

26 March 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.' – C.S. Lewis

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week marked the one-year anniversary of the first national lockdown. To mark the occasion, Birmingham's Poet Laureate, Casey Bailey, and Young Poet Laureate, Fatma Mohiuddin, have performed new poems looking back at the past 12 months and remembering those who lost their lives and loved ones. [Click here](#) to watch the video. You can also leave your own thoughts on Birmingham's Book of Memories. [Click here](#) to visit the page. Our deepest sympathies go out to all those that have lost loved ones or have been unduly affected by COVID-19.

Unfortunately, due to positive cases within the setting, two classes (Class R.2 and Class Y6.2) have had to self-isolate and their learning has moved online. When making these decisions we are mindful of balancing the disruption to children's learning with the requirement to keep everyone safe and stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the community. We have worked with Public Health England and Birmingham City Council to introduce further mitigations so that where close contacts of a positive case relate to children in older age groups, we will look to self-isolate a small bubble (a group of children) within the class bubble. I will write to you shortly to explain this in detail. It must be noted that this may not be possible in every case and so we will always identify close contacts on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 Champions Birmingham Update

The wards with the highest case rates (per 100,000 residents) for 13 March to 19 March were:

- Shard End (382)
- Handsworth (165)
- Garretts Green (159)
- Tyseley & Hay Mills (130)
- Frankley Great Park (127)
- Edgbaston (118)
- Bordesley Green (110)
- Balsall Heath West (106)
- Bromford & Hodge Hill (106)
- Brandwood & King's Heath (105)

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health Birmingham, has stated that we are seeing an increase in cases generally as more school age children and their families start to test regularly. This is important as it means we are helping to stop the spread.

Employers Eligible for Free Employee Test Kits

The Government has launched a scheme which allows employers in England to order free lateral flow tests for their employees. [Click here](#) to register if you are an employer of over fifty people, or if you are an employee who would like to share the scheme with your employer. Registration closes on 31 March 2021.

Get Vaccinated!

Half of all adults in the UK have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the latest figures show. The UK health services vaccinated a total of 26.8 million people between 8 December and 19 March with first doses, while 2.1 million people have had their second dose so far. The rollout is continuing at pace and the UK is on track to achieve the Prime Minister's target of offering the vaccine to all over-50s by 15 April, as well as all adults by the end of July.



Please get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as you are offered this. Some of you may have questions about this which is understandable, so please discuss these with your GP or other healthcare professionals. It is vital to the overall COVID-19 effort that as many people as possible are vaccinated.

Parent Governor

I am pleased to confirm that the parent governor vacancy has been filled following the nomination of Mrs A Bains who has been appointed to the governing board. No other nominations were received.

Projects

Certificates which had been delayed due to the last national lockdown were handed out this week to all those children who excelled with their last project. Well done to those children and I hope to see more children receiving certificates for their People in History project which is due to be handed in on **Monday 29 March 2021**.



Art Competition Winners



Nursery - Umar

In Nursery Umar created a piece of artwork based on a fire engine. Umar was able to explain that firefighters use fire engines to put our fires. He has created so many brilliant pieces of artwork and he should feel proud of his achievements.

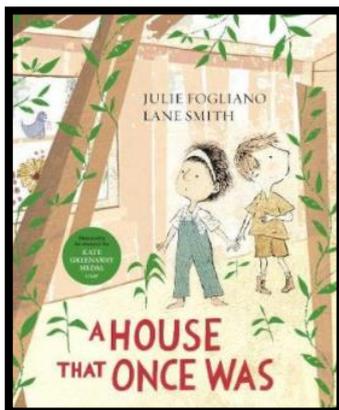


Y4.3 - Avneet

In Y4.3 the children have been learning about the Byzantine Empire and they were tasked with creating their own versions of Byzantine patterns. Avneet used lots of interesting detail in her pattern and she took lots of care when adding water colour. Well done Avneet.

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School

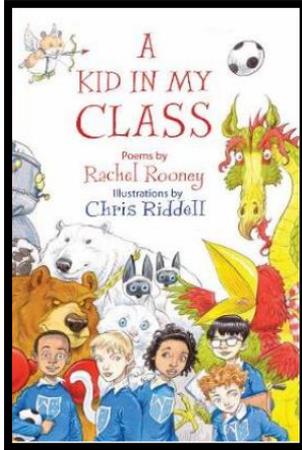


A House that Once Was - Julie Fogliano and Lane Smith (illustrator)

Setting aside safeguarding concerns, if you discovered a rickety, abandoned house in the woods, wouldn't you want to take a closer look? Would you find it hard to resist climbing through "a window that now has no window at all? A window that says climb inside"? In this picture book written by Julie Fogliano, two children give in to their curiosity and explore this "house that once was, but now isn't, a home." The lyrical text has fun with word order and asks to be read aloud.

Illustrator Lane Smith effectively contrasts the ethereal exploration of the children (they are barely there – almost ghost-like) with the images of the former occupants, conjured up by the children as they gather clues. It's a testament to the power of the childish imagination that these daydreams leap out in sharp relief and vivid colour.

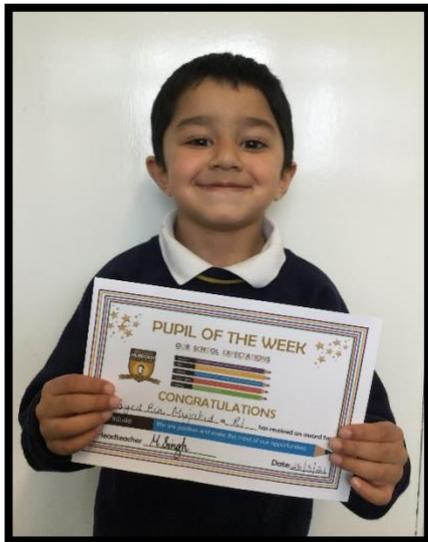
Upper School



A Kid in My Class - Rachel Rooney

When children talk to me about school, the lessons and teachers are barely mentioned. It's the other characters their age – their weird habits, their improbable confidence or baffling shyness, their you-had-to-be-there jokes – that set the classroom apart from the rest of the world. Rachel Rooney captures this in *A Kid in My Class* with a sensitivity that's almost uncanny, and the witty illustrations by Chris Riddell lend the reading experience the kind of joy that rewards every level of engagement. Rooney's the queen of form: she offers poems in every style. Look out for the school hamster who runs from page to page – he gets a poem of his own at the very end.

Pupil of the Week

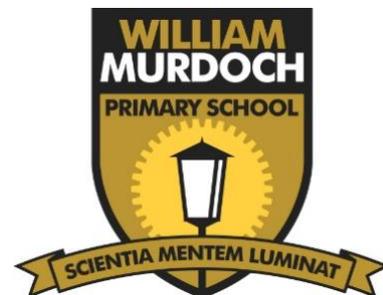


R.1 - Syed



R.3 - Preet

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



A reminder that as part of the Daylight Saving Time (DST) clocks will go forward one hour on Sunday 28 March 2021. This means that although we lose an hour of sleep but can look forward to warmer weather and longer evenings. Have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

1 April 2021	Last day of the term
2 April 2021	Good Friday
19 April 2021	Pupils return to school



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