

20 November 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"I never lose. I either win or learn." – Nelson Mandela

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 Information in Other Languages

Understanding COVID-19 and knowing what to do in different situations can be tricky for those with English as their first language, but it can be very hard for those who may have little or no English. Below is a link to a website that has videos explaining all aspects of COVID-19 in 11 different community languages. Please share this link with your friends and family so we can all work together to reduce the spread of the virus.

<https://www.salfordccg.nhs.uk/about-us/latest-news/coronavirus-explainer-videos-launch-11-different-languages>

DfE Guidance for Parents

The government's guidance '[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)' sets out when children and young people may be unable to attend school in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) and are requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace or the PHE advice service

Please take some time to read this important and recently updated guidance.

Free School Meal Vouchers

The school will be distributing vouchers on behalf of Birmingham City Council for those children who were entitled to Free School Meals for the autumn half-term week. This was the week commencing 26 October 2020. Those eligible will receive the voucher via email from today. They are valid for 3 months from 13 November 2020. Please find attached guidance on how to use your voucher.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week children have participated in Anti-Bullying Week. Starting in 2004, Anti-Bullying Week helps raise awareness of the impact and consequences of bullying and also identifies signs of bullying and how to stop it. This annual event has focused on different themes, and this year the theme is 'United Against Bullying', focusing on promoting unity and developing a strong school community. The Anti-Bullying Week 2020 manifesto states "more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge".

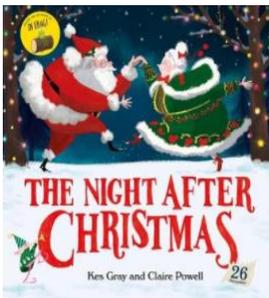
Christmas at WMPS

We will still be making every effort to make Christmas a special time for our children, but we will do so with safety in mind. This means we will not be exchanging Christmas cards this year. Children will however be making a Christmas card in school to take home and children have been given details on a competition to design the school Christmas card. Entries need to be uploaded to Class Dojo by Monday 30 November 2020. Similarly, teachers will not be able to accept any gifts from children this year. You are more than welcome to share your appreciation and good wishes through a Christmas message which can be posted on Class Dojo.

The school will be supporting the Christmas Jumper Day campaign on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December 2020. In the final days of the term, children will be taking part in Christmas festivities, including watching a special showing of a panto that the school has purchased. There will be a special Nativity assembly for the children and Nursery will record a Nativity production which will be shared with their parents through Class Dojo. The children will also receive a free Christmas lunch. We will write to you about this closer to the time.

Book of the Week – Mr Panichi

Lower School

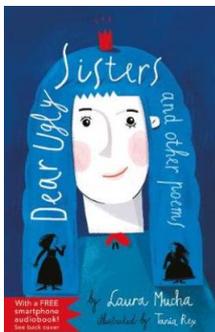


The Night After Christmas - Kes Gray and Claire Powell

Have you ever wondered what Father Christmas does after Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are over? Well now that all the presents have been safely delivered, Santa and his elves enjoy their own festivities on Boxing Day. The Owls deliver a giant cracker filled with fun things, which everyone pulls, Mrs Klaus switches on the Northern Lights to brighten the party sky, the reindeer show off their dance moves and everyone makes merry, before starting the 364 day countdown until the next Christmas Eve.

A rich, rhyming text, accompanied by bright vibrant illustrations full of humour, make this a picture book perfect for reading aloud to KS1 children.

Upper School



Dear Ugly Sisters and Other Poems - Laura Mucha and Tania Rex

Poetry provides a wonderful opportunity for reading aloud to children and this excellent debut collection has something for everyone. Fresh, original and full of a delightful mixture of the fun and the serious, these will have all children both laughing and reflecting. Rich in language and rhythm. The collection enjoys surprising the reader, with many shape and puzzle poems and pokes fun at fairytales, with versions offering a twist. The book's themes include nature, science, space plus emotions and feelings and it will also be a really useful book for supporting empathy.

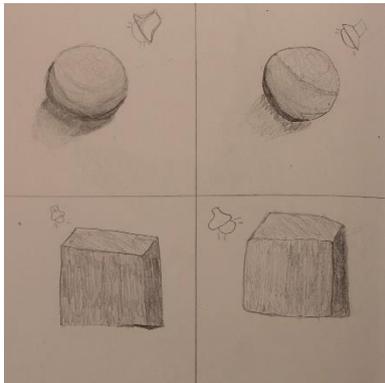
The back cover has a QR code which can be scanned by a smartphone and gives a free audiobook, making the cover price very good value. Laura's website <https://lauramucha.com/> also has videos of her performing some of her poems. She is a brilliant performance poet who works in schools and has had poems included in many anthologies. This first solo collection is one to own and to enjoy sharing with children.

Artists of the Week



Reind Y2.2

In Year 2 the children have been learning about Henri Matisse and his cut-out based artwork. They then created their own cut-outs in a similar style to those made by Matisse. Reind was very creative and used coloured paper very well in her cut-out.



Tawhid Y4.2

In Year 4 the children have been learning about space and dimensions. They also learnt about the terms foreground, middle ground and background. The pupils were instructed to draw some common 3D shapes and add areas of light and dark carefully to their drawings. Tawhid worked very hard on the task and created a brilliant selection of shapes.

Pupils of the Week



Y6.1 Ronai

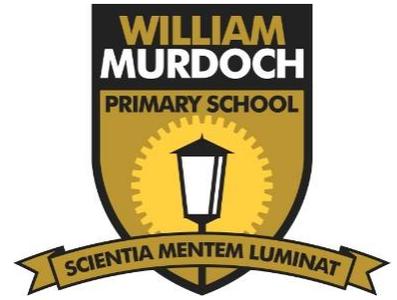


Y6.2 Nicola



Y6.3 Minaal

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Stay safe. Stay well. Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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