

6 November 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

“Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.” – Marie Curie

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Remains Open

On Saturday 31 October the Prime Minister announced [New National Restrictions](#), which came into force on Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The government are seemingly determined to keep schools open this time around. But there are still new rules to navigate, as well as dark evenings and weekends to fill.



Pubs and restaurants closed but takeaways permitted



Stay home – only leave for specific reasons including education and work



Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



Schools, universities and colleges remain open



No households mixing indoors, or in private gardens, unless in your support bubble

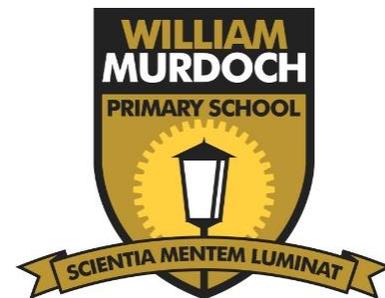


Outdoor recreation encouraged, you can meet one person outside your household

Following the new lockdown measures and subsequent guidance from the Department for Education, we have been reviewing our school health and safety procedures. The R rate in all areas is increasing significantly, and while we are doing everything we can to make our school safe for everyone, there are still further precautions that we can take to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

From Monday 9 November 2020, we strongly recommend that all visitors who come onto the school site wear face masks/coverings. This includes any parents/carers dropping off or collecting children from school. There are a number of bottle necks on the school site (see attached map) and the wearing of face coverings will help protect everyone. Social distancing must always be adhered to whilst on the school site and this includes anyone waiting to collect/drop off their child.

Visitors, including parents/carers, are only allowed into school if attending a necessary pre-arranged appointment or conducting necessary grounds and maintenance checks. All visitors in school have their temperature taken and are required to wear a face covering. If these health and safety precautions are not adhered to then we refuse entry into the school building.



Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice. Speak to your GP or specialist clinician, if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school while this advice is in place. Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice. School will make appropriate arrangements for your child to be able to continue their education at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Emotional Support

We are on hand to offer support and guidance in any way we can. There are also a number of organisations sharing resources for parents to try to make this difficult time that little bit easier.

[NSPCC](#), for example, has published a series of guides for parents on everything from working from home with your kids to supporting children with anxiety due to coronavirus. The [NSPCC advice line](#) – 0808 800 5000 – is also open to parents who wish to talk to someone for support. You can also access mental health support via the charities listed below.

Useful websites and helplines

[Mind](#), open Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm on **0300 123 3393**.

[Samaritans](#) offers a listening service which is open 24 hours a day, on **116 123** (UK and ROI - this number is FREE to call and will not appear on your phone bill).

[CALM](#) (the Campaign Against Living Miserably) offer a helpline open 5pm-midnight, 365 days a year, on **0800 58 58 58**, and a [webchat service](#).

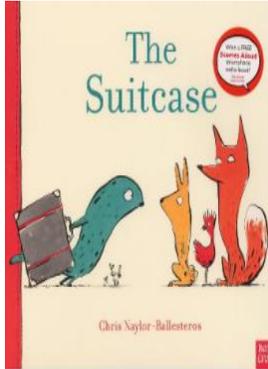
[Rethink Mental Illness](#) offers practical help through its advice line which can be reached on 0300 5000 927 (Monday to Friday 10am-4pm). More info can be found on [rethink.org](#).

Nasal Flu Forms

A reminder to all parents to complete and return nasal flu forms by Monday 16 November 2020.

Book of the Week – Mr Panichi

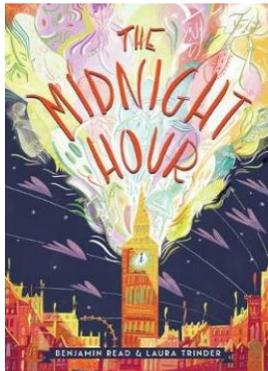
Lower School



The Suitcase - Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

When animal friends discover the contents of a stranger's suitcase, they set about trying to make him feel welcome in his new home. When a strange-looking animal arrives pulling a big suitcase, the other animals are curious. What on earth could be inside that suitcase? A teacup? Maybe. A table and chair? Perhaps. A whole home and hillside with trees? This stranger must be fibbing! But when the animals break into the suitcase and discover a very special photograph, they begin to understand what the strange creature has been through, and together they create a very special welcome present.

Upper School



The Midnight Hour - Benjamin Read & Laura Trinder

When Big Ben sounds the stroke of midnight, Emily's parents vanish. As an adventurous eleven-year-old, Emily packs her sandwiches and her hedgehog, Hoggin, and heads into the Midnight Hour. A Victorian London frozen in time, the Midnight Hour is a magical place of sanctuary and of peril dreamt up by children – and inhabited by monsters of legend, creatures of the imagination, and a Postal Service determined to save the day (and night!). To save her mum and dad, Emily must be brave enough to embrace her own inner magic ...

Artists of the Week

Lower School – Cherry Y1.1



In Year 1 the children have been learning about the use of lines in art work. They then were given the opportunity to create a picture of a penguin using different types of lines. Cherry has used straight and curved lines in her artwork. She has also coloured in her work very well and carefully.



Upper School – Mahul Y3.2

In Art the children in Year 3 learnt about Andy Warhol and his art work. They looked at a piece of work that he created called Marmite. The children were then given a picture that showed half of Warhol's famous work and had to finish it off. Mahul used oil pastels very well in his work!

Pupil of the Week



Aalyia Y1.1



Rayna Y1.2



Oliver Y1.3

I know that this second lockdown is not ideal for everyone and will cause much anxiety for some families, but at least this time schools can remain open. We will continue to do all that we can to keep everyone safe by following rigid health and safety procedures, and in doing so, keep our school open for as long as we are able to.

Please may I take this opportunity to thank all of our families for supporting all of the procedures we have in place, and also the children who are being so resilient and the staff, who are working above and beyond to provide the best education they can for all of the children in these continuing challenging circumstances. Once again, I will keep you updated as and when we receive information from the Government, DfE and/or the Local Authority.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher