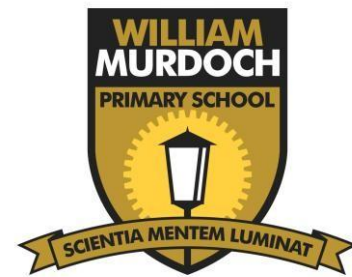


KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



14 February 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*"Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives." –
Alexander Dumas*

Dear Parents/Carers,

This final week of the half-term has been another busy one with lots of exciting learning happening across the school! Do read on into the newsletter or check out our Twitter/X feed to find out more about what the children have been up to during the week!

School remains a busy, bustling hive of activity. Just this week children have taken part in activities to mark Safer Internet Day, engaged with Mental Health Week, embraced the Young People's Parliament at Birmingham City University and some amazing experiences were had as part of Design and Technology Day.

We would like to collate a register of expertise from within our immediate community. All knowledge and skills that could support our curriculum offer and enhance the knowledge and skills of the world of work for our pupils would be greatly appreciated. If you, or anybody you know, has expertise and would be prepared to attend school and share their knowledge and experience, please inform the school office or see Mr Singh.

I would also like to tell you about Poetry By Heart, a national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England. The competition is open to all schools and colleges in England and invites young people aged from 7-18 to learn poems by heart and perform them in a school or college performance event. In our school, our talented pupils in Upper School will be taking part in this inspiring competition. Over the half-term break, we have asked the children to learn a poem which has been set by the teachers of their year group. School staff will then select pupils to enter the national round, submitting entries via video upload.

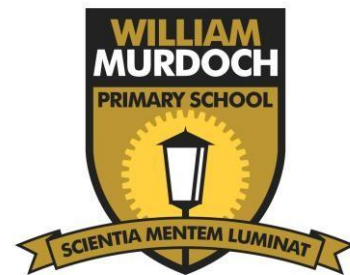
Finalists who are successful will be invited to perform live at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London at the Grand Finale. Last year, Maya in Y5.1, gave an amazing poetry performance at this esteemed venue. Taking part in Poetry By Heart is all about developing confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way. We are looking forward to seeing these stellar performances come to life and can't wait to see how they interpret the poems. Good luck!



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



At William Murdoch Primary School, we recognise that memory plays a vital role in learning. Eminent thinkers and researchers on education have highlighted that learning is not just about exposure to new information- it's about ensuring that knowledge is remembered and accessible when needed. Humans are, by nature, "forgetting machines," which means we need regular reminders to truly embed what we learn. Learning is a change in long-term memory. If you don't remember it, you haven't learned it.

I want you to think of learning like filling a bath with the plug out- without revisiting what we have learned, it quickly drains away. This is why we emphasise recapping and spaced retrieval, where knowledge is revisited at gradually increasing intervals. We do this through Retrieval Practice and Can You Still? activities at the start of a lesson. This technique strengthens memory by encouraging recall just before forgetting occurs, helping children store knowledge in their long-term memory.

Our working memory is limited- it can only hold around seven pieces of information at a time. However, our long-term memory is vast and unlimited. The key to effective learning is to transfer knowledge from working to long-term memory, freeing up mental space for deeper thinking and problem-solving. This is particularly important in reading: children must first develop fluency in recognising words before they can focus on comprehension. By building a strong foundation of vocabulary and phonics knowledge using the Read, Write, Inc phonics approach, we ensure that children can become confident, skilled readers.

At WMPS, we embed these principles in our teaching, ensuring that children do not just encounter knowledge once but revisit it repeatedly. This approach helps them develop a rich bank of knowledge and skills that serve as the foundation for all future learning.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support your children and the school. Have a restful half-term break and we will see you all when pupils return to school on Monday 24 February 2025.

Joy of Winter Games

We know that being active is good for our physical health, but it can also improve sleep, concentration, our mood, social skills and ability to learn. Therefore, it has never been more important for children to be physically active for the recommended average of 60 minutes each day. To provide some inspiration, the EFL Trust, a charitable arm which supports the English Football League (EFL), have created a pack (see attached) filled with simple games and activities for you and your family to play at home during the winter months – Joy of Moving Winter Games! Whilst all the games have been designed to be suitable for all abilities, the key thing they have in common is that they encourage children to get moving whilst having fun.



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

Dinosaur Workshop

The children in Nursery were surprised by some special visitors this week. As part of the children's 'Dinosaurs' topic they took part in dinosaur workshops. They had the opportunity to meet and interact with 'Jam' - a life sized dinosaur. The children also got the chance to meet and learn about some baby dinosaurs. Finally, they embarked on a wonderful adventure, using a green screen to create a scene in a jungle setting where they are being followed by a dinosaur.



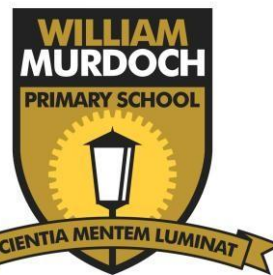
Children's Mental Health Week

Throughout this week, our school has celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.' We want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to understand what makes us tick, our likes

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



and dislikes, strengths, fears, hopes and dreams. Our emotions play a key role in telling us just that, and being aware of how to listen to and express ourselves is a major part of building self-awareness. It is through knowing ourselves and speaking with others, that we can build resilience, grow and develop.

There has been a big focus on pupils being able to express their feelings and share achievements that they are proud of regardless of whether they have been achieved in or out of school. We continue to encourage children at William Murdoch Primary School to share their opinions and use their voices, as their voices really do matter!

Design and Technology

DT Day took place on the 12 and 13 February 2025 and it was a fun packed day for all! Nursery made salt dough dinosaur fossils, while the children in Reception designed and built boats. In Year 1, the children made some fantastic animal sock puppets, which they then used to tell their own animal stories. Year 2 made moving pictures and in Year 3 the children made pop up books. Year 4 built moving miniature playgrounds using a variety of resources. Year 5 made their own pitta breads from scratch- they looked and tasted delicious! Finally, in Year 6, the children were very busy cooking Mezze- they made and tasted their own Baba Ghanoush, Tabbouleh and Tzatziki. We definitely have some master chefs in the making! The children had a brilliant day across the school, and they should all be very proud of themselves!



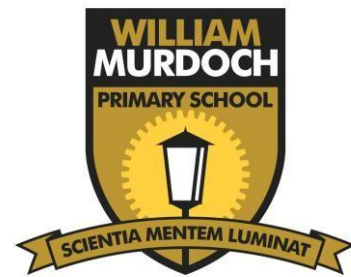
WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



Aston Villa Football Tournament

On Tuesday Mr Harris, Mr Blackmore and 10 children from Year 6 went to the Aston Villa Community Hub to take part in a Premier League Primary Stars competition. A great day was had by everyone, with the Aston Villa coaches being very complimentary about the behaviour and attitude of those in attendance. We are always grateful when the hard work we implement in school is acknowledged by external bodies. There was a mixed bag of results but the experience the children had made up for the results. Well done to all involved!



Young People's Parliament visit

On Wednesday 12 February 2025, our YPP representatives went to Birmingham City University, engaging in the activity "Making Change Happen." Children planned an idea, with the ultimate aim to put this into action and make it happen. The children really enjoyed the day. Avleen (Y6.3) loved the Human Rights Bingo, while Ankit (Y6.2) summed the whole day up for all saying, "the whole event was quite special, I was happy we had the opportunity to express ourselves in front of every other member of the YPP, who listened to our idea of cleaning litter from the school playground and surrounding area."

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



**Handsworth
Young People's
Parliament**

Young People's Parliament

Aiming to increase young people's understanding and awareness of political processes and encourage active involvement in their schools and communities



Club Drop-off and Collection

We have over recent weeks noticed a small number of children being dropped off far too early for morning clubs and/or collected late from after-school clubs. Quite often these clubs are held by school staff who are generously giving their time. Where children are being dropped off before 7.55am (morning clubs start at 8.00am) or are being collected late from clubs after school (clubs finish at 4.30pm), then a warning will be given, after which the facility will be withdrawn for the academic year.

Your cooperation in keeping children safe on site and by ensuring timely drop-off and collection is appreciated.

UNICEF Article of the Week



This week's article of the week has focused on Mental Health Awareness Week. This occurs every year and is an ideal time for us all to think about mental health, tackle stigma, and discuss how we can create school environments that protect our mental wellbeing.

The week is based around a different theme each year, and previous themes have included nature, kindness, and body image. It is hoped that as many people as possible will have conversations about mental health and the everyday things that can affect it.

Pupils across the school have looked at article 24 (health, water, food and environment)- Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

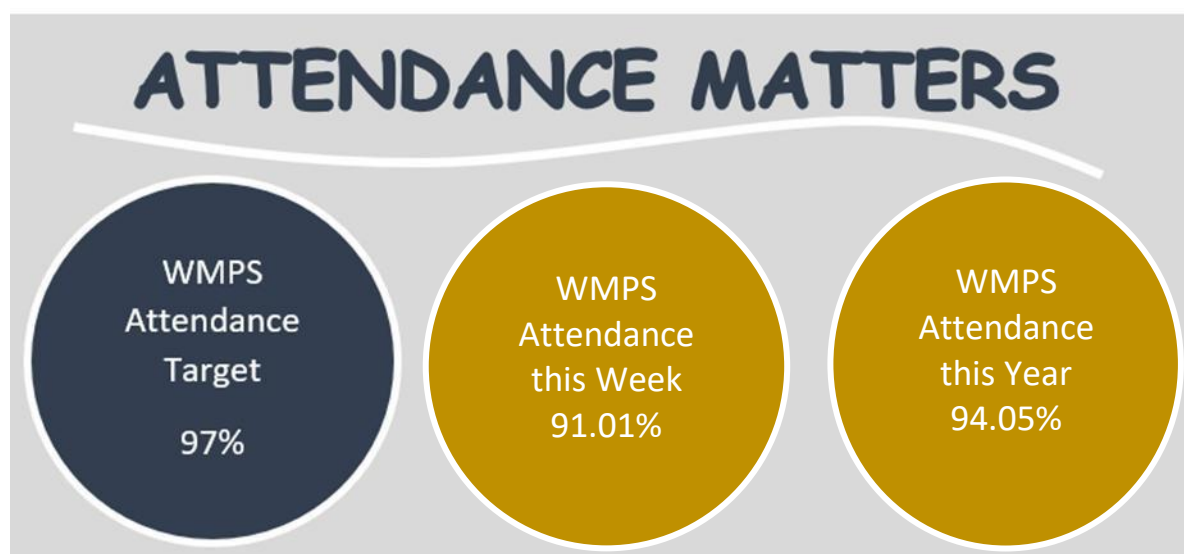


WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

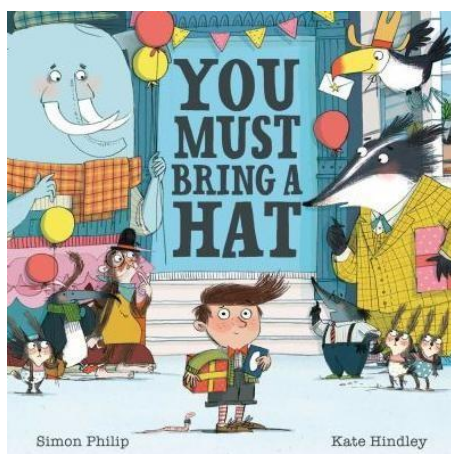
WMPS Attendance Stats

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



You Must Bring a Hat - Simon Philip & Kate Hindley (illustrator)

This charming story about a young boy on a mission to find a hat in order to be allowed into a party is sure to capture readers' hearts. When the boy struggles to find one, a helpful animal friend steps in to save the day. However, upon arrival, a tough doorman and an even tougher set of entry requirements lead to a series of increasingly humorous events and a hilarious climax.

Filled with wonderfully illustrated, silly characters and a ridiculous storyline, this book will have both children and adults laughing out

loud. We Must Bring a Hat is a picture book



WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

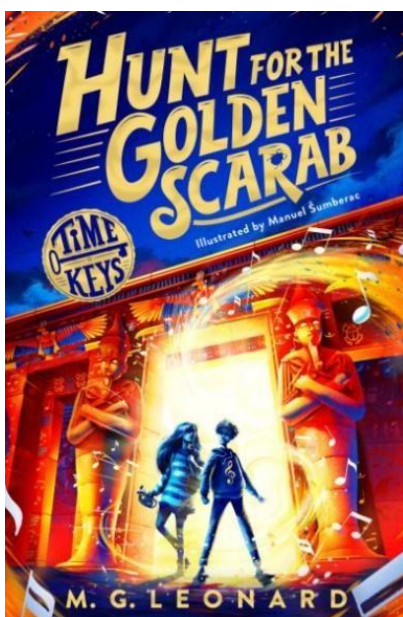
ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: **0121 554 0999** FAX: 0121 554 6332
EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk HEADTEACHER:
MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND

that's perfect for anyone looking for a fun and engaging story to share with children. With vibrant illustrations and comical characters, it's a surefire hit, and a story children will want to read over and over again.



Upper School



Hunt for the Golden Scarab - M. G. Leonard & Manuel Sumbarac (illustrator)

Following the success of her award-winning, multi-book series about beetles, trains, and birds, M.G. Leonard is back with an exciting new adventure series—this time blending time travel with a thrilling exploration of Egyptology.

Sim lives with his mother, Callidora, in a flat above the Sir John Soane Museum. By day, Callidora teaches martial arts, and by night, Sim helps her clean the museum, where she also uses the time to further his training in combat. For the first time in his life, Sim enjoys going to school and staying put in one place. However, he's well aware that his mum lives a life on edge. They've had to pack up and disappear at a moment's notice more times than he can count, and while he knows not to pry, he often wonders what or who his mother is hiding from. His friend Nelson even jokes that she might be a spy.

One evening, while Sim and Callidora are training in the museum, they hear voices approaching. Callidora's face drains of colour, and she quickly ushers Sim into a hidden room, unlocking a world of mysteries that she can no longer avoid confronting.

With a foundation rooted in history, this thrilling tale of adventure, deception, trust, and time travel will keep readers on the edge of their seats, eager to uncover what happens next. This is a perfect read to complement any study of Ancient Egypt, and I can't wait to see where Sim, Jeopardy, and Nelson's next adventure takes them.



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

Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 2 pupils, for becoming this week's 'Pupil of the Week'.



Many thanks for your continued support, cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

14 February 2025	Pupils break up for half-term
24 February 2025	Pupils return to school
26 February 2025	Years 5 & 6 Soccer Stars Event, West Bromwich Football Club
28 February 2025	Year 3 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm
4 March 2025	Year 4 visit to Warwick Castle
6 March 2025	World Book Day
7 March 2025	Year 5 visit to National Space Centre
7 March 2025	Year 6 Good Work Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
7 March 2025	Year 1 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm