

23 October 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*“Prejudices are what fools use for reason.” – Voltaire*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn is well and truly here, and it is the perfect time to go on a local family walk and enjoy the abundance of wildlife in our local parks during the half-term break. If you would like to stretch further afield, the following link to the national trust website will provide you with places to visit in the Midlands. All the places shown are open but there may be restrictions in place. Please make sure you check web pages for individual places before you travel for booking details and the most up to date information about visiting.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/half-term-in-the-midlands>

### Year 6 Parents

If your child is in Year 6 you must apply for a secondary school place for next year. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2020. Please visit the websites of the schools you are considering and look at what they are offering in terms of open days/virtual open days. Full details can be found on the Birmingham City Council admissions page.

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions)

### Coronavirus Parent Guide

A reminder that holidays in term time are not allowed. More than ever, we need to maximise the time children are in school. Presently on return from many countries, you will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days from when you return. So even if you go abroad in the holidays, the period of self-isolation may run into the school term. There are only a small number of countries you can travel to without having to self-isolate. You can find details of these here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

### Coronavirus Symptoms and testing

The NHS lists three main symptoms of coronavirus, that people should be aware of and ready to act upon:

- **A new, continuous cough**, where you cough a lot for more than an hour, or have three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **Fever** - where your temperature is above 37.8C
- **Loss of smell or taste**

### Testing for COVID-19 - Parental expectations

- If anyone in your household has symptoms you **MUST ALL** stay at home; **DO NOT** come onto the school premises. Only leave your home to have the test

**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

- Contact school via telephone or the school enquiry email as soon as possible. **Please do not use Class Dojo to inform the school**
- Get tested: the guidance is very clear: Do not wait to get tested - apply for the test as soon as you have symptoms.

You can order or book a test here: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

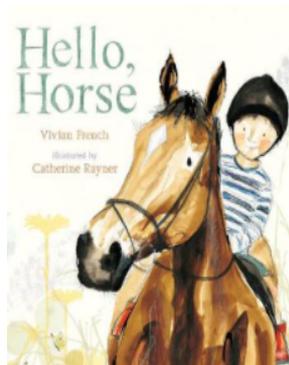
Information about testing: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-andtracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

## Half-Term Holiday

Please note that school will re-open again for pupils on Monday 2 November 2020 from 8.35am.

## Book of the Week – Mr Panichi

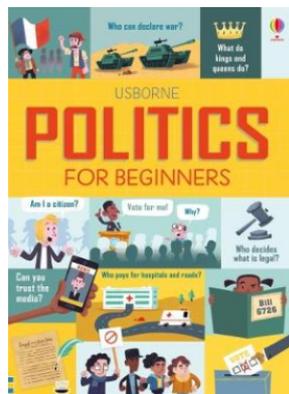
### Lower School



#### Hello Horse - *Catherine Rayner*

Hello Horse is a perceptive introduction to horses. Catherine Rayner's illustrations perfectly complement the text, from the relative size of the child and the horse to portraying changing facial expressions of both. The book has both factual and fictional streams - the factual information is included in small print on the same pages as the larger fictional story. The combination of these two streams means that the reader is gripped, and absorbs the information almost incidentally.

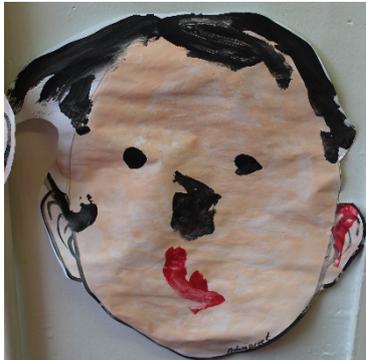
### Upper School



#### Politics for Beginners - *Alex Frith, Rosie Hore and Louie Stowell*

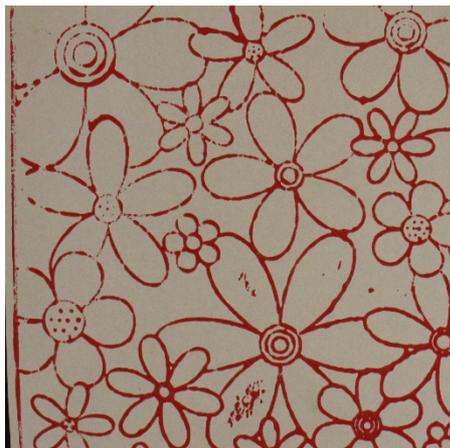
Politics affects all our lives but how much do we really understand about what goes on at Westminster, in the town hall and around the world? This wide-ranging book explains the history, different political systems, voting and much more in clear, concise language helping to make a complex subject accessible. Having won the overall awards for both the Judges' and the Children's Choice the power of this book cannot be understated. It would make for fantastic curriculum support as well as reading for pleasure.

## Artists of the Week



### Lower School – Adampreet in Nursery

In Nursery the children have been busy painting self-portraits. The children planned their self-portraits carefully and thought about where their facial features needed to go. Adampreet worked very hard on his work and used the paint well. He has created a fantastic piece of artwork.



### Upper School – Mysam in Y6.3

The children in Year 6 have been learning about Andy Warhol and the screen-printing process. They were then given the chance to create their own screen prints. They began by creating a stencil and then carried out the screen-printing process to make their own piece of artwork. Mysam in Y6.3 created a detailed flower print. It was great to see so much care and attention being put into a piece of work.

Have a great half-term break. Many thanks for your continued support.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher