

30 April 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.'

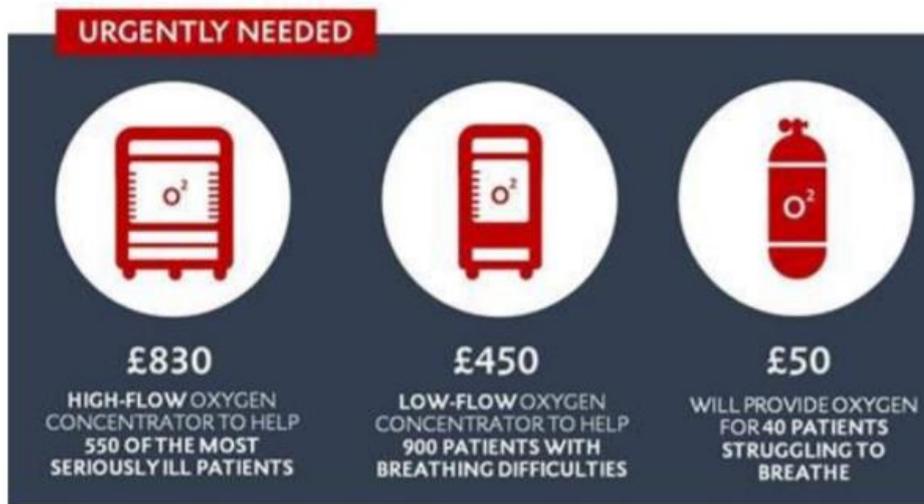
– Martin Luther King

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many of you will have seen disturbing news of the deadly second wave and deteriorating public health situation in India. Daily case numbers and deaths as a result of COVID-19 are at record levels in the country. Unfortunately, it is reported that these numbers are a significant underestimate and the worst is still to come.

An acute lack of oxygen supplies is leading to many preventable deaths. The public health infrastructure in India is not as established as the NHS is in the UK, and is struggling to deal with the numbers of patients needing treatment. As a school community, many families may even be affected by this situation first-hand, having relatives and loved ones living in India.

The British Asian Trust has launched an Oxygen for India Emergency Appeal. As a school we want to do what we can to help with the emergency appeal. We will be holding a non-uniform day on Wednesday 5 May 2021 and ask that pupils bring a £1 donation to raise funds for this cause.



URGENTLY NEEDED

Item	Price	Description
High-flow oxygen concentrator	£830	WILL PROVIDE OXYGEN FOR 550 OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS
Low-flow oxygen concentrator	£450	WILL PROVIDE OXYGEN FOR 900 PATIENTS WITH BREATHING DIFFICULTIES
Oxygen cylinder	£50	WILL PROVIDE OXYGEN FOR 40 PATIENTS STRUGGLING TO BREATHE

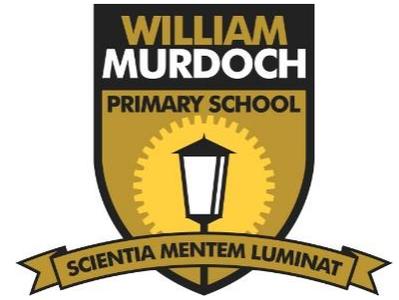
Your donation can make a difference both right now and with what is to come for families affected by this unprecedented crisis. Further information on this appeal can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/indiacovidappeal>.

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



School Uniform Voucher

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, 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 have agreed to support families over the summer in purchasing branded items of the school uniform. All children will be issued with a voucher after the half-term break, 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.

Further details will be provided after the half-term break.

COVID-19 Update

We are currently giving consideration to a number of summer events that would normally take place during the term at school. The Government continues to move ahead with their 'roadmap out of lockdown' and we are planning how this will affect some of the events in school towards the latter part of the term. We are seeing how we can continue with certain things in the safest way possible, although any arrangements will be subject to changes based on the Government requirements. We will provide you with more information as soon as we can.

It is worth noting that the Government have recently made some updates to the [DfE Covid guidance](#) for parents. This has been updated and made more reader-friendly and you can access the document by clicking on the link provided.

