

1 April 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'When a flower doesn't bloom you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.'

– Alexander Den Heijer

Dear Parents/Carers,

With this being the last letter of this most unusual Spring term, I wanted to first and foremost praise the school community for the resilience, hard work and dedication shown by everyone. We have been very mindful not to use pessimistic language and to encourage children to build on their previous best through a rich 'strengthening' curriculum. There is much work to be done by all concerned, but that is not something we will shy away from. After the Easter break our first tranche of children will receive tuition in Maths and English through the National Tutoring Programme. We look forward to putting many more children through the 15-week programme in the coming weeks and months.

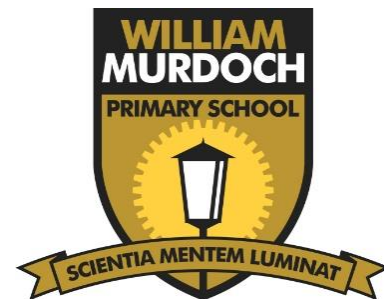
We have had a small but significant number of positive cases in school and the wider school community which has meant that we have had to self-isolate three classes. Further to my letter last week, we examined further mitigations that may enable school to limit the number of children who are asked to self-isolate in a class. We recognise even with these extra mitigations that it may be impossible to trace every contact event that takes place by a positive case with their class bubble on any given day. We will therefore continue to make decisions on self-isolating pupils following a positive test on a case-by-case basis. With the recent number of cases and the relaxation of national rules over the Easter break, we will continue to finish at 12.30pm on Friday afternoon. We will review this every fortnight and aim to give families at least a week's notice should the school times change on the Friday.

Easter Activity Booklet

Children have been sent home with an Easter activity booklet full of fun things to do including paint by numbers, sudoku puzzles, recipes etc. They are free to engage with the booklet as they wish but we hope they do try at least some of the activities. I know many of the pupils will really enjoy the Easter bunny drawing activity prepared by Mr Slinn.

Summer Term Project

Your child will today come home with a cover sheet outlining their Summer Term project. Every year group will be focusing on the Royal Family for this project. The rationale behind children in the UK learning about British monarchs and the Royal Family is to ensure that they have a secure knowledge of the history of the country they live in. This project will allow them to gain a deeper understanding of the different Kings and Queens that have ruled over Britain and why they are important to us today. The cover sheets contain instructions for each part of the project and the final deadline to submit them to their class teacher is Monday 5th July 2021. We would also like your child to upload photos of the progress they are making with their project every 2 weeks on Class Dojo. Your child's



class teacher will remind them to do this. We hope that the projects will provide an excellent opportunity for pupils to practice and improve their research skills, as well as their ability to work independently.

Return of Digital Devices

Devices that were loaned out to families will be collected in after the Easter break. You will receive a text message and email advising you of the day for return. The device will need to be returned to the training room, which is located in between the Upper and Lower School playground, and can be accessed via the Albert Road entrance. Any personal data, e.g. schoolwork or photos that are on the device will need to be backed up by yourselves, as the devices will be reset upon return. The device must be returned with the case and original charger. Upon return, the device will be checked to ensure it is in the condition as it was supplied. Any damage or missing items will be chargeable as per the Acceptable Use Agreement.

Nursery Places

There remain a limited number of Nursery places for the next academic year starting in September 2021. We encourage anyone intending to apply to do so 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.

FSM Vouchers

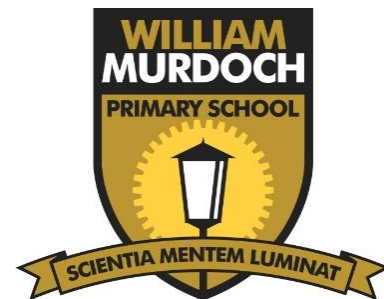
FSM vouchers for the weeks commencing 5.04.21 and 12.04.21 were sent out on Wednesday 31 March 2021 via Sodexo. If your child is eligible for FSMs then a voucher to the value of £30 per child was sent to the email address held on the school system. If you did not receive a voucher, but believe that you should have, please contact the school at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Reading/Library Books

Following the return after the recent lockdown, many children have still not returned 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 after the Easter break as we will be sending letters informing parents of the charges for any books not returned.

Correct School Uniform Reminder

Ahead of the Easter break we wanted to remind you of the correct uniform, which your son or daughter must wear when they are attending school. We understand that things are far from normal at the moment, and during the recent return from lockdown we have been as flexible as we can regarding uniform, focusing on getting pupils safely into school. As we are now settling back into routine, and the days are becoming warmer, we would now ask that all pupils wear the correct uniform. In particular, students must not wear trainers or hoodies. We continue to allow the wearing of PE kit on the pupils' PE days. We hope that the Easter holiday period will provide enough time for families to source any new items of uniform required, but please get in touch if you are experiencing



difficulties. All pupils need to be wearing correct uniform on their first day back to school, Monday 19 April 2021. For your assistance and clarity, please find a reminder of the correct uniform below.

Nursery

Navy and gold sweatshirt with school logo

White polo shirt with school logo

Navy jogging bottoms

Black shoes

[https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/WILLIAM%20MURDOCH%20NURSERY\(3\).pdf](https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/WILLIAM%20MURDOCH%20NURSERY(3).pdf)

Reception

Navy and gold sweatshirt with school logo

White polo shirt with school logo

Charcoal grey trousers/skirt

Black shoes

[https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/WILLIAM%20MURDOCH%20RECEPTION%20INDUCTION%202020\(1\).pdf](https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/WILLIAM%20MURDOCH%20RECEPTION%20INDUCTION%202020(1).pdf)

Year 1 and 2

Navy and gold jumper/cardigan with school logo

White shirt (long-sleeved/short-sleeved in summer if preferred)

School tie

Charcoal grey trousers/skirt

Black/grey/navy socks or tights

Black shoes

<https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/WILLIAM%20MURDOCH%20YEAR%201%20TO%202%20INDUCTION%202020.pdf>

Year 3 to 6

Navy blazer with school logo

Navy and gold jumper/cardigan with school logo

White shirt (long-sleeved/short-sleeved in summer if preferred)

School tie

Charcoal grey trousers/skirt

Black/grey/navy socks or tights

Black shoes

<https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/WILLIAM%20MURDOCH%20YEAR%203%20TO%206%20INDUCTION%202020.pdf>

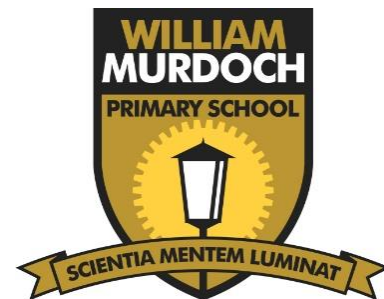
PE Kit (Reception to Year 6)

Navy and gold polo shirt with school logo

Navy and gold shorts with school logo

Navy and gold hoody with school logo

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Navy and gold track pants with school logo
Trainers
Pumps (for indoor use only)

Swimming Kit

Boys- trunks (that do not reach below the knee)
Girls- one-piece costume, swimming cap (polyester swimming tights may be worn)
Towel
Goggles (if required)

The schools uniform supplier is Gogna School Wear & Sports

Website: http://www.gognaschoolwear.co.uk/catalogue?skl_id=21239&pager=view_all

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 1.00pm – 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm
Address: 67/69 Rookery Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9QU
Telephone: [0121 523 5572](tel:01215235572)
Email: info@gognaschoolwear.co.uk

School Bags

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils should have a black book bag with the school logo on, which can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £5. A black drawstring bag with the school logo on for PE and swimming can also be purchased from the school office at a cost of £3.

A black rucksack with the school logo on can be purchased for Upper School pupils from the school office at a cost of £8. A black drawstring bag with the school logo on for PE and swimming can also be purchased from the school office at a cost of £3.

COVID-19 Champions Birmingham Update

Country Reaches End of First Step on Spring 2021 Roadmap

The national rules preventing small gatherings of people outdoors will be relaxed on 29 March 2021, as part of the Government's COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 roadmap. The rule of six will be reinstated, meaning up to six people or two households will be allowed to gather outside or in private gardens. The mandate to stay at home will end, though the Government will encourage people to stay local. Outdoor sport facilities, such as football pitches, tennis courts and outdoor gyms, will be allowed to reopen and formally organised sports can restart. To read a simplified version of the roadmap [Click here](#) .



WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

Clinically Vulnerable People Can Stop Shielding From 1 April 2021

In line with the easing of lockdown restrictions, those on the shielded patient list can cease shielding and begin to follow the national restrictions alongside the rest of the population from Thursday 1 April 2021. Letters with updated guidance will be delivered to patients over the next two weeks.

COVID-19 Testing Site

Handsworth Wellbeing Centre in Handsworth Park will be open from 8.00am to 6.00pm every day offering lateral flow tests to the public. In addition to this there will also be a collection point where you will be able to collect lateral flow tests to take home. Please see the attachment for more information.

Join Kooth for Free Mental Health Support

Kooth is a digital service which provides free, safe and anonymous support and advice on mental health. Through a variety of features, it offers help to children and young people, adults, students, and employers. [Click here](#) to find out more and to join Kooth.

Artist of the Week



Jiya Y1.1



Manvi Y1.3

In Year 1 the children created drawings of animals and dinosaurs. Jiya created a pencil sketch of a sheep and shaded it in well. Manvi produced a detailed sketch of a dinosaur and coloured it in beautifully. The Year 1s really impressed their teachers with their creative work. Good work Jiya and Manvi!

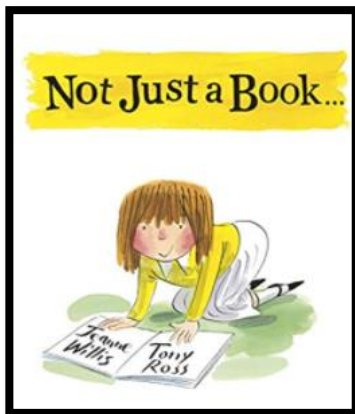
Tianna Y5.2

As part of the recent African Art unit of work the children had the chance to create antelope masks. They cut out different pieces of cardboard and carefully layered on cut out pieces of coloured paper. Tianna worked very hard on her creation and the outcome was very pleasing.



Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



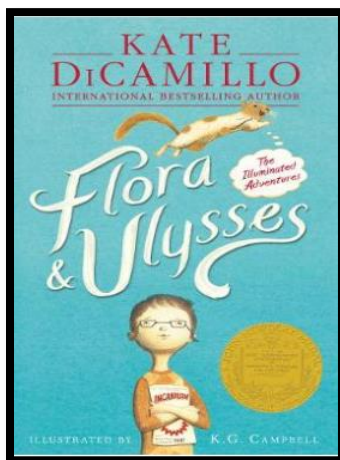
Not Just a Book... - Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross (Illustrator)

Jeannie Willis is one of the greatest picture book creators. This creation celebrates the joy that books can bring into one's life in so many unexpected ways.

It follows a girl making use of a book in various ways as well as enjoying reading it. A book is not just a book. It can be so many things, a hat or as a building block, a flower press or a fly-swatter! But books are so much more than that. They can make you feel, they can take you anywhere, they can make you laugh and can teach you anything you want to know.

Anarchic pictures by the inimitable Tony Ross will elicit much hilarity but the message is clear. Books are amazing!

Upper School



Flora & Ulysses – Kate DiCamillo

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw it coming - the vacuum cleaner, that is. As for self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, she has read every issue of the comic book 'Terrible Things Can Happen to You!,' so she is just the right person to step in and save him.

What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight and misspelled poetry. Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart. Flora and Ulysses become quick friends and learn about how to overcome their fears, together.

Pupil of the Week



Y6.1 – Alisha-Hanna



Y6.3 – Eman

Renewal is an important theme for the last 12 months. Nationally and locally, we have rekindled some really important conversations about how we can all act more proactively against all forms of discrimination. We all sincerely hope these conversations will, in line with our school values, help make the world a better place.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation and send my best wishes to all observing the Easter commemorations. Have a good Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

2 April 2021	Good Friday
5 April 2021	Bank Holiday
19 April 2021	Pupils return to school