

2 October 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

***'There's a crack, there's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.'* -
Oprah Winfrey**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write with concern at the irresponsible behaviour of some drivers at the start and end of the school day. I encourage all parents to walk to school if they live locally and if you really need to use your vehicle, to set off a little earlier and park away from school, making the last part of your journey on foot. Unfortunately matters are made worse by irresponsible parking even on the no parking zig-zag lines outside the school gate. It is an accident waiting to happen. Our staff at the school gates do their best to help monitor and manage the situation but greater community understanding is needed. We have reported our concerns to Birmingham City Council and expect parking attendants to be making their presence felt shortly.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents who have followed school guidance by respecting the one way entry/exit at the Albert Road entrance; only one parent drops off/collects their child; avoid mingling and congregating on the playground and informs school promptly when their child begins to exhibit symptoms that may or may not be related to coronavirus.

Parents' Evening

Due to coronavirus mitigation measures whereby face to face meetings are not permitted, Parents' Evening will be conducted over the phone this autumn. They will start with telephone calls to parents of Upper School children during the week commencing 12 October 2020, with calls to Lower School parents during the week commencing 19 October 2020. Upper School children were issued with an appointment letter yesterday and this is to be returned by Tuesday 6 October 2020. Telephone appointment slots will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. A letter will be sent home with children in Lower School later next week so that appointments can be arranged for the week commencing 19 October 2020.

COVID-19 Update

Birmingham City Council have asked that we share the following statement with you:
Birmingham City Council's drop and collect service has been launched to provide citizens within high risk areas of the city an easier opportunity to get tested for coronavirus.



Staff from across the Council, NHS and wider public sector have volunteered to take part in this effort to increase access to testing in our city. The teams are visiting households in different areas of the city to offer the test kits on the doorstep, even for those without symptoms, to support more testing.

Not only is drop and collect testing voluntary, it is completely free and once it is dropped off a volunteer will come back and pick up the completed kit within the next hour.

The test simply involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat, using a long cotton bud. You can do the swab yourself; and can also do it for children or other people in the house who are unable to do it themselves.

As alternatives, Birmingham residents are also still encouraged to book appointments at local test sites or order kits online.

NHS

The NHS COVID-19 app has been launched to help control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action. Further information on the app is available in the attached factsheet.

An important letter from the NHS for parents is also attached. Please take some time to read this carefully as it offers specific guidance on COVID-19 symptoms and testing.

Meals

Please find attached a copy of the temporary school menu supplied by the catering supplier. The school meal menu runs over a two-week period. A week's notice is required to change meal arrangements. This can be done by contacting the school office.

Reading

Hearing children read is a vital part of helping them to make continued progress, whatever age and ability they are currently at. All children are required to read at home, to an adult, during the week as part of their home learning activities. Reading is an essential life skill and children do not make progress unless they practice at both home and school.

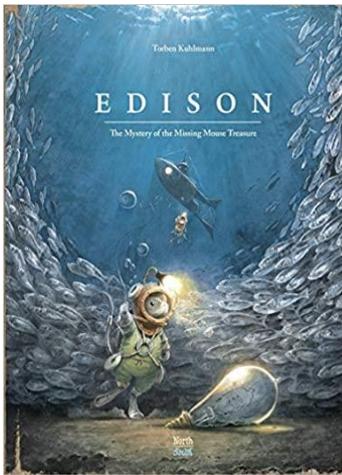
It is important when hearing your child read, that as well as focussing upon the fluency, time is spent developing their ability to use inference and deduction. This is particularly important when your child can "read" fluently. This is not the time to assume that you do not need to support them. This is where the higher order reading skills need to be developed so they are able to talk about the more complex aspects of the texts they are reading. After hearing your child read, please make a note of the book they have read in their Reading Record and sign that you have heard them read. Due to coronavirus mitigation measures, their class teacher will not be countersigning the Reading Record. They will however keep a school-based

record to monitor the reading of your child. This ongoing assessment of reading will be supplemented by termly PiRA Reading tests.

The BookTrust have developed some excellent reading guides for parents and these are available using the following link: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

Book of the Week – Mr Panichi

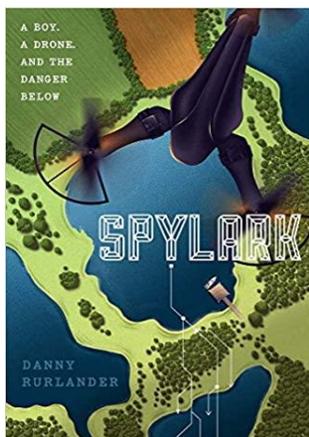
Lower School



Edison - Torben Kuhlmann

Following on from their fellow adventurers who learned to fly (Lindbergh) and landed on the moon (Armstrong), two unlikely friends build a vessel to help them find missing treasure at the bottom of the ocean. The treasure may not be what you expect! Kuhlmann cleverly weaves the story of Thomas Edison in an accessible way for children of all ages through beautifully detailed illustrations and an engaging narrative. Edison is a perfect text to read together, allowing children to explore the artwork which is a real treat. Kuhlmann's books are a wonderful inspiration for making links across the curriculum including history, science and geography as the mice begin a journey of discovery, research, design and exploration. A perfect addition for any home library.

Upper School



Spylark - Danny Rurlander

Spylark is a thoroughly modern adventure story. Mixing drone technology with stunning Lake District scenery, it will be devoured by children with a thirst for adventure and escape from daily life. Tom Hopkins is 13 years old and not much has gone right in his life in the last few years - his much-loved father is MIA, presumed dead; he walks with a stick since a freak school trip accident, and he also has to contend with a new school, bullies and living with his great aunt. But soon, using his self-built drone, Tom witnesses a suspicious boat explosion on the lake and is drawn into a terror plot involving military helicopters, underground aqueducts, VIP assassinations and high-speed digger chases. But who will believe a teenager with no hard evidence? Tom is going to have to foil the plot himself! A well-written debut novel that juggles sketching realistic, multi-faceted

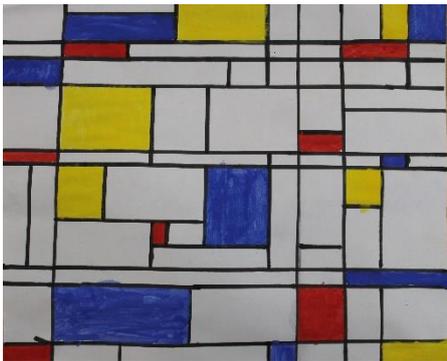
personalities in the main child characters, wonderful landscape descriptions of the Lake District and a plot that never lets up.

Artists of the Week



Lower School - Inayah Alom – Y1.3

In Year 1 the children have been learning about tints and shades. They have understood that adding black paint makes a colour darker and adding white paint makes a colour lighter. The children had to paint a leaf that contained different tints and shades of the colour green. Inayah took lots of care over her work and produced a great version of a leaf.



Upper School - Taybah Latif – Y5.1

In Year 5 the children have been studying the life and work of Piet Mondrian as part of their Style in Art and Design topic. The children were shown the painting, Composition with Yellow, Blue and Red (1937-42) and had to create their own version of it. Taybah used lines and colours effectively and created a fantastic piece of artwork.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher