

26 February 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

– Maya Angelou

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the following letter I want to update you on the school procedures for the return of pupils on 8 March 2021.

The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that school attendance is mandatory for all pupils. As in September, we are taking all appropriate measures to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible for our students and staff. Further details will continue to be shared with you as and when we get the information.

We will be welcoming back all children on Monday 8 March 2021 and although drop off procedures remain largely unchanged, meaning you can drop off your child anytime between 8.35am and 8.50am, there have been changes to the collection point for Year 2 and Year 3 (please see the attached map showing drop off and collection arrangements). A reminder that school will close at 12.30pm every Friday for the foreseeable future. We will continue to keep this under review.

Upon the return to school and in accordance with DfE guidance, we will still operate in year group bubbles. The government guidance on face mask wearing has now strengthened for secondary school aged pupils and strongly recommends that students, unless they are medically exempt, wear face masks both in classrooms and corridors. Although the government guidance for primary pupils does not mandate the wearing of a face mask, pupils are more than welcome to wear a mask should they or you want them to do this. With daily cases still close to 10,000 and the number of COVID-19 hospitalisations also running at high levels, I completely understand if you would want to take this extra precaution. Staff will also wear face coverings in areas of the school where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Pick Up and Drop Off Expectations

Please ensure you read and understand these instructions. Members of staff will be on duty to help.

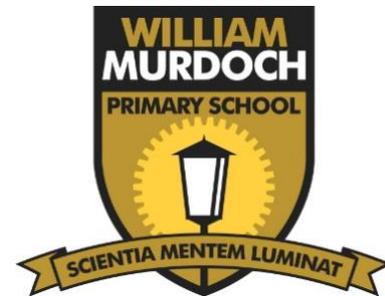
- Keep a social distance from other families
- DO keep at least 2m away from other families
- DO NOT approach other families
- DO NOT shake hands
- DO NOT hug other families
- DO NOT approach staff
- Follow the one-way system at the Albert Road gates
- DO drop off / pick up your child promptly and then leave the site

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



- DO only have only **one adult** bring / collect your child to school wherever possible.

Symptoms of Coronavirus

- The symptoms of COVID-19 are:
- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What To Do If Your Child Has Symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- **Stay at home (self-isolate for 10 full days)** – do not leave your home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self-isolate.
- **Get a test** – get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms.

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.
- Contact school as soon as possible.
- 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>

Lunch Arrangements

Children will remain in their year group bubbles during the lunch period. This is to avoid the mixing of bubbles. It means that not all children will be able to eat in the dining hall at the same time and therefore some year groups will eat the same meal that is served in the dining hall in their classroom, but they will be on a rota for the dining hall. Children are well used to this process as it has been in place throughout the Autumn Term.

After School Clubs

All after school clubs this year will be year group based. Clubs will begin from the week commencing 15 March 2021 and normal enrolment procedures will apply.

Toast

A toast facility will be available to Upper School pupils from the week commencing 8 March 2021 at a cost of £4 for the remainder of the term. All payments must be made online using SIMS Pay.



Reading/Library Books

Following the abrupt lockdown in January, children have not had the opportunity to return their library books. All children **must return** any outstanding library books and reading books before they can take any further books out. Please ensure your child brings them to school on their first day back at school. Unfortunately, a charge will have to be made for any books not returned.

Inhalers

For those children who bring an inhaler into school, please check that the inhaler is not outside of the expiry date.

Communication

The School Office will remain closed to parents for the foreseeable future. Teachers will also not be available to speak to at the end of the school day. We do however want to facilitate communication and therefore would encourage parents to continue to contact their class teacher using Class Dojo or alternatively the School Office via email or over the phone.

Way-out Wednesday Creative Task

Your child's task for this week's Way-out Wednesday is to prepare for World Book Day on Thursday 4 March 2021 by designing and creating their costume based on a character from the world of books and novels. They can use anything that they have in their home to create a costume, including of course clothing! Please note that we don't want to see any ready-made costumes bought from shops! Children should have a look at the pdf shared by their teacher on Class Dojo for some more information and ideas.

Children should upload photos of their designs and creations in the Portfolio section under the activity titled 'World Book Day Costume'. They have until 3.30pm on Monday 1 March 2021 to upload their designs and creations. A prize of a £10 voucher will be awarded to the pupil with the best home-made costume in each year group. We hope they have fun, and we can't wait to see their creations!

Art Competition Winners

There were some excellent entries for the 'Dreams and Ambitions' art competition. It was very pleasing to see so much creativity being shown in the work that was produced. Well done to everyone who got involved in this competition.

Lower School winner - Afshan (Y2.3)

Afshan in Y2.3 wants to be a teacher when she is older and specifically wants to work at William Murdoch Primary School. She has created a 3D model of our school and it has been put together with such attention to detail. Afshan is clearly a very talented artist and she should be incredibly proud of this creation.





