

25 September 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." -Oprah Winfrey



Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last three weeks I have been impressed with the response of pupils and staff. It has been nothing short of excellent. Staff and pupils have adopted a calm, well-organised, conscientious and purposeful approach and this will be a crucial factor in making this academic year count. A concerted effort has been made by teachers to get to know the children in their class both as individuals and scholars. We are in the process of conducting assessments which will help us to quickly assess children's levels of understanding and target further improvement in their knowledge and understanding. All of this has been done in the context of a warm, fair and strict culture.

During the first two training days and during other available times, our staff have received training so that they are able to make full use of all the available academic time and curriculum opportunities in a teaching environment adapted to COVID secure measures. Should we have to partially/fully close the school or close a year group bubble, please note that Class Dojo will be used by staff for the setting of curriculum work, and all pupils have logins for this. Parents have also been supplied with Class Dojo logins and it is crucial that you and your child are familiar with this platform so that we can continue delivering the curriculum through online learning should the need arise. Teacher videos offering explanations for the work that has been set and virtual meetings with children will be key delivery tools if we have to revert to online learning.

Childcare during local lockdown

You will be aware that a letter was sent from the leaders of Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell councils to the Health Secretary regarding childcare in areas under local restrictions. On Monday 21 September 2020 in Parliament, Health Secretary Matt

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Hancock announced grandparents and others who provide informal childcare will be exempt from coronavirus restrictions in local lockdown areas.

This is confirmed at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1019/regulation/3/made> where it states that *'Where a household includes at least one child aged 13 or under ("the first household"), that household may link with one other household ("the second household") for the purpose of the second household providing informal childcare to the child aged 13 or under in the first household provided that—*

- a. *neither the first household nor the second household are linked with any other household for the purpose of providing informal childcare for the purpose of these Regulations or any other Regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984; and*
- b. *all the adult members of both households agree.'*

COVID-19 Symptoms

Studies have shown that most COVID-19 patients get only very mild symptoms or none at all, although some can develop severe pneumonia and other health issues. Researchers are not certain how many people infected with the virus are nearly or entirely asymptomatic. The most common symptoms of the illness remain some combination of fever, loss of taste or smell, dry cough, and fatigue. Of these, anosmia — the loss of sense of smell that is also often accompanied by a loss of taste — has emerged as one of the most predictive.

If you or your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

Summer Projects

We are delighted with many of the summer projects submitted on Class Dojo. These projects form part of the curriculum recovery programme and are based on the Humanities units that pupils have missed over the past few months. I take great pleasure in sharing a project by Nicola in Y6.2. The level of detail, quality of research and presentation are second to none. Most importantly Nicola took great pride in telling me that the most enjoyable part of the project was the support she received from her mother and the time they spent together on it. Well done Nicola, keep up the good work.

Children will be completing termly projects throughout the year and we look forward to seeing what they are capable of. We continue to promote, through our projects, both family engagement and individual independent study.



Bikes/Scooters Ban

There has been an increase in the number of children bringing their bikes/scooters onto the school site. I would like to remind parents/carers that bikes and scooters are banned from the school site and children should not be riding their bikes/scooters around the school grounds. Pupils, parents and carers should be able to travel to school in a safe environment.

Welcome Meetings

I have re-posted links to the virtual Welcome Meetings below. Many parents are still to access these so I would like to encourage all parents to take the time to watch them. Teachers in each year group have recorded a video presentation which provides you with lots of information regarding the year group your child has just started. This includes information about the curriculum, uniform, and expectations amongst other important messages.

Nursery: <https://youtu.be/8Lc-Db0QMco>

Reception: <https://youtu.be/Pxgj0v8Wv5Y>

Year 1: <https://youtu.be/5Pn8RBAufkU>

Year 2: <https://youtu.be/RsrXLkoH-Ks>

Year 3: <https://youtu.be/V6boBEzSIFQ>

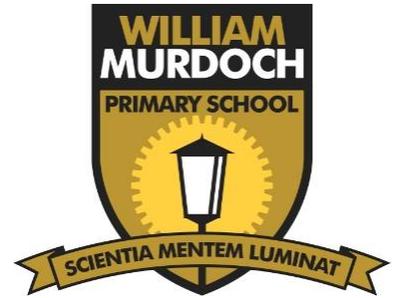
Year 4: <https://youtu.be/sB2QkEAi1Ek>

Year 5: <https://youtu.be/6e-ebMY1-uQ>

Year 6: <https://youtu.be/r40-6yTL6mg>

Attendance this week has held up strongly despite the reporting of a positive case and I would like to praise the resilience of our school community. With the national lockdown imposed in March 2020 children have missed a significant amount of learning already and further unnecessary absences impact on the recovery curriculum they are receiving. We continue to maintain stringent measures and follow Public Health England guidance to keep everyone as safe as possible in

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



school. The way the school operates may need to be adapted as government guidance changes and I will at all times keep you informed.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

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