

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*Thence shall the final victory ever new  
Sing in the lives of all that live, "We have come through." – Edward Blunden*

#### VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On April 30, 1945, Berlin was surrounded and the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler committed suicide. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Donitz, then looked to negotiate an end to the war with the Allies.

On May 8, 1945, it was announced by Winston Churchill, Britain's Prime Minister at the time, that the war in Europe was over. Crowds flocked to landmarks like Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace - which was damaged in the war - where King George VI, his wife Queen Elizabeth and Winston Churchill greeted them from the balcony. Not everyone celebrated VE Day. For those who had lost loved ones, it was a time to reflect.

The day became known as Victory In Europe (VE) Day, with the 75th anniversary being celebrated today. With lockdown still in effect, this year's VE Day celebrations will be held at home. As there will be lots of news and TV coverage of these historic events, it presents a tremendous learning opportunity for children. Please encourage them to access the VE Day learning materials in the home learning resources that are posted weekly to the COVID-19 section of the school website.

#### School Return Speculation

There has been much speculation in the press recently around the return of pupils or groups of pupils to school. This has unfortunately only added to the anxieties of many who have been juggling work commitments with home schooling, and continuing to run a household against a backdrop of the 'new normal'.

The Department for Education (DfE) released the following statement yesterday, 7 May 2020:

'Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has not set a date for schools reopening. Schools will remain closed, except for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, until the scientific advice indicates it is the right time to re-open and the five tests set out by Government to beat this virus have been met. We are also working closely with the sector as we consider how to re-open schools, nurseries and colleges and will ensure everyone has sufficient notice to plan and prepare.'

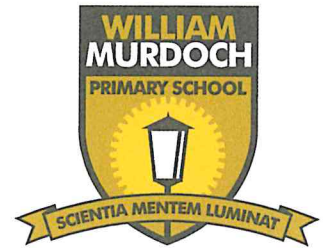
#### FSM Vouchers/Edenred

We have received an update from the DfE stating that there was a 'significant breakthrough in new enhancements and developments to the systems of Edenred. The capacity for more schools and parents/carers to be able to access and use the system at any one time has been increased; as a result, queue times are expected to be substantially shorter.'

One of the main reasons vouchers have not been received is invalid and unused email addresses. It is imperative that the school has an up to date email address from you and therefore if your details have changed, please inform us at the earliest opportunity by emailing [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk).

#### Year 4 - Music

Services For Education (S4E) Music Service teachers have been working tremendously hard preparing online schemes, resources, practice material and videos to support pupils in the summer term in order to maintain continuity of provision.



Year 4 pupils have this year received whole class instrumental tuition. In order to support these pupils during the lockdown, S4E has developed an online learning platform which contains over 350 bite-size videos featuring a range of instruments. To access these resources please visit [www.sfeonline.co.uk](http://www.sfeonline.co.uk) and enter the unique username and password below:

Username: williammu

Password: sCTtpKdz

### **1:1 Virtual Music Tuition**

For those pupils who receive small group music tuition from Mr Dharni, Mrs Haddlington or Mr Bilby, there is an opportunity to engage with 1:1 lessons using video technology via the Microsoft Teams platform. This has proved very successful and is working well across many schools. To ensure the safeguarding of children the lesson must take place in a communal room in the household e.g. living room and there must be a parent present at all times. If you would like your child to continue their music tuition through 1:1 virtual music tuition, please email the school email address on [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk) for further details.

If this is not suitable for your circumstances, children can access the S4E music videos for their instrument and practice using those instead.

I know staff have really enjoyed speaking to pupils this week and many parents appreciated the call and the chance to even hear a different voice! Many also expressed their thanks for the home learning resources on the website and the individual support they have received from school.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation at this difficult time.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Singh', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Singh  
Headteacher