

11 November 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

***'People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.'* – Theodore Roosevelt**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The weather has now changed and is certainly more autumnal! Please ensure that your child brings a coat to school and that it is clearly named. We always try and get the children outside to play, even where there may be some light rain in the air. Some fresh air and a chance to run around is always beneficial.

As winter draws in, this is a good time to think about the birds that visit our neighbourhood. If you have a balcony or garden, how about making a simple bird feeder or water bath with your children? Start by watching to see which birds live nearby as different species prefer different foods. You will find lots of plans for water baths and feeders online.

### **Remembrance Assembly**

On Friday of this week at 10.00am, all pupils and staff observed a 2-minute silence to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, which happened on 11 November 1918 and formalised the end of World War I. This was accompanied by two special assemblies led by Mr Matthews with pupils learning about the importance of remembrance, and why the poppy symbolises remembering the sacrifice thousands of brave men and women made during the First World War, and in subsequent conflicts across the globe.

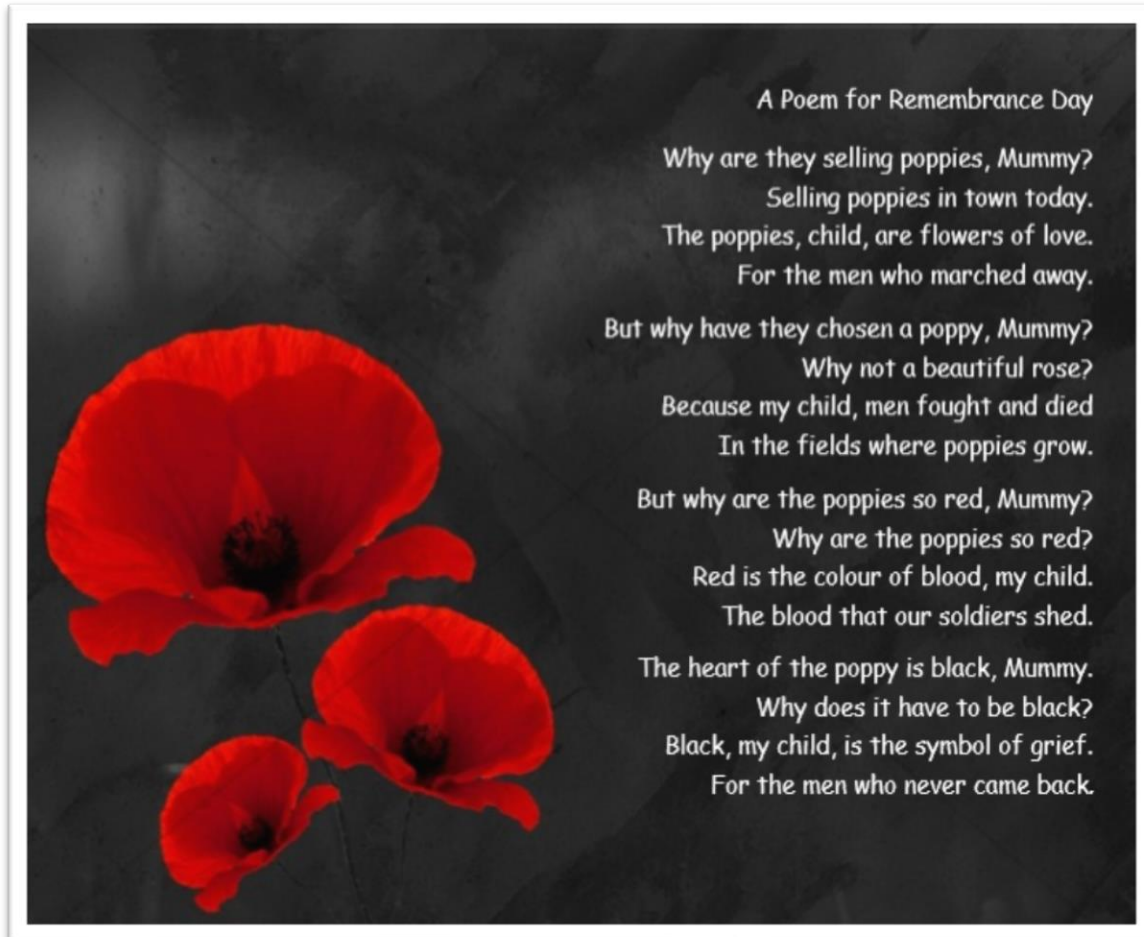


**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

EMAIL: [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk), WEB: [www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](http://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk)

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

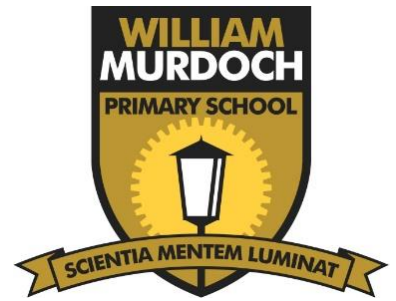


### Anti-Bullying Week



Next Monday is the start of Anti-Bullying Week, which we will be holding in school. The theme this year is 'Reach Out' and we will be talking to children about how they can reach out to someone they trust if they are worried about bullying in or out of school. We talk to children all the time about what bullying means, as well as the difference between bullying and incidents that happen sometimes in school. We know that at William Murdoch we respond very effectively if ever there is an issue with bullying and have a skilled team of staff who support children whenever needed.

# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



To begin Anti-Bullying Week 2022, our school is taking part in **Odd Socks Day** on Monday 14 November 2022. This is where both adults and children are encouraged to wear odd socks to school in order to raise awareness of bullying. Odd Socks Day symbolises that we are all different and that we should accept ourselves, be accepting of one another and celebrate difference. All we have to do to take part is wear odd socks, it couldn't be simpler!



## Children In Need



The school will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal on Friday 18 November 2022. It will be non-uniform day and the theme this year is bright colours, so children may dress in something bright and colourful for a £1.00 donation. In addition to this, the items to the right will be on sale from **Monday 14 November 2022 in the Lower School hall during breaktime**. All funds raised will go directly to Children in Need.

## Photos

Your child's class group photos are now available to purchase online. An email was sent out this week with the relevant details and codes which you will need to be able to view and buy.

## Christmas at WMPS

We will be making every effort to make Christmas a special time for our children. Children will be making a Christmas card in school later in the term to take home. Today children have been given details of a competition to design the official school Christmas card. Entries need to be uploaded to Class Dojo by Monday 21 November 2022.

The school will be supporting the Christmas Jumper Day campaign on Friday 16 December 2022. In the final days of the term, children will be taking part in Christmas festivities, including watching a special showing of a panto that the school has purchased and staff panto production. There will be a special Year 3 Christmas assembly and Nursery/Reception Nativity production. Both of which will be recorded and shared with parents through Class Dojo and parents will be invited to attend. The children will also receive a free Christmas lunch. We will write to you about all these closer to the time.

## WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

EMAIL: [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk), WEB: [www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](http://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk)

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



## Chess Competition

On Wednesday afternoon this week, 3 pupils from Year 6 took part in a school chess competition at King Edward's School in Edgbaston. They competed against several Birmingham Schools and did very well, winning many games in the process. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and represented our school to the highest of standards. Rayyan, Hafsa and Mazin won the Bronze, Silver and Gold medals respectively. You did yourselves proud, well done!



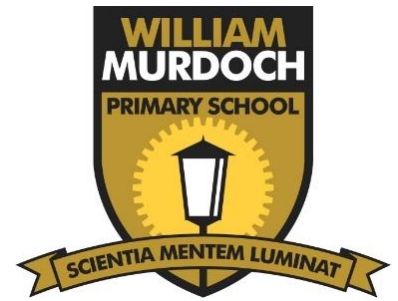
## Guru Nanak Dev Ji Birthday Assembly

On Tuesday we were treated to a special assembly by Year 2 to celebrate the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The children were simply amazing with some budding dramatists performing very well indeed. The children shared Guru Nanak's message of working hard for a living, leading a truthful life and sharing and caring for those less fortunate. In the afternoon children enjoyed a special party and shared food and drinks.



## Reception 'Stay & Play' Session

Today Reception had a 'Reading Stay and Play' session where different strategies for reading stories with children were modelled to the parents. Parents were given tips and ideas on how they can support their child and encourage a pleasure for reading at home.



## Parents of Nursery Pupils

Applications are now open for the 2023 Reception intake. The application must be made directly with the local authority and **must** be submitted by Sunday 15 January 2023. Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information.

If you need any help or support in completing the application for your child, please speak to Mrs Kullar in the first instance or contact the Main Office.



## Nursery/Reception Places for September 2022

There remain a limited number of Nursery and Reception places for this academic year. If you have a child (or know of a friend or family member who has a child) who is born between 1/09/2018 and 31/08/2019 (Nursery) or 1/09/2017 and 31/08/2018 (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](mailto: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



### **Best Test - Pippa Goodhart & Anna Doherty**

This is the kind of story that little ones ask for over and over again - and grown-up story readers don't mind a jot because it's a delight to read. With loveable characters and themes that really matter to young children, such as fairness, friendship and teamwork, Best Test wins children over on the very first pages and keeps them charmed every time. I'm sure you'll enjoy it too.

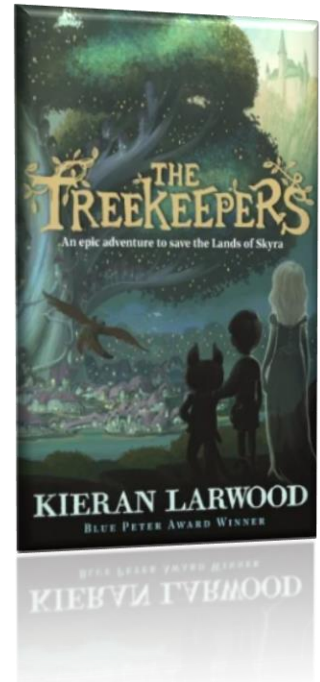
## Upper School

### **The Treekeepers - Kieran Larwood & Chris Wormell**

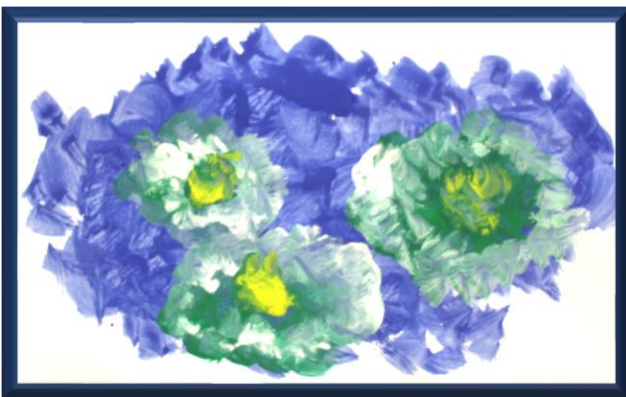
I had planned to read this as a bedtime read but by the second day I found myself squirreled away, needing to know what happens next and binge reading through to the finale! I'm left hoping that, much like the Five Realms books, this is going to be a trilogy too, as I would love to know what happens to Liska and her unlikely companions next.

Liska is a griffyx - part fox, part dragon, part eagle - an ancient creature lost to the world except to those shapewalkers who take on their form. Warriors who take on the form of long-dead beasts are protectors of the Undrentree and of all who live in Arborven. While Liska marvels at the order that everyone in Arborven appears to respect and follow, she also grows frustrated at the way she is treated and spoken to, even by her own family, and longs for the day when she can earn her own stripe for bravery.

With a split-second decision, Liska suddenly finds herself alerting the city to an invasion of the rot, the greatest threat that the city faced. Can she make her voice be heard in time and can anyone stop Bitterblight from sucking the very life out of the Undrentree and all who rely on it for their magic? Following on from Larwood's success with the Five Realms series, I had high expectations to discover another fantasy world by this author. This one is filled with plot twists and turns, and a cast of characters that the reader inescapably becomes emotionally invested in. Yet again, Larwood has delivered and your child will really enjoy it.



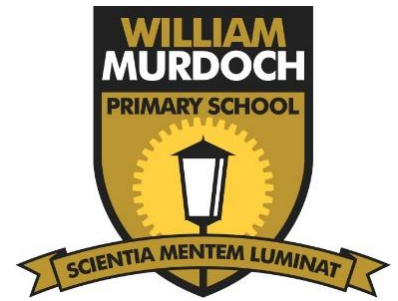
## Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



### **Miraj Y1.3**

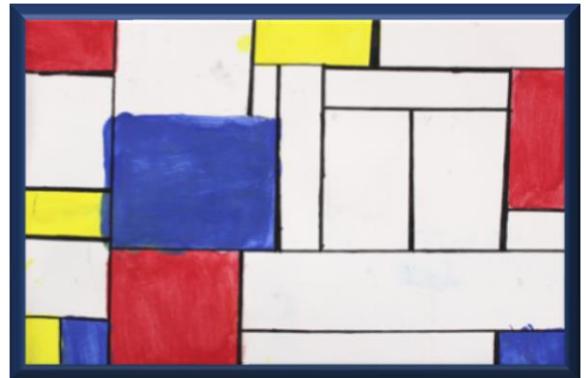
The Children in Year 1 have been learning about a range of artists from the past that use a wide variety of tints and shades in their work. In the lessons there was a focus on the work and life of Claude Monet. The children created pieces of work similar to the ones created by Monet focusing on water lilies. Miraj used paint well and was able to create a wide range of tints and shades very effectively.

# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



## Zahraa Y5.2

In Year 5 the children have been creating pieces of work focusing on abstract art. The children were tasked with creating an abstract painting using block colours. Zahraa created a well thought through painting that she painted very carefully throughout.



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation. Have a relaxing weekend.

Your sincerely,

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

Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

### Dates

16 November 2022	Reception Green Bus Trip
18 November 2022	Children in Need
25 November 2022	Reception 'Phonics Stay & Play' Session

### WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

EMAIL: [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk), WEB: [www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](http://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk)

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH