

23 April 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'When you talk, you are repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.'* – Dalai Lama

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school to you all this week. I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break and that you were able to take the opportunity to meet with friends and family in open spaces and gardens. It does feel that things are edging towards a little more normality and as the weather continues to improve, the sunshine really helps to lighten the mood!

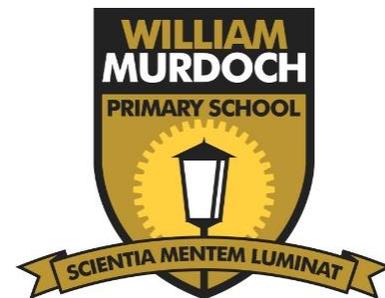
At this point in time, there are very few amendments to the guidance for schools and as such, we will be continuing to implement the COVID-19 measures that we have in school. This particularly means the staggered start and end to the day will continue as will the requirement to wear face coverings when entering the school premises, and the 12.30pm closure every Friday. We will continue to evaluate and adapt our COVID-19 measures in line with the government's COVID-19 roadmap.

### **Baby Announcements**

On the last morning of the Spring term, Mr Walker came to see me to say he really needed to leave as his partner had just messaged him to say that she was ready to give birth. Less than two hours later, Mr Walker and his partner welcomed to the world their baby daughter. Later in the Easter holidays, I received a message from Mrs Najran who was also celebrating the birth of her child. I am sure you will want to join me in extending our best wishes and warm congratulations to Mr Walker and his family and Mrs Najran and her family.

### **Return of Digital Devices**

Some of the devices that were loaned out to families have been collected in this week. Parents who have not received a text to return the loaned digital device will do so shortly, informing them to drop off the device on Tuesday of next week between 8.15am to 9.00am and 3.15pm and 4.00pm. 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.



Unfortunately, there are a small number of parents who have not returned the device despite having received both text and telephone reminders. We ask that those parents also return the device on Tuesday 27 April 2021 at the above times. Failure to do this will mean a charge for a replacement will be issued.

### **Summer Term Project**

Your child should have started to work on their Summer Term Royal Family 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. Each child has been given a project cover sheet which contains instructions for each part of the project. The final deadline to submit them to their class teacher is Monday 5 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.

### **Election Day**

The school site is being used as a polling station for the West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner elections. Following a risk assessment to consider the safety of pupils, staff and visitors on site, the school will be closed on Thursday 6 May 2021.

### **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. 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](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk).

### **School Uniform**

I wrote ahead of the Easter break to emphasize the importance of children wearing the correct school uniform. With the days becoming warmer, children in Upper School do not need to wear their school jumper but the school blazer is a compulsory item of school clothing. Many thanks for your support and cooperation.

### **COVID-19 Champions Birmingham Update**

The wards with the highest case rates (cases per 100,000 residents) in the last week are:

- Handsworth (71)
- Lozells (61)
- Aston (58)
- Balsall Heath West (57)
- Ward End (51)
- Alum Rock (51)

- Tyseley & Hay Mills (49)
- South Yardley (47)
- Sparkhill (41)
- Sutton Vesey (41)

Total cases for this week have dropped once again, and this decrease is shown in all ages and ethnic groups. However, the highest case rates are now in secondary school children and this is why testing for schools and families is so important. It is important to follow the rules as we know that this can spread into older age groups unless we stay on top of cases.

### **Surge testing deployed to control the spread of the COVID-19 variant**

Door to door surge testing is underway as one case of the South African variant of COVID-19 was found within the Ladywood, Jewellery Quarter & Soho wards. Residents over the age of 16 who are living or working in the area are encouraged to take part in the door-to-door testing. For more information visit <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/covid-19-variant>

### **Thinking of meeting friends and family in a private garden?**

Now that lockdown is lifting a bit more, we need to continue to keep ourselves and others safe. A Lateral Flow Devise (LFD) test can provide security that you are safe to visit friends and family, with results received within 30 minutes.

