think about the birds that visit our neighbourhood. If you have a balcony or garden, how about making a simple bird feeder or water bath with your children? Start by watching to see which birds live nearby as different species prefer different foods. You will find lots of plans for water baths and feeders online.

Children in Need



The school will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal on Friday 15 November 2024. It will be non-uniform day and the theme this year is coloured spots, so children may dress in something spotty and colourful for a £1.00 donation. In addition to this there will be a variety of Children in Need merchandise on sale from Monday 11 November 2024 in the Lower School hall during breaktime.

All funds raised will go directly to Children in Need.



Odd Socks Day

Anti-bullying week is taking place from Monday 11 November to Friday 15 November 2024. The theme for the week is 'Choose Respect'.

To celebrate Anti-bullying week, we will be holding an 'Odd Socks Day' in school on Tuesday 12 November 2024. This is where both pupils and staff are encouraged to wear odd socks to school to raise awareness of bullying and to encourage young people to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique.



Christmas Card Competition

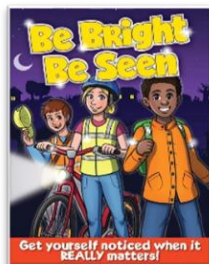


We will be making every effort to make Christmas a special time for our children. Children will be making a Christmas card in school later in the term to take home. Today children have been given details of a competition to design the official school Christmas card. Entries need to be submitted to the class teacher by Monday 25 November 2024.

The school will be supporting the Christmas Jumper Day campaign on Friday 20 December 2024. In the final days of the term, children will be taking part in Christmas festivities, including watching a special showing of a panto that the school has purchased and a staff panto production. There will be a special Year 3 Christmas assembly and Nursery/Reception Nativity production, both of which parents will be invited to attend. The children will also receive a free Christmas lunch. We will write to you about all of these closer to the time.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Assembly

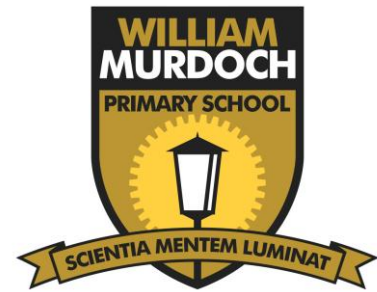
As part of our Guru Nanak Dev Ji's celebrations, Year 2 will be performing in a special assembly on Friday 15 November 2024 at 9.00am in the Upper School Hall. We warmly invite parents to attend the assembly.



Dark Nights

Now that the clocks have gone back and it is getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you are out especially near roads. There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safe. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.





Birthday Treats

We understand that children may want to celebrate their birthday and other important events in their lives with their friends at school. However, we ask that children do not bring in sweets / treats / cakes for their class. Not only do we have an increasing number of children with a range of severe allergies, we also wish to avoid unnecessary competition between children; and in doing so helps the school uphold our healthy school status.

Online Security Resources (7-11-year olds)

Young people are growing up in an increasingly digital world, exposing them to both the opportunities and risks of the internet. CyberSprinters empowers them to make smart decisions about staying secure online.



The digital game can be played on phone, tablet and desktop, and is supported by a suite of activities to be led by educational practitioners working with 7-11-year olds. Parents and carers can also try the CyberSprinter puzzles with their children at home!

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters>

Medicines in School

Prescription medicines will only be administered at school:

- When it would be detrimental to the pupil's health or school attendance not to do so **and**
- Where we have parents' written consent

The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are:

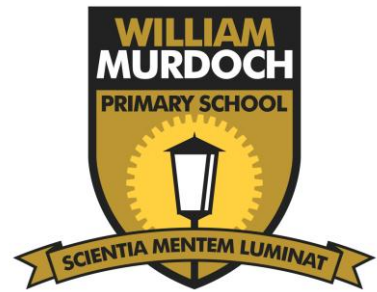
- In-date
- Labelled
- Provided in the original container, as dispensed by the pharmacist, and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage

The school will accept insulin that is inside an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container, but it must be in date.

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.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



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.

UNICEF Article of the Week



This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

Article 7: Name and Nationality

Article 8: Identity

This week pupils across the school have focused on **Article 7** which is birth registration, name, nationality, care. Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents.

Article 8 which is protection and preservation of identity. Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

Pupils across the school focused on things that make them unique. This includes appearance, nationality, religion, ethnicity family, talents, interests, skills and experiences.



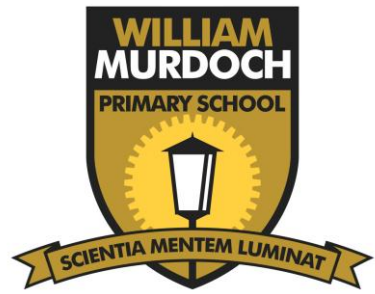
WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



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.

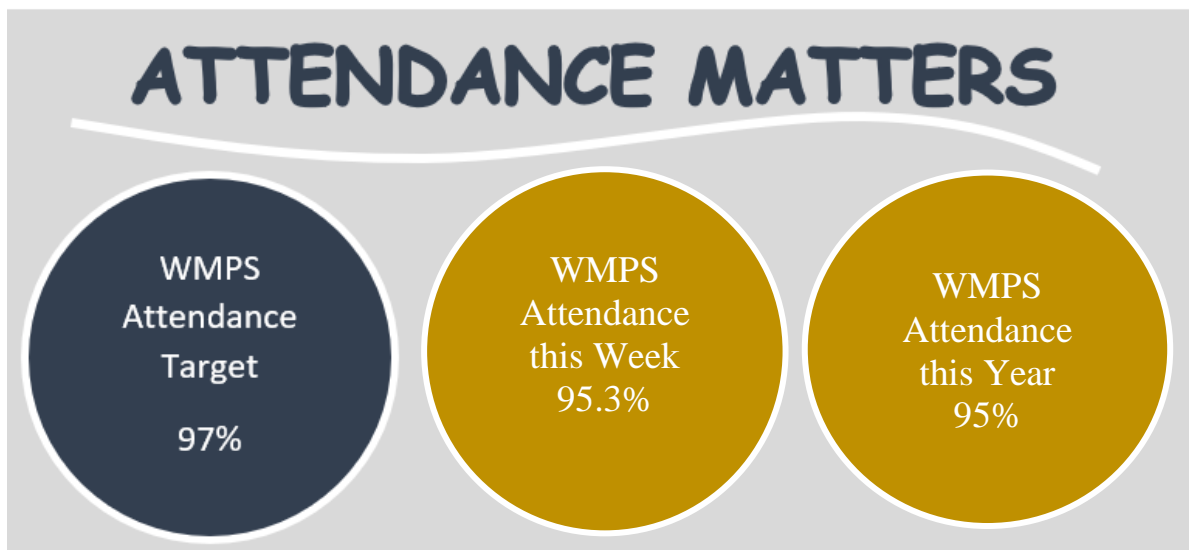
Parents of Nursery Pupils



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.

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.



WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

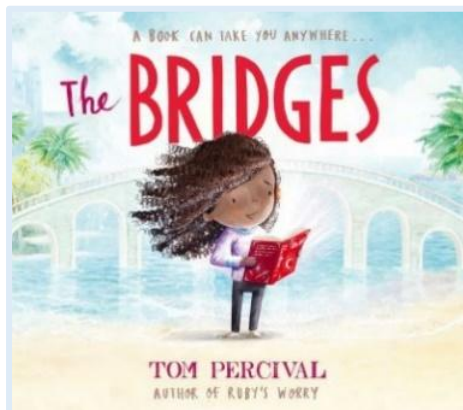
ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: 0121 554 0999 FAX: 0121 554 6332

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



The Bridges - Tom Percival

When a mysterious package arrives at Mia's home, her life transforms completely. The dullness that once surrounded her disappears, along with her lonely, sad demeanour. Soon, the package opens the door to a world filled with hope and curiosity. Inside is a book, and with every word and page, Mia's adventures expand. Her smile grows, and her eyes lift towards the new horizons that unfold before her.

Tom Percival skilfully uses the metaphor of bridges throughout the story to illustrate how reading, words, and books can transport us to new realms and forge remarkable connections. As Mia explores these bridges, they become stronger with each page she turns. She visits enchanting worlds, uncovers new knowledge, and forms friendships—all thanks to the magic of reading. Now a confident and eager reader, Mia knows how to reach out to others who feel lost and alone—she shares her book with them, continuing to build even more bridges.

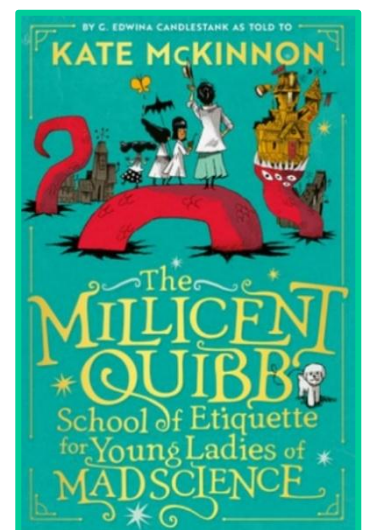
This story is a beautiful celebration in every way. The illustrations are captivating, and the use of colour effectively contrasts Mia's initial sadness with the joy she finds in the world of stories. This book champions the joy of reading and all its rewards.

Upper School

The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science - Kate McKinnon & Alfredo Cáceres (Illustrator)

Better known for her stand-up comedy on Saturday Night Live and her role as “weird” Barbie in the hit film, McKinnon has crafted a charming story that aims to reassure those who feel a bit “different” that they will eventually find their place and be valued for the unique individuals they are.

When the Porch sisters - Gertrude, Eugenia, and Dee-Dee - are expelled from yet another etiquette school, their Aunt and Uncle threaten to send them to a corrective school for failures in the Austrian Alps. In a stroke of luck, they receive a mysterious invitation to The Marjory Questions School of Etiquette, presenting a chance to escape a grim fate. However, one look at their new school's home sends the girls fleeing, especially when they encounter their eccentric headmistress, the legendary brain pickler Millicent Quibb, along with Antonio, a blue hermit crab with surprising skills.



This utterly zany and fast-paced adventure, filled with more twists and turns than the Alpe D'Huez, will surely delight fans of science, adventure, and theater - or anyone willing to dive into its pages. A pure joy, and I can't wait for the sequel!

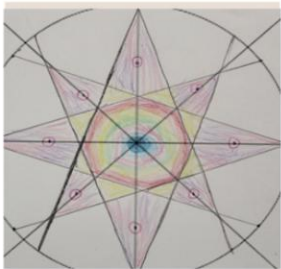
Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

Jessica Y5.3

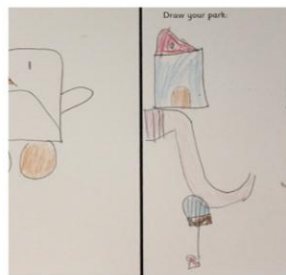
In Year 5 the children have been learning about geometric patterns and a variety of methods that artists use to create them. Lots of key vocabulary was explored including asymmetrical and symmetrical and the children identified how various forms of architecture feature a selection of geometric designs. All of the children had the chance to create a geometric star design and were required to use colour and pattern within the work that they created. Jessica used her skills well throughout the entire drawing process.

Alice Y1.2

In Year 1 the children have been learning about how line can be used by artists to create imagery. Everyone had the chance to use a range of different line styles to create a portrait of a penguin. The children demonstrated their ability to vary the thickness and tones of each line they created to create an effect. Year 1 then attempted to draw a park landscape using different style lines. Alice was able to create her images with confidence and put thought into the details within her work.



Y5.3 Jessica



Y1.2 Alice

Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Reception pupils, Noah, Gurtej and Yahya and Year 6 pupils, Shine, Anureet and Halima for showing incredible cooperation this week. Keep it up!



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation. Have a relaxing weekend.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

14 November 2024

15 November 2024

15 November 2024

18 November 2024

Children in Need Biscuit Sale

Children in Need

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday Celebrations

EYFS Open Day