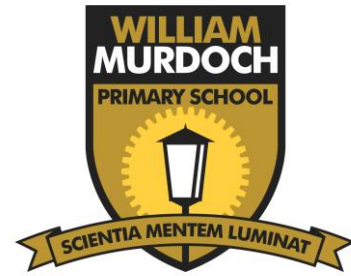


# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



7 March 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'People need people, To walk to, To talk to, To cry and rely on, People will always need people.'*  
– Benjamin Zephaniah

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our school nursery provides a supportive environment to help children transition smoothly into primary school, utilising our exceptional and spacious school grounds.

Children have the opportunity to explore and learn in a variety of engaging indoor and outdoor spaces. From bikes and scooters, sand pits to a forest nature trail, vibrant classrooms and construction opportunities, there is no shortage of stimulating environments for your child to thrive in. Our team of experienced teachers and nursery practitioners are dedicated to supporting your child at the beginning of their educational journey, ensuring that each child reaches their full potential with confidence and self-assurance.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) vision lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning. In our nursery, you will find children engaged in constructive play, enjoying stories, learning in a language-rich environment, building friendships, exploring adventurous play, and developing independence and resilience.

We currently have a few places available for children starting in September 2025. If you are considering nursery options for your child, we warmly invite you to explore William Murdoch Nursery and discover how we can support your child's early education.

To find out more or to book a tour, please email: [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our nursery community.

Next week the children will be celebrating British Science Week. Each year there is a new theme for British Science Week, and for 2025 it is 'Change and Adapt'. All children will take part in science workshops from external providers and will be participating in a range of scientific activities. Please look out for more details and photos of the Science Week activities in next week's newsletter.

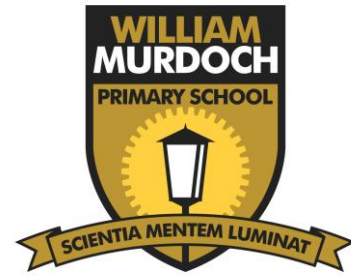
### Parents' Evening

The spring term William Murdoch parents' evening is an opportunity for you to find out how your child is progressing and discuss ways to support their learning at home.

#### WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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The Lower School Parents' Evening will take place on Monday 10 March 2025 with the Upper School Parents' Evening being held on Wednesday 12 March 2025. Parents' Evening will be held in the traditional way, with a five-minute appointment slot and an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books. A Parents' Evening appointment letter was sent home with your child early in the week. Please enter the school via the Albert Road and Antrobus Road entrances and make your way to the Upper School hall for registration.

With some of our parents marking Ramadan, parent consultations will start at the earlier time of 4.00pm and end at 6.00pm. I have asked class teachers to prioritise early appointments for our Muslim parents so that they can make the necessary arrangements for breaking their fast at sunset. Please note, if you are unable to attend on the day of parents' evening an appointment can be arranged for a different date and time. You can make these arrangements directly with the class teacher.

On the day we will be asking for your views on the school so that we can continue our school improvement journey. A huge thank you in advance for taking the time out to do this. Your opinion really matters to us and there have been a number of changes made to the way school operates following suggestions from parents and children.

Mrs Pannu and Mrs Kullar will be available to meet parents of children on the SEND register if you have specific matters to discuss.

## **World Book Day – Read Your Way!**

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration at our school, filled with excitement, creativity, and a love for reading! This year's theme, Read Your Way, encouraged children to explore reading in different ways- whether through books, audiobooks, comics, or shared reading experiences.



Children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life with their imaginative costumes. The highlight of the day was the lively costume parade, where pupils proudly showed off their outfits.

A special treat was the theatre production of *Cecil and his Reading Adventure*, which had everyone laughing and fully engaged in the story. The performance was a hit, with children finding it both funny and entertaining.

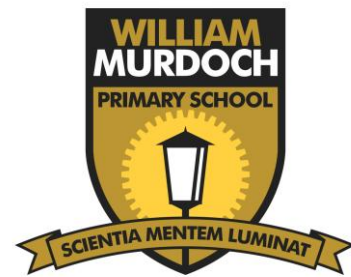
Throughout the day, classrooms were buzzing with a variety of reading-themed activities, from creative writing to book-based challenges, all reinforcing the message that there's no right or wrong way to enjoy a story.

World Book Day 2025 was truly a memorable event, celebrating the power of stories and the joy of reading in all its forms! Thanks to everyone who took part in some way.

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Don't forget that your child has received a £1 World Book Day Voucher in order to get a book of their choice. Simply take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller/supermarket and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book. You can help your child choose their £1 book by showing this year's exciting new range at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books>. No book that catches their eye? Don't worry. They can get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can find your nearest bookseller at [www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers](http://www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers).

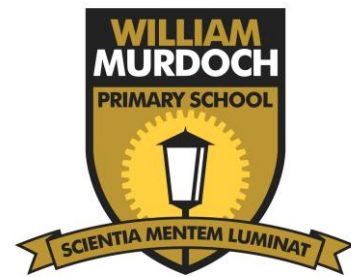


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# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



## Year 4 Warwick Castle Trip

On Tuesday, Year 4 went on their spring term trip to historical Warwick Castle. The visit was arranged to further the children's knowledge of the Tudor times, especially the Tudor monarchs. Whilst there we saw a Trebuchet (a very big catapult), some birds of prey and we visited the Great Hall which is steeped in history. The staff at Warwick Castle were very complimentary about our children and they were a credit to the school. For many children, the best part of the day was climbing over 400 steps to look out over the castle turrets. The highest point of the castle measures an amazing 148ft or 45m so the views were tremendous.

A great time was had by all.



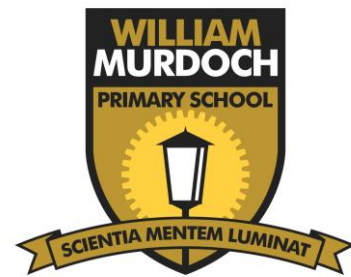
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# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



## Year 5 Space Centre Visit

The Year 5 cohort went on an incredibly enjoyable trip to The National Space Centre today! There was a wide range of activities on offer for the children to enjoy, and these allowed them to further develop their understanding within the topic of Space. The children took part in a Space themed workshop about rockets, watched a film about astronauts in the planetarium, and ventured round the exhibitions within the museum. As always, the children demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the day and set a good example on behalf of the school community. I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff that supported the trip, and a particular mention to Mr Slinn for coordinating the visit.



## Aston Primary Premier League Football Competition

On Tuesday, Mr Walker and Mr Blackmore took eight children for the second round of fixtures in the Aston Primary Premier league football competition. The team played two games this week, winning one and losing one. In the first game, we showed fantastic resilience to come back from a goal down to win 2-1 against Welford Primary School. In the second game we played a very good team in Barr View and despite giving everything we had, we unfortunately found ourselves beaten 5-0. The attitude of the children was a great example to everyone at school. Even when things were not going their way they stuck together and worked hard for each other. Well done to all involved.

## Smart Watches

We would like to remind parents and carers that smartwatches are not permitted in school, especially those that function as phones, cameras, or can connect to the internet. Thank you for your support in ensuring a focused and safe learning environment for all pupils.



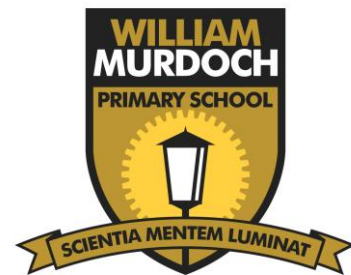
## Year 6 Secondary School Allocations

If you are the parent/carer of a child in Year 6, you should have received an offer email and letter naming the secondary school your child has been offered for entry in September 2025. You **do not** need to contact Birmingham School Admissions if you intend to accept your child's offer of a school place.

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# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



**We strongly encourage you to accept your offer, this is so your child has a guaranteed school place to attend in September 2025.**

By refusing your offer, please be aware that your child's school place may be offered out to another child from that school's waiting list once they are made available. Your child will have **no school** to attend in September as School Admissions only make one school offer to a child. If a family refuses their school offer, they are not required to offer your child a place at an alternative school. Your child will only be offered a place at another school if a place becomes available on the waiting list for one of your higher preferred schools due to waiting list movement, or if you appeal against the decision to refuse your child a place at one of your preferred schools and your appeal is subsequently upheld (successful).

**The offer being accepted will not affect your child's waiting list position for any of your higher preference schools, or influence the outcome of any appeal you may submit.**

If your child has not been offered a place at any of the schools that you applied for, this will be because the school(s) you applied for have received more applications than there were places available, and other children that better met the admission criteria were offered those places. Details of the school admission criteria that all applicants are considered under are available here: [Secondary Schools Admission Arrangements 2025](#)

## **WhatsApp**

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with over 2 billion users sending texts, photos, videos, documents, and making voice and video calls. The accompanying document has some useful guidance on the benefits and pitfalls of the service.



## **Residential Visit**

The Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Govilon Activity Centre is fast approaching. If your child has secured a place on the visit, please ensure all monies are paid by the deadline of Friday 11 April 2025 to ensure they can attend what will be a memorable weekend.

## **Unicef Article of the Week**

### **World Book Day**

This week pupils across the school have focused on World Book Day which covered three articles, which are Articles 17, 29 and 31. World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23 April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. In countries around the world it is celebrated on the anniversary of that date, but in the UK, it is generally marked on the first Thursday of March. This week's activities link to the following articles:

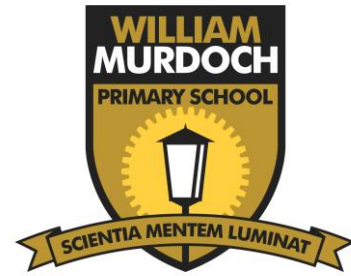


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# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Article 17 (access to information from the media): Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.



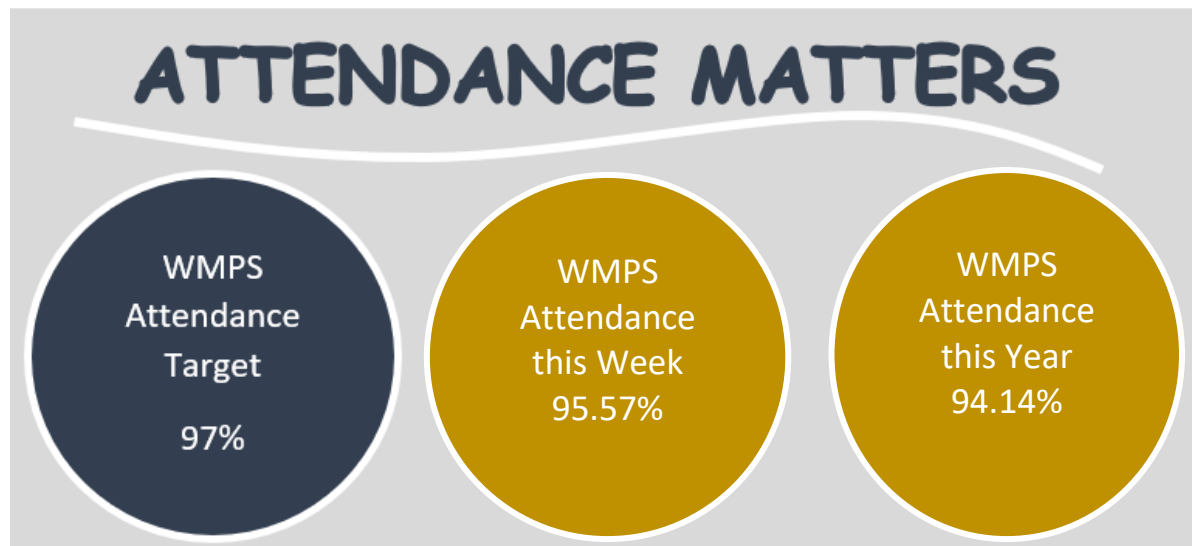
Article 29 (goals of education): Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.



Article 31 (leisure, play and culture): Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

## 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.

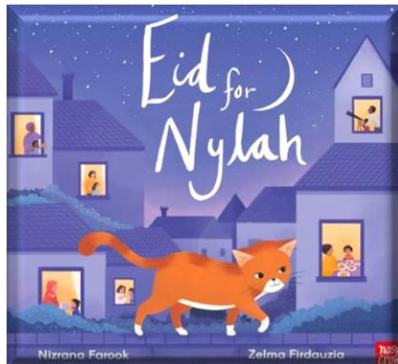


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## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School



#### **Eid for Nylah - Nizrana Farook & Zelma Firdausia (Illustrator)**

Nylah, a playful little cat, is eager to have fun, but everyone around her is too occupied! As she wanders from house to house, she finds families busy with festive preparations— hanging decorations, cooking delicious meals, wrapping presents, trying on new outfits, and decorating their hands with intricate henna designs.

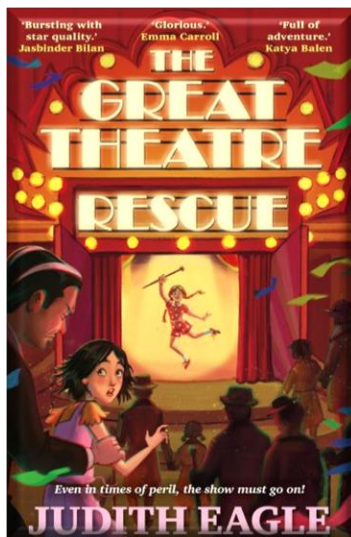
Full of curiosity and mischief, Nylah gets caught up in all the excitement, but her 'help' isn't exactly welcomed. 'Poor Nylah!' Eventually, after being sent back home, she dozes off—only to be woken at dawn for a grand celebration! It is then that she

finally understands what all the activity was leading up to, as the community gathers for a joyous Eid festival in the park, where this time, everyone is ready to play.

With its vibrant depiction of diverse Muslim families and a strong sense of togetherness, this story beautifully captures the spirit of Eid. The additional author's notes at the end provide further insight, making this a fantastic introduction to the celebration for EYFS and KS1 readers.



### Upper School



#### **The Great Theatre Rescue - Judith Eagle**

Set in the early 1900s, this immersive historical novel transports readers to the lively and chaotic world of London's theatre scene, blending rich period detail with an exhilarating storyline. Charley, the spirited and charismatic protagonist, is as dazzling as the city's stage lights.

Her journey unfolds against the backdrop of a dramatic transformation—escaping a dreadful girls' boarding school, navigating a challenging return journey from the south coast to London, and outwitting a cunning criminal with a Fagin-like presence. Along the way, she discovers unexpected friendships, unearths hidden family secrets, and finds the courage to overcome her fears.

Echoing the themes of Dickens, the novel paints a vivid picture of London's sharp social divides and the winding streets of its theatre district. Readers experience the dawn of a new era—

marked by the arrival of electric lights and legendary performers like Duke Ellington. With a dynamic protagonist, a thrilling plot, and a richly atmospheric setting, this novel is a compelling read that's difficult to put down.





## Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

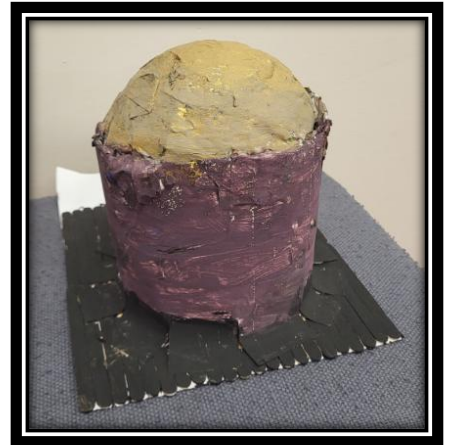
### **Noor (Nursery)**

Within the topic 'Growing and Changing' the children in Nursery have been learning about the four different seasons. As a cohort, everyone read the story 'Seasons come, seasons go. Tree' and lots of time was spent thinking about how nature, in particular trees, change across the seasons. Nursery looked at trees within their environment and created paintings representing a season of their choice.



### **Monuments of Ancient Rome (Y4.1)**

Over the last few lessons the children in Year 4 have been learning about Ancient Rome and many famous Ancient Roman buildings. One building that was investigated in depth was The Pantheon, a Roman temple. The children learnt that the dome of the Pantheon is made of concrete and it is the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world. The children also learnt that many people, including kings, are buried in The Pantheon. Year 4 drew pictures of The Pantheon and created three dimensional models of the building. Year 4 produced excellent constructions with great attention to detail.



**Pupil of the Week**

Well done to our Year 1 pupils, for becoming this week's 'Pupil of the Week'.  
(Respect)



Airah Y1.1

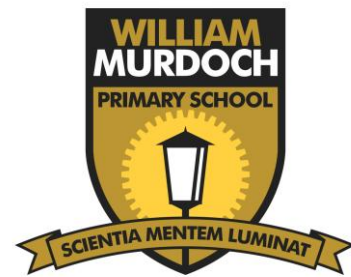


Alice Y1.2



Hidayah Y1.3

# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Well done to our Year 6 pupils, for becoming this week's 'Pupil of the Week'. (Honesty)



La'Dray Y6.1



Isaac Y6.2



Gurjaap Y6.3

Many thanks for your continued support, cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

## Dates

10 March 2025	Lower School Parents' Evening
11 March 2025	Aston Premier League Fixtures, King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, 3.30pm-5.00pm
11 March 2025	Year 6 SATs Meeting. 3.30pm-4.00pm
12 March 2025	Year 6 SATs Meeting, 9.00am-9.30am
12 March 2025	Little History Quiz, King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, 1.15pm-3.15pm
12 March 2025	Upper School Parents' Evening
14 March 2025	Year 4 Good Work Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
14 March 2025	Year 5 Aboriginal Workshop
14 March 2025	Year 5 Maths Challenge, King Edward's School, 1.15pm-3.00pm
14 March 2025	Reception Stay and Play, 2.00pm-3.15pm
14 March 2025	Y1.3 Science Week Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm
21 March 2025	Red Nose Day
21 March 2025	Y2.3 Science Week Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
21 March 2025	Reception Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm

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