See how the test is done here - <https://youtu.be/ypSQhhYPa5g>

[Click here to find your nearest testing location](#)

Or alternatively order here - <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

### **Art Competition Winners**

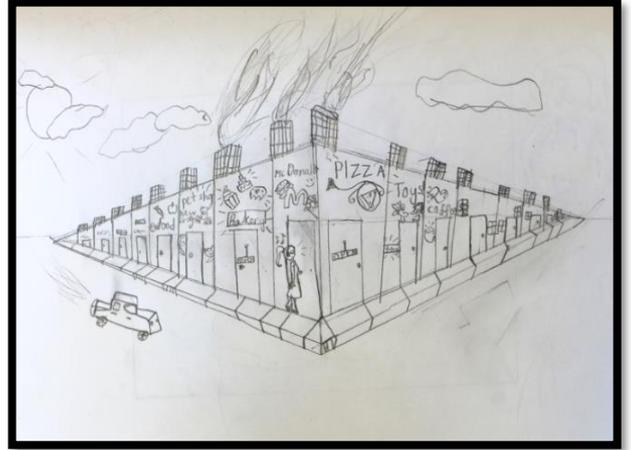


Dakayah Y2.1 and Favor Y2.1

In Y2.1 the children learnt about Egyptian Art. They were then tasked with creating an Egyptian collar using paper, paint and glitter. The children stuck pieces of pasta down to create a 3D effect in the art work. Dakayah and Favor created a beautiful piece of art work.

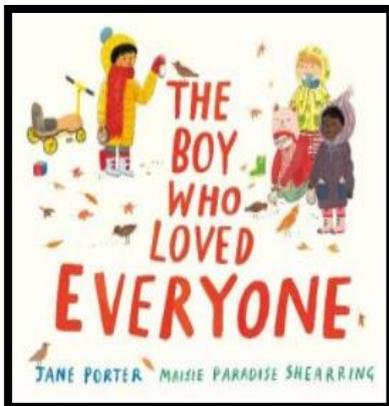
Niranjana Y5.2

In the Year 5 Drawing Club the children learnt how to draw 3D street scenes. Niranjana created a very detailed street scene and included many different shops in her drawing. She is a very talented artist and is able to follow instructions very well when producing pieces of work.



## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School



### **The Boy Who Loved Everyone - Jane Porter and Maisie Paradise Shearring (Illustrator)**

This book is just so, so lovely that I actually found myself welling up when reading it! I absolutely loved the portrayal of nursery life in the illustrations - they are so well observed. The story is gentle and warm and kind-hearted without being saccharine. Perfect for your little ones about empathy but also nice to share at bedtime at the end of a long day.

A little boy observes all the different ways people show their love for others.

"I love you," Dimitri tells everyone, from his friends at nursery to the ants in the playground. But why does no one say it back?

Dimitri worries no one loves him, until he finds out there are lots of different ways love can spread through the world.



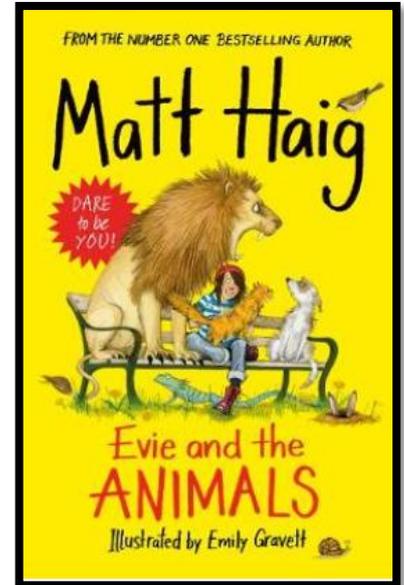
## Upper School

### **Evie and the Animals – Matt Haig and Emily Gravett (Illustrator)**

Lovely, lovely, lovely! A girl discovers she has the ability to hear the thoughts of animals. Eleven-year-old Evie has a talent. A supertalent. A talent that can let her hear the thoughts of an elephant, and make friends with a dog and a sparrow. The only problem is, this talent is dangerous. Very dangerous. That's what her dad says.

So when she frees the school rabbit from its tiny hutch, she vows to keep her talent a secret. But after a face-to-face encounter with a lion, things start to go very wrong. Her dad - and every animal in town - is now in danger. Evie is determined to save them. And to find the truth of her own past. To do that she must battle a mysterious man with a talent more powerful than any other. As time runs out, she must seek help from the animals, and finally dare to be herself.

A good animal adventure for anyone who's felt they preferred animals to humans.



Have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Singh'.

Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

### **Dates for the diary:**

3 May 2021	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
6 May 2021	Election Day (School Closed)

