

15 January 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

“You have power over your mind - not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.”
- Marcus Aurelius

Dear Parents/Carers,

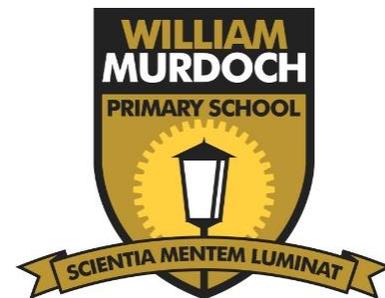
‘Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?’ proclaimed a famous World War I recruitment poster. It was the first time that the British public had been called upon to enlist in huge numbers to fight alongside professional army personnel. The poster featured young children sitting on their father’s knee. No man wanted to be the father who had to reply ‘Nothing, kids, I stayed at home and did nothing.’ Consequently, millions signed up and answered the call to duty. Ironically, in this modern day battle against coronavirus, individuals are being asked to do what people then were shamed into not doing, that is, to stay at home and do nothing.

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN
STAY AT HOME

Healthy Brum
 Birmingham City Council

<p>SOCIAL CONTACT</p> <p>No household mixing, aside from support bubbles, childcare bubbles, to provide care for vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, to attend a support group, or for respite care.</p>	<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>Early year settings are open. All other schools and colleges will learn remotely. Schools will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.</p>	<p>SHOPPING & RETAIL</p> <p>Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only open for click-and-collect (not alcohol) and delivery.</p>	<p>WORK</p> <p>You can only leave home for work purposes where it is unreasonable for you to do your job from home.</p>
<p>ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Closed.</p>	<p>INDOOR</p> <p>Closed.</p>	<p>HOTEL & ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>Closed (with limited exceptions).</p>	<p>PERSONAL CARE</p> <p>Closed.</p>
<p>OVERNIGHT STAYS</p> <p>You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply.</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL CARE</p> <p>Visits to care homes can take place, but close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak.</p>	<p>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</p> <p>Hospitality closed. Takeaways can open, but no alcohol can be served.</p>	<p>WORSHIP</p> <p>Open for private prayer and communal worship, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<p>TRAVEL & TRANSPORT</p> <p>You must stay at home and only travel for work or other legally permitted reasons. If you have to, you should stay local and reduce the number of journeys you make. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.</p>	<p>EXERCISE & OUTDOOR LEISURE</p> <p>You can leave your home to exercise by yourself, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household - once a day only. Organised outdoor sport is closed unless for the disabled.</p>	<p>WEDDINGS & FUNERALS</p> <p>Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to six. Weddings of up to six can continue in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE</p> <p>If you receive a shielding letter you must shield. Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not leave home unless it is for a medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.</p>

For more information and detailed guidance visit: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



Live Lessons

On Monday we will be trialling the use of Zoom technology to deliver live lessons. We are mindful that we want our children to retain a connection with their class and it is an ideal way of facilitating this. In preparation, we ask that where your child uses a mobile device or a tablet to access their remote learning, the Zoom app is downloaded on to the device. Where Zoom is being accessed via a laptop/desktop, navigate using the website browser to www.zoom.us and click on the 'Join Meeting' button. Here you will be asked to input a meeting ID which will be posted on to your child's Class Dojo story page on Monday morning. Further details on how to access Zoom, and the way it will be used by the school, can be found in the attached guidance document.

Each cohort has been given a separate time and all classes in that year group will have a live lesson at the same time. We ask that your child is ready for the lesson five minutes before the scheduled time. All live lessons will take place next Monday 18 January 2021 at the following times:

Year 6 - 9.30am

Year 5 - 10.15am

Year 4 - 11.00am

Year 3 - 11.45am

Year 2 - 12.30pm

Year 1 - 1.15pm

Reception - 2.00pm

Nursery (AM and PM) - 2:45pm

Please note that live lessons are for teachers and pupils to engage and learn. Parents are not to join the live lesson and it is not a space for parents to raise any questions. I ask that you do this using your parent login for Class Dojo. This is to avoid disrupting the lesson. The focus of the first lesson is to establish classroom rules when attending these lessons, a general well-being check, discuss expectations for Remote Learning and clarify any issues that may have arisen during the last two weeks. It will finish with a Q&A session. Your child's class teacher will take a register so that we can monitor how many children have attended the live lesson. We understand it will take time for children and parents to navigate their way around Zoom and Class Dojo but we would like all children to attend these lessons.

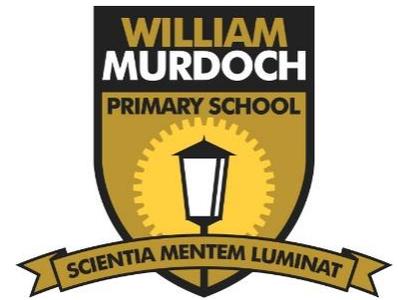
Remote Learning

The government has been clear about what they are expecting schools to deliver. We have reviewed the guidance and are confident that we are providing a good quality home learning offer. However, if you have any suggestions or feedback, please let us know. We do expect children, as much as possible, to complete the remote learning activities that are set and to be on any live Zoom sessions that are planned. We know that for many, remote learning can be difficult. Please encourage your children to do what they can. We are keeping registers of children who are attending and submitting work to identify those who may need additional or different support.

