

9 July 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing and be nothing.'
– Aristotle

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy week and there were a few tired children - and staff - after watching England progress to the final of Euro 2020 on Wednesday night.

I am sure that you would have seen the Government briefing earlier in the week about the further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July 2021. We will however continue to operate our staggered start and end to the days until the end of term on 20 July 2021 as this is only one day after the 19 July 2021.

I will issue a letter in due course outlining the school arrangements for September, once I have all of the information. I am sure that you will have read from my recent communications that we have taken the decision not to have parents on-site for sports days and transition days. I hope you understand this, and rest assured the children enjoyed their Sports Day as much as they usually do.

Extra-time

If your child is a football fan and likely to be staying up until after 11.00pm on Sunday to watch the Euro 2020 final, then let them stay in bed a little longer and get to school by 10.00am on Monday. We would rather have children fully rested and ready to learn, as opposed to being absent or simply too tired.

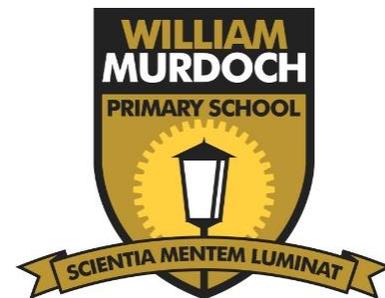
School will start as normal at 8.35am-8.50am, but any child arriving up to 10.00am will not be marked as late.

It is 55 years since England reached a major football final and many of us old enough to remember the bitter disappointments of England defeats in the semi-finals of major competitions, probably thought it was never meant to be. So let them watch; talk about the importance of the National Anthem; talk about the pride and resilience of the players; and the stand against inequality they have taken. This in itself is a learning opportunity.

Come on England!

Uniform Vouchers

We continue to work hard at setting high standards of politeness, respect and co-operation. Walking around school and seeing classes first-hand remains the highlight of my day. Our fabulous school uniform is a key component of the standards we aim to set. However, as I wrote in an earlier newsletter, we are acutely aware of the impact of the pandemic on families in the school community, noting how the West Midlands and Birmingham in



particular has been disproportionately affected. In appreciation of this, school leaders and governors agreed to support families over the summer in purchasing branded items of the school uniform.

All children will be issued with a voucher next Friday, with pupils in Lower School receiving a £10 voucher and pupils in Upper School receiving a £15 voucher that can be used at Gogna Schoolwer 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.

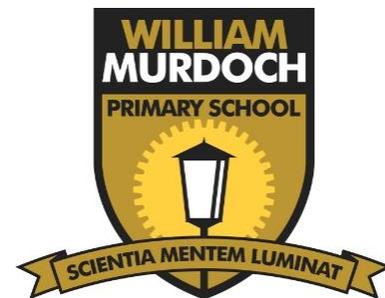
From 21 July 2021 to 5 September 2021, the holiday clubs are being co-ordinated by the chosen large-scale provider, StreetGames, a registered charity with substantial experience in running activity programmes with food for young people and families. The clubs will run for a minimum of four hours a day, 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.

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 booking system online, 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.

Year 6 – End of Year Events

I am pleased to inform you that a COVID-19 secure, socially distanced, Year 6 Graduation will take place on Friday 16 July 2021. This will be held outside in the playground but is weather dependent. A letter has been sent out today to Year 6 children with details of the graduation ceremony. Another letter has also been sent today to Year 6 pupils with details of the Leavers' Party event taking place after school on Wednesday 14 July 2021 between 6.00pm – 8.15pm. Both these events are for Year 6 pupils only and offer an opportunity to recognise and reward their efforts over the years at William Murdoch Primary School.



Special Awards

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, the annual Special Awards ceremony will take place on a class bubble basis on Thursday 15 July 2021. Unfortunately, this means parents will not be able to attend. Please do ask your child about the day and we will share photos of the certificate winners with parents.

Annual Pupil Reports to Parents

The annual Pupil Report to Parents will be sent home on Friday 16 July 2021. The report will summarise the efforts and achievements of your child in this curtailed academic year. Although the Department for Education announced that there is no requirement for schools to report on teacher assessment, the school has decided to include a Data Report which shows how your child has performed in various tests this year. Included in the pack will also be an Attendance Report and a uniform voucher (further details about this are provided above).

Dolce Catering

We are working hard with our new catering partner, Dolce, who will be the school caterers from 1 September 2021. There is much to do and lots of information to be shared with parents. Please keep an eye out for the Dolce information pack which will be sent out early next week. The most significant changes for parents will be the ability to choose children's meals and the payment of school meals being handled by Dolce directly.

Class Swap

On Thursday of next week, the children will have a chance to work in their new classes for the next academic year with their new teachers. I am sure they will come home and tell you all about it. I hope they make the most of the opportunity to create a great first impression.

Reading and Library Books to Be Returned

All reading and library books should be returned to school on Monday 12 July 2021. Children will be reminded again should they forget, but a replacement charge will be made for any lost books. 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 have confirmed that FSM vouchers for the summer holidays will be made available via Sodexo. The school has received the voucher codes this week, to the value of £60, and they will be emailed out to parents at some point next week, so please keep an eye on your inbox. As mentioned, the voucher codes will be emailed to parents, so please ensure that the email address the school holds for you is up to date.

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 1.09.2017 and 31.08.2018 (Nursery) or 1.09.2016 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.

What are the symptoms of the new strain of COVID-19?

According to data collected by a COVID-19 Symptom Study app that has been developed by health science company ZOE, cough and loss of smell or taste are less common symptoms for people who have contracted the coronavirus Delta variant. Meanwhile, sore throat, runny nose, fever and headaches are more common among patients.

Please remember:

- If anyone in your household has symptoms you must get a PCR test for them immediately
- Everyone in your household must then self-isolate until the test result comes through (siblings should not be in school)
- Self-isolating means you cannot leave your house for anything (children self-isolating cannot walk to school with siblings)
- If you have symptoms in your household or are waiting for tests, please let us know immediately, and then again when the result is known.

National Book Tokens

Our school needs you! Help us win £5,000 of National Book Tokens for the school library - and get £100 for yourself! Just enter the competition online, it only takes a minute:
<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

Teachers, school staff and parents can all enter – the more nominations our school receives, the higher their chances of winning – so spread the word!

Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

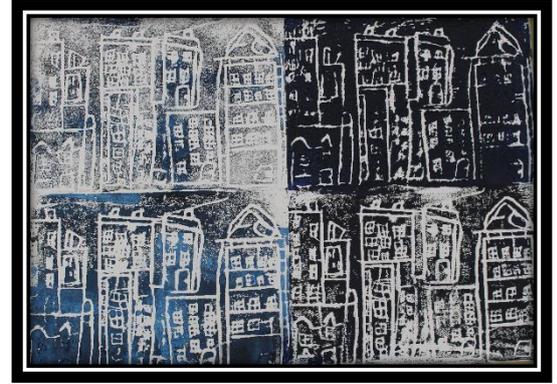


Issa R2

In Reception the children have been learning about the Ancient Greeks and the Olympics. They were tasked with designing and creating a temple for Zeus, the king of the gods. Issa used materials very carefully and created an excellent piece of work.

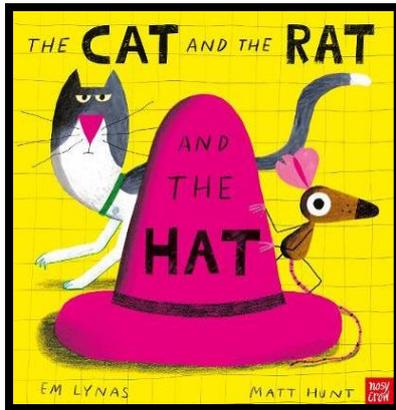
Ibrahim Y5.1

In Art the children have been studying a painting called 'Men of the Docks' by George Bellows. The painting reflects city life in 1912 New York and some of the potential benefits and issues that may have existed within the area at the time. The children looked at images of Birmingham city centre and created prints of the place. Ibrahim put lots of effort into his work and did a very good job!



Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



The Cat and the Rat - Em Lynas and Matt Hunt (Illustrator)

Chaos and dirty tricks come thick and fast as a cat, a rat, and a bat vie for a big hat and a fancy cravat. Cat is sitting on his favourite mat, when who should come along but Rat with a very nice hat? Cat wants Rat's hat and will stop at NOTHING to get it. However, when Bat arrives wearing a fancy cravat, well, what could be better than that? Chaos ensues as both Cat and Rat decide they MUST have Bat's fancy cravat for themselves!

Wonderful word play of the ilk of Cat in the Hat and Oi Frog, great momentum and with bright, lively illustrations. Funny for story times, but also has some phonics use too. Great!

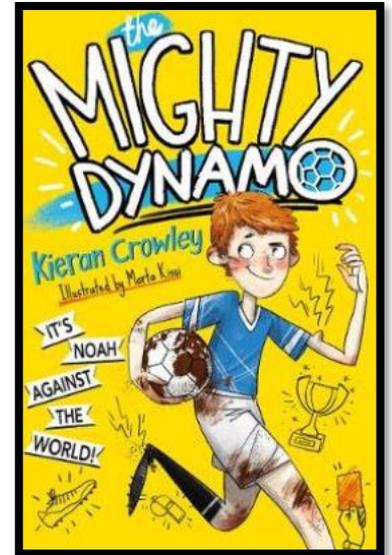
Upper School

The Might Dynamo - Kieran Crowley and Marta Kissi (Illustrator)

Entertaining "Roy of the Rovers" stuff with great appeal to all aspiring footballers (boys and girls). Well worth having in the house.

A boy is banned from his school football team and plays for a girls' school team so he can qualify for the Schools World Cup

Noah's dream is to become a professional footballer and the School's World Cup qualifying tournament might just be his ticket to getting signed up. He's definitely the best player in school but when he's banned from the team for a fight he didn't start, all Noah's dreams come crashing down. With the help of his best friend Stevie and some very unlikely new teammates, Noah is determined to make it – but does he make it? Well, you will just have to read to find out.



Pupil of the Week



Fariha Y4.3 Mahira Y4.2 Melissa Y4.1

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. Have a wonderful weekend. Fingers crossed England have a great game on Sunday and we are all celebrating winning the Euro 2020 final!

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

14 July 2021	Year 6 Leavers' Party (weather permitting)
15 July 2021	Class Swap
15 July 2021	Special Awards
16 July 2021	Year 6 Graduation (weather permitting)
16 July 2021	Pupil Reports to Parents sent home
21 July 2021	Staff Training Day