Upper School winner - Manreet (Y3.1)

Manreet in Y3.1 put lots of thought into her competition entry. She wrote down some of her dreams and ambitions onto heart shaped pieces of paper and positioned them very cleverly in different places on a plant. This idea showed a great level of creativity and Manreet should feel very pleased with the work that she produced.

New Art Competition - My Favourite Memory

I am pleased to announce the details relating to the new art competition. The theme of the competition is 'My Favourite Memory'. Your child should create a piece of work that relates to a moment from the past that stands out as being special to them. Perhaps their work could be based on a special occasion or a celebration from the past. We do ask that your child only uses materials that are available in the home. The deadline for this competition is Wednesday 10 March 2021 and the work should be uploaded onto Class Dojo. The winners of the competition shall have their work celebrated in the weekly newsletter, on the school's Twitter page and in the weekly celebration assembly. We look forward to seeing the work produced.

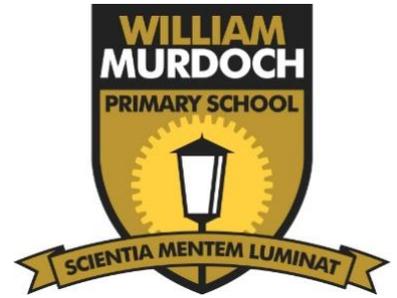
Free School Meal Vouchers

FSM vouchers for the weeks commencing 22.02.21 and 1.03.21 were sent out on Monday 22 February 2021 via Edenred. If your child is eligible for FSMs, then a voucher to the value of £30 per child was sent to the email address held on the school system. If you did not receive a voucher, but believe that you should have, please contact the school at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Science Day - 5 March 2021

British Science Week is a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, and takes place annually. Due to the current remote learning programme, we will be dedicating next Friday 5 March 2021 as a 'Science Day' to mark the event. The theme this year is all about 'Innovating for the Future', and children will be given various tasks to choose from, where they will focus on different aspects of scientific enquiry. These will be adapted for home learning, and it is hoped that all the children and their families will have fun in their investigations.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



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 right). Please share this with your child and ask them to work out the room it was taken from. They should message their teacher on Class Dojo with the answer. Again, it is intended as a fun activity to maintain your child's connection with school.

The photo in my newsletter of 12 February 2021 was taken from Upper School Staffroom.

Can you guess which room this week's photo was taken from?



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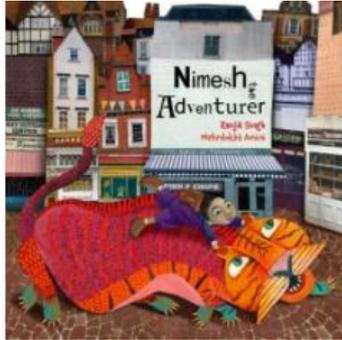
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Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School

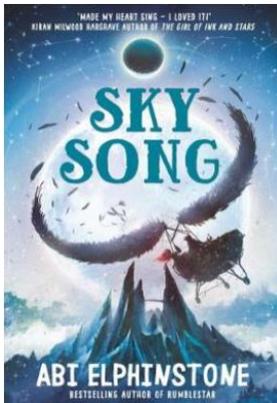


Nimesh the Adventurer – Ranjit Singh and Mehrdokht Amini (Illustrator)

During Nimesh's journey home from school, two voices, indicated in different fonts, exchange views about what they are seeing and experiencing around them. One character, interjecting from off-stage, sees a corridor, a road, while Nimesh sees landscapes of adventure involving dragons, sharks and pirates. Nimesh's flights of fancy (or are they?) are beautifully interwoven with the realms of reality in the stunning collage illustrations in which multi-cultural aspects of the

local surroundings can be seen in images and environmental print. Lantana is renowned for cross-cultural collaborations in their picture book publishing, and here the talents of a writer of East Indian heritage and an Iranian-British illustrator have been combined.

Upper School



Sky Song – Abi Elphinstone

A magical adventure story with a strong female lead and overtones of Pullman and C.S. Lewis, 'Sky Song' will whisk you away into an enchanting fantasy world. Set in an icy landscape populated by a power-hungry Ice Queen, tribes of children living in secret hide-outs and delightful magical animals, this text cleverly explores how the 'magic' of acceptance and tolerance can advance personal and societal change. On their quest to save the kingdom from the clutches of the Ice Queen, adventurers Eska and Flint discover that long-standing borders between different tribes can be broken down and that openness and courage are better markers of identity than

ethnicity or class. Fast-paced and sparkling with magic on every page, this book is a real delight.

We really look forward to seeing you all again. We still have one more week of remote learning and I would encourage all children to complete all the work set to the best of their ability. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

School will re-open to all pupils on Monday 8 March 2021

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN STAY AT HOME

Healthy Brum

<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>BAR, 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 LESIURE</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)