Return of Loaned Digital Devices

Despite having sent a number of text and telephone reminders, there continues to remain a very small number of parents who have not returned the loaned digital device. Regrettably, we are left with no further option but to issue a charge for a replacement.

Bank Holiday & Election Day

A reminder that the school is closed on Bank Holiday Monday 3 May 2021 and on Thursday 6 May 2021 as the school is being used as a polling station for the West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

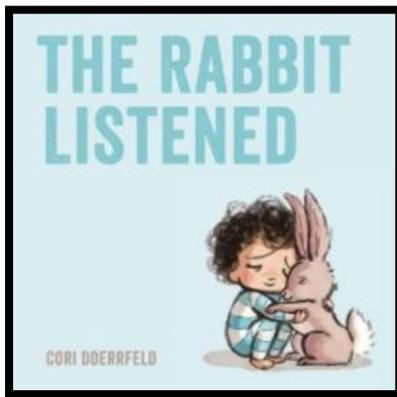
Nursery/Reception Places for September 2021

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.

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



The Rabbit Listened - Cori Doerrfeld

Listening well is a key aspect of empathy, so I was thrilled when I discovered this little gem. Taylor spends ages building a wonderful tower of wooden bricks, only to have it knocked down by a flock of marauding birds. Lots of creatures try to console him, offering all sorts of suggestions that feel both irritating and irrelevant. The bear suggests shouting about it angrily and the elephant suggests remembering exactly how the tower was made. Only the rabbit helps – creeping close, giving Taylor a hug, listening to a rant without interrupting, sticking close until Taylor feels able to imagine moving forwards.

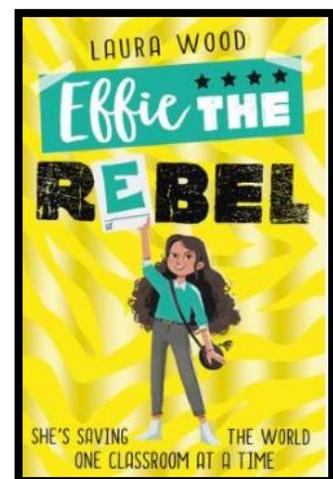
The book is beautifully written and illustrated, with clever use of layouts leaving plenty of white, reflective space. The sparse text and expressively illustrated rabbit combine to illuminate the healing effect of really being listened to and understood. The rabbit is brilliant at being still and quiet, and concentrating 100% on what Taylor is experiencing. Unlike the other animals, she refrains from offering advice, solutions and opinions. A perfect book for exploring feelings with younger ones.

Upper School

Effie the Rebel – Laura Wood

Vote for Effie (the first book in this series) was a firm favourite. The story is told almost like a teen movie, which is why it is so appealing. Effie the Rebel, like the first book, focuses on democracy and fighting for what you believe in. This time, Effie goes on a crusade to make her school more environmentally friendly and is determined to succeed, but will she stoop to the low levels that her nemesis, acting school president, Matt Spader goes?

This book is full of great characters, Greek culture and is an empowering story that will make you determined to make a difference, whatever you believe in. With short chapters, links to popular movies, lots of memorable scenes and extracts from the school newspaper, this is an ideal book to engage readers.



Pupil of the Week



Y5.1 - Dhruvika



Y5.2 - Krrish



Y5.3 - Ismail

Artist of the Week

Hafsa NCAM

In Nursery the children have enjoyed reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. The children even had the chance to go on their very own bear hunt that was set up outside. Everyone really enjoyed the bear hunt! The children had to create a picture showing different scenes within the story. Hafsa worked very hard and created many detailed drawings relating to the story. She used many different materials in her work and was very creative!





Usman Y4.1

In Year 4 the children have been learning about the Byzantine Empire and the art work relating to it. They then created their own detailed pieces of work. The children used pieces of different coloured paper to make self-portraits in a mosaic style. Usman took lots of care with his work and the outcome was fantastic.

Have a good bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates for the diary:

3 May 2021	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
4 May 2021	Non-Uniform Day
6 May 2021	Election Day (School Closed)

