

16 July 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Black players don't need to win to deserve dignity.'

– Washington Post

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we hurtle towards the close of another school year, it is time to reflect on the year just gone, and what a year it has been! William Murdoch Primary School continues to thrive as a learning community despite living through a global pandemic. We are so proud of each and every child and we are very proud of all our families. Your support really has made all the difference to our children's learning. It has been wonderful to watch our children re-ignite their passion for learning and continue to make progress and succeed. I am very grateful to our whole team for their care of our children, passion for learning and dedication. We are fortunate to have a strong governing body who work hard to ensure that we have only the very best for our school.

As you will know, the Government has announced the move to 'Stage 4' of their roadmap out of COVID-19 restrictions from 19 July 2021. This puts schools in an untenable position for the final three days of term. On the advice of our Local Authority and the Regional Director of Public Health, we will not be making any significant changes to our arrangements and organisation of the school in the final days before the end of term. Please keep an eye out for a letter outlining the school arrangements for September. This will be shared once we have received all the appropriate guidance from the Department of Education and Birmingham City Council.

Schools, as with other organisations, have a certain turnover of staff. I have detailed in the letter attached some of the staffing changes for the next academic year (see attached). However, I feel it fitting to give a special mention to Mrs R Malhi, who is retiring from fulltime teaching. She joined the school in September 1990 and has dedicated 31 years to the school. This is an incredible amount of service and I know that she is highly regarded by staff, pupils and parents. I am sure you will join me in thanking her and all of those staff leaving for their commitment to our school and wish them every success and happiness for the future. In Mrs Malhi's case, she will continue to support the school two days a week.

Dolce Catering – School Lunches from September 2021

As of September 2021, we have employed a new catering company, Dolce, to provide the school meals. We will be sending details of menu choices and of how to book meals for September next week. Thank you for your patience. The cost of school lunches will remain unchanged at £2.30 per day.

From Reception to the end of Year 2, children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. From Year 3 and upwards the cost of school lunches will be £2.30 per day. Families in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). If you think you might be eligible and have not yet applied, please contact the school office in confidence, or visit

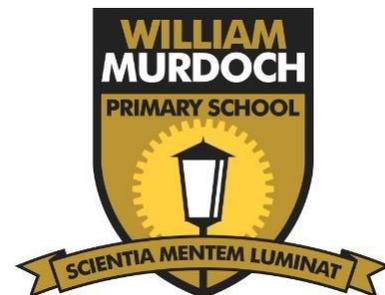
<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> for eligibility details and to apply online. Even if your

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



child does not take the free meals up, or is currently having free meals because of age, his/her entitlement to FSM will attract additional funding to the school. Please do apply if you think you might be eligible.

For children going up to Year 3 from September 2021, please remember that Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) stop at the end of Year 2. The cost of school meals for Year 3 and upwards will be £2.30 per day.

Autumn Term Clubs

The school breakfast club will be available from the first day pupils are back in school, that being Monday 6 September 2021. Please contact the Main Office for more information. All other clubs will run from Monday 13 September 2021, except Mr Pooler's sports club on Thursday morning which will run from Thursday 9 September 2021.

Photos

There have been a number of events in school over the past few weeks and we have documented them through photos. These will be uploaded and shared via the school website over the next week. Please keep an eye out on the 'Photos' page in the 'Parents' section of the school website.

Pupil Reports to Parents

You will be receiving your child's school report today. I hope that you find it useful and informative as the teachers put an enormous amount of effort into writing them. Although there is not the requirement to do so this year, we have decided to report information on your child's achievement. We feel this is important given the circumstances of the last 18 months. We would normally hold a parents' evening to discuss the report but will not be doing this before the end of term for obvious reasons. We are however looking at the possibility of holding 'Welcome Meetings' early in September 2021 so that you can meet your child's new class teacher and expectations for the year ahead can be set.

School Bus Passes – new or first applications

The Home to School Transport team is encouraging all parents and carers to apply as soon as possible for their child's first or new bus pass for the next academic year. The team is keen to process as many applications as possible before the start of term in order that students are able to start the year with the appropriate pass. For more information, please go to:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50052/school_travel/888/apply_for_a_free_school_travel_pass

Year 6 Leavers

I cannot let the newsletter pass without mentioning the Year 6 pupils and their Leavers' Party and Graduation ceremonies. Both events were a joy. In such a difficult year for pupils and staff, the events provided a fitting end to our Year 6 pupils' life at the school. Each child will be given a physical copy of their graduation photo. We hope they treasure it and their time at the school. We wish them well on the next stage in their journey.

Mr Desai, Mr Harris and the Year 6 staff have produced two special leavers videos. These will be shared via Class Dojo, so please keep an eye out for these next week.



As part of the Year 6 Leavers' Party, we had a 'Guess the Name of the Teddy' competition. There was much debate as to the name of our furry friend. However, Varshana from Y6.3 was spot on and correctly guessed his name. It was of course - Quentin. As a result, Quentin has now gone home with Varshana.

Class Dojo

From 31 July 2021, your child's Class Dojo account will no longer be linked to their current class teacher and therefore you will not be able to access the account over the summer break beyond this date. Teachers will not be monitoring the account over the summer holidays. The option to message your child's new class teacher will resume on 2 September 2021.

Parents of Year 6 pupils, please note your child's Class Dojo account will become inactive and you will not have access to it from 31 July 2021.

Uniform Vouchers

All children have today been issued with a uniform voucher, with pupils in Lower School receiving a £10 voucher and pupils in Upper School receiving a £15 voucher that can be used at Gogna Schoolwear against individual branded school items or Gogna's WMPS uniform package. Please note, the voucher is only valid until 31 October 2021. The link below from the school website identifies the items of clothing that make up the school uniform for each year group. Please check the link, and the leaflets contained in the link, before purchasing your child's uniform. <https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform>

Birmingham City Council Holiday Activities Programme

The Council-led Birmingham Holiday Activity programme – **Bring it on Brum!** – is running this summer holiday. The Council set aside a proportion of the DfE funding to support schools during the six weeks of the summer. All children will be eligible to attend this free provision, however the Council is prioritising children aged 5-16 who are eligible for benefits related free school meals and are Birmingham residents.

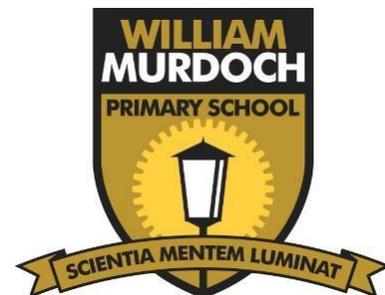
From 21 July 2021 to 5 September 2021, the holiday clubs are being co-ordinated by the chosen large-scale provider, StreetGames, a registered charity with substantial experience in running activity programmes with food for young people and families. The clubs will run for a minimum of four hours a day, Mondays to Fridays, during which time children will be able to enjoy age-related activities including sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. The daily programmes will vary depending on the site and location of each local club.

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Further information about the scheme, the sites and venues can be found in the letter attached and on the website www.bringitonbrum.co.uk. Parents are encouraged to register their child on the online booking system, however they will be accepting walk-ins on the day so that no child is turned away.

Everyone deserves a good break and school holidays are better when there's a great choice of things to do to keep young people active, having fun, being entertained and learning new things. The programme is all about helping children to make memories, recharge the batteries - and giving parents a bit less to worry about.

Reading and Library Books to Be Returned

All reading and library books should have been returned to school on Monday 12 July 2021. A replacement charge will be made for any lost/books not returned. Please take some time over the weekend to check with your child that they have their library and home reader books in their bag, ready for Monday.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Birmingham City Council FSM vouchers for the summer holidays are being sent out today via the school enquiry email. The voucher code is to the value of £60, so please keep an eye on your inbox. If you are entitled to a voucher, but have not received the emailed voucher code by the end of the day today, please contact school on enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Nursery/Reception Places for September 2021

There remain a limited number of Nursery and Reception places for the next academic year starting in September 2021. If you have a child (or know of a friend or family member who has a child) who is born between 01.09.2017 and 31.08.2018 (Nursery) or 01.09.2016 and 31.08.2017 (Reception), we strongly encourage you to apply as spaces are strictly limited. Please register your interest by either telephoning the Main Office on 0121 554 0999 or via email on enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk. We are more than happy to help with completing the application process.

Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

Liya Y2.3

In Year 2 the children learnt about illumination in art and had a chance to create pieces of work based on the concept. Each child decorated the first initial of their name in such a way that the work appeared to be illuminated. Liya worked very hard on her work and used water colour effectively. Great work Liya!





Mirah Y5.2

Over the last few weeks the children in Year 5 have been reading Holes. They were given the opportunity to create their own book cover for Holes. Mirah created a fantastic sketch and coloured it in well. It is clear that Mirah is a very talented artist.

There shall be an art booklet sent home with your child on Monday. The booklet shall be packed with a wide variety of exciting drawing activities for them to do. Please do continue to encourage your child to be creative over the summer break.

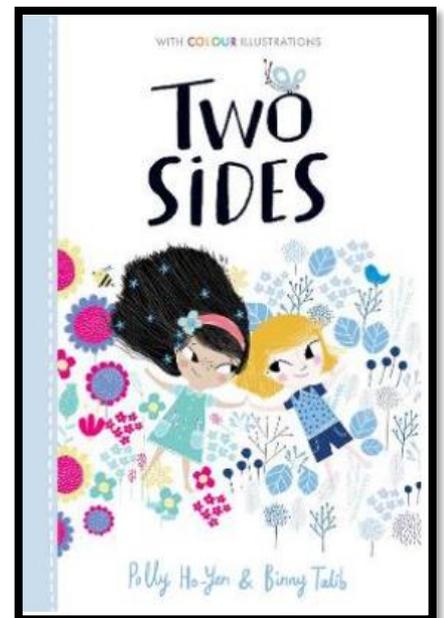
Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

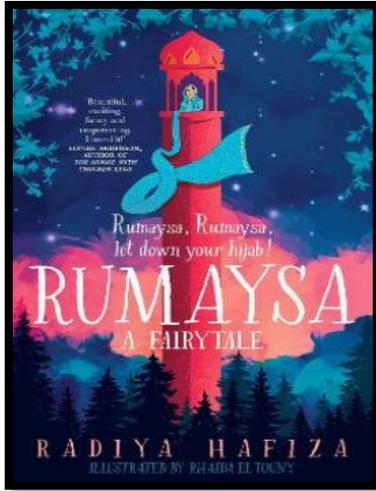
Lower School

Two Sides - Polly Ho-Yen and Binny Talib (Illustrator)

Perspective-taking is an important ingredient in empathy but it can be hard for children to realise and accept that other people experience the world differently, and that this different take is equally as real, and valid. Two Sides tells the story of two small girls, Lula and Lena, firm best friends until a massive falling out. Their experience and perspectives are cleverly juxtaposed using different type faces for each first-person voice, and through Binny Talib's illustrations. We hear their anguish and their anger and see how the misunderstanding has arisen.

Research shows that the discussion arising from a book can have a powerful influence on cognitive empathy, and Two Sides is a rich resource for exploring how different people are. Skilfully used, it can play a helpful role in explaining perspective-taking to younger children. It's also just a great read (I'm a massive Polly Ho-Yen fan). A pleasing, chunky feel to it, with lovely paper and cleverly designed double page spreads.





Upper School

Rumaysa - Radiya Hafiza and Rhaida El Touny (Illustrator)

Radiya Hafiza's new take on three fairytale classics is refreshing, entertaining and necessary. Despite her kidnapping and cruel treatment by a wicked witch, Rumaysa has a fine spirit of adventure, an admirable sense of justice, and healthy self-esteem. When she meets Cinderella it is clear that modern heroines don't wait to be rescued and a hijab is handy for scaling high walls. There are palaces, princes and power struggles. There are also flying carpets, dragons and samosas. This is a fiesty and fun-packed, Disney antidote.

In what is my final newsletter of the academic year, I wanted to express my appreciation for your continued support and cooperation and to also wish you and your family a very enjoyable summer break. Furthermore, warm greetings to all those celebrating Eid next week. I hope you and your families have a lovely time.

All pupils will return to school on Monday 6 September 2021. The early finish on Friday will end as we will revert back to a full school day on Fridays.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

21 July 2021	Staff Training Day
2 & 3 September 2021	Staff Training Day
6 September 2021	Pupils return to school