Top Tips

- Try to get into a daily routine of when and where the children are working; an early start helps and children are then able to use the time in the afternoon for their own interests

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



- Keep bedtimes and morning routines as similar as possible each day; this is very important for your body, mind and well-being
- Sometimes you might need to have a 'day off' or go and do something else – that is okay but try to keep as many days as possible for the learning activities
- Ensure you also focus on the basics like well-being, life skills – cooking etc.
- Watching educational programs, including the new service on CBBC and BBC2 will give children new learning too, so these are great if home learning is getting tricky
- If in a live lesson, please talk to your children about expectations:
 - Focus on the lesson
 - Have a drink but NO EATING while on Zoom
 - Try to have a desk or table for the device to be on and keep it still by using a stand or leaning it against something

Window to the School

Each week in my newsletter I will be sharing a photo of a view from a room within the school (see below). Please share this with your child and ask them to work out the room it was taken from. They should message their teacher with the answer. Again, it is intended as a fun activity to maintain your child's connection with school.



Lateral Flow Tests Available Locally

COVID-19 lateral flow device (LFD) testing is also available locally for anyone NOT showing symptoms. These tests are designed to identify people who do not have symptoms but are infectious. This type of test is very good at detecting people who have lots of the virus and are infectious on the day, but is not as good at finding the virus in people who are not infectious yet (i.e. early in the infection). They are a kind of spot check test. A negative test does not mean you are negative, so usual precautions should still be followed, as these types of tests do not pick up early positives that the other tests do. Full details of how to book and locations can be found here: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50231/coronavirus_covid-19/2308/covid-19_lateral_flow_device_lfd_testing_information

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT, TEL: 0121 554 0999, FAX: 0121 554 6332

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

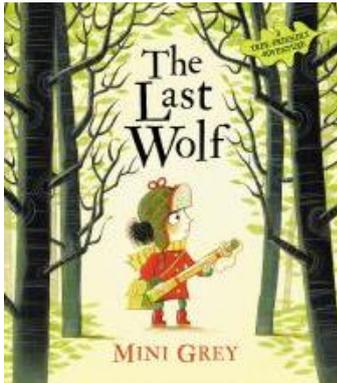
HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

William Murdoch Art Competition

Over the next few weeks, the school will be running a fortnightly Art Competition. This will be a great opportunity for your child to be creative and have lots of fun at the same time. The title of the first competition is 'Gratitude' and the work produced should explore something that your child is grateful for. Perhaps your child could create a piece of work relating to someone in their family, a hobby that they enjoy or a place that is special to them. Your child is able to use materials of their choice for this competition, but please be mindful to only use materials that are available in the home. Once the artwork has been completed, they are to upload a photo of it to Class Dojo. The deadline for entries is 20 January 2021, with the winners having their work celebrated in the weekly newsletter and the on the school Twitter account. We look forward to seeing the work produced very soon.

Book of the Week – Mr Panichi

Lower School



The Last Wolf – *Mini Grey*

A great picture book with a fabulous twist. Little Red's mother is sanguine when her daughter declares that she is off to the forest to catch a wolf. After all, none has been seen for a hundred years or more. As Little Red wends her way through the Autumnal wood she happens upon the home of the Last Wolf in the land who introduces her to the Last Lynx and the Last Bear. Together they tell her about the days when there were miles of verdant forest to run through and food to eat. Once she understands the planet's plight, Little Red comes up with a solution although she knows it will take a long time to come to fruition. A green take on the Red Riding Hood tale illustrated with humour.

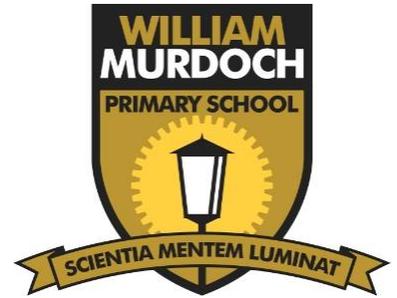
Upper School



A Thief in the Village – *James Berry*

These short stories are vignettes of Jamaican village life, full of the rhythms of Caribbean speech. The stories treat of relationships between weak and strong, between generations and among young people. The themes are universal and there is a strong sense of culture and place. The reader also has an awareness of the stories continuing after the last words that appear on the page. Did the boys eventually capture the mongoose from Elias? Did Fanzo go in search of his father and brothers and sisters.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Over the Christmas break we had several children, parents and staff test positive and this has included people having to be in hospital. I would like to pay tribute to the many parents who are key workers and supporting learning from home – thank you for all that you are doing to support the staff and the school community; I will be thinking of you as I clap each Thursday evening!

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh', is positioned above the printed name.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT, TEL: **0121 554 0999**, FAX: 0121 554 6332

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH