

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'It's the greatest thing in the world, natural enthusiasm. You are nothing without it'
 – Bill Shankly

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to have some of the Year 6 children in school. Watching their initial trepidation ebb away as a cloak of familiarity encompassed them, and seeing their faces light up with enthusiasm throughout the day, was a joy to observe. With the return of Premier League football, it got me thinking about the parallels between our organisations in trying to balance the predicament of keeping everyone safe whilst at the same time trying to infuse some normalcy. Football being played in empty stadiums, without the fans, just does not feel right. The same can be said of school without its pupils. We truly do miss everyone.

School Reopening Update

The phased reopening of William Murdoch Primary School will continue on 22 June 2020, with a small number of Year 5 children who will attend for one week only. There are **no more places** for Year 5 children due to staffing constraints and risk mitigation. We will be teaching outside as much as possible and with the weather forecast predicting hot sunny days, please ensure your child has sun cream applied before coming to school. We also recommend they bring a sun hat to school on hot days.

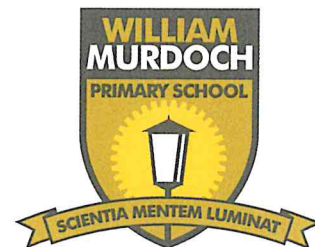
We will continue our cautious and safety-first approach by inviting Year 4 pupils to return to school for one week only, starting on 29 June 2020. We will telephone parents of Year 4 children early next week as we continue to focus on building community confidence and on those cohorts that are best placed to adhere to strict protocols for social distancing and regular and thorough hand washing. In this way we can keep staff and children, and their families, as safe as possible as we seek to do everything possible to reduce the transmission risk. To aid decision making for Year 4 parents and to let Year 5 children and parents know what to expect, please refer to the attached documents titled **'Information on the Return to School of Pupils for One Week'** and **'Wider Re-opening Physical Changes to School'**. These documents, and the FAQ document sent earlier, are also available in the COVID-19 section of the school website under Latest News and Guidance.

YouTube Videos – EYFS Storytime

During this period of lock down we know that many children have missed being in the classroom, seeing their teachers, and hearing a good story. The staff in Nursey and Reception are also missing reading to the children so they have been incredibly busy recording their favourite children's stories for you to share with your child. I hope your child will be delighted to see a familiar face and enjoy listening to a great story. The stories read by Nursery and Reception staff can be found under the COVID-19 section of our school website <https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/covid-19/story-time>. Your children are in for a treat!

Class Dojo

We are very pleased at the engagement of children with Class Dojo since its launch. We do however still receive children's work that has been sent from the parent account. Unfortunately, Class Dojo does not then allow that work to be reviewed by your child's teacher. Therefore, **please ensure that your child's work is only submitted from their own account and not the parent account.** If you have any questions regarding the home learning please do not message on Class Dojo as the message box is not monitored and instead contact the school office or email enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.



Year 6 Transition

At this time of year, ordinarily we would be completing a range of transition activities in school to help the Year 6 children manage their move to secondary school. Given the current situation, we have had to adapt this so we can reach out to all our Year 6 children during this time. In next week's home learning pack, there will be 3 transition activities for the children to complete. Firstly, there will be a recorded lesson about transition, conducted by the Year 6 teachers. The lesson will look at the differences between primary and secondary school, explore thoughts and feelings the children may have and how to handle them. Secondly, there will be an activity booklet for the children complete; this will require the children to research facts about their secondary school including timings, uniform and routines. Thirdly, there will be a short questionnaire which will need to be completed by the children and submitted on Class Dojo. Please note, the other 2 pieces of work do not need to be submitted.

Edenred Free School Meal Vouchers

Following a successful intervention by Marcus Rashford, the government has agreed to fund the Edenred FSM vouchers over the summer holiday period. School will process these on a weekly basis as usual throughout the summer holidays to ensure no family misses out on their entitlement.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Singh', written over a faint, illegible background.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher