

14 October 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

***'Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.'* – Thomas A Edison**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many parents on Monday and Wednesday of this week for Lower School and Upper School parents' evening respectively. I would like to pass on my thanks to all those who completed the questionnaire which is based on the Ofsted model questions on Parent View. The questionnaires will be analysed over the next few weeks and I will share the results of the survey in due course.

Parents' evening highlights the partnership that is required between parents and school in helping children to progress to the very best of their ability. With this in mind it is important that all adults model to children that learning is a lifelong passion and something that never stops. This can be done in a number of ways. For example:



to how it did this morning?

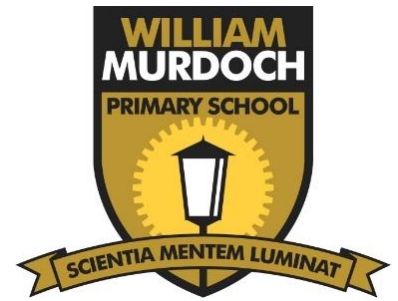
- Talk to your child about what you are learning about at the moment.
- Read books, newspapers and magazines in front of your child.
- If you cannot answer a question that your child asks you (which very often happens to me when my niece asks me about the intricacies of space, i.e. how many stars are there in the galaxy? How far would you have to dig to get to the centre of the Earth? Or, when can I go to the moon?), research the answer together and show your child that you are curious to find out the answer.
- Model asking questions and then finding out the answers, i.e. as you walk through the park, ask aloud: What do you think that squirrel is eating? In Autumn, why do some leaves turn red, while others turn yellow? Why does my shadow look different

**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



Our staff have a number of training days each year and two hours of in service training each week. As I said, *learning is a lifelong passion and something that never stops.*

## Half-Term Holiday

Please note that school will close for pupils on Thursday 20 October 2022 at 3.15pm/3.20pm for the half-term holiday. The school will re-open again for pupils on Monday 31 October 2022 from 8.40am.

## World Mental Health Day

On Monday 10 October it was World Mental Health Day. The theme of 2022's World Mental Health Day was '**Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority**'. World Mental Health Day is a chance for us all to talk about mental health in general, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to talk about things and get help if you are struggling.

We have attached some information from the Anna Freud Centre on how to talk to your children about Mental Health and ideas of things you can do with your children to help them feel good.

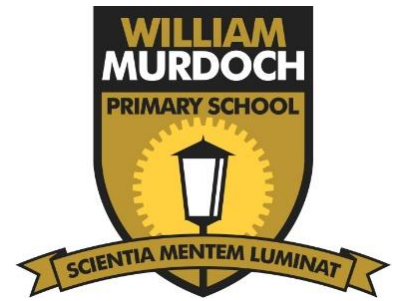
<https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1822/poster-pupils-wmhd.pdf>

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11452/tmh-parent-leaflet-final-web-updated-by-ed-april-2020.pdf>



## Football Tournament

The WMPS football team played in another football tournament at King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls on Thursday 13 October 2022. The team had a solid performance against Welford Primary School. They showed great resilience to get back into the game after going 2-0 down. Hassan, Y6.2, scored an outrageous 22-yard free kick to make the score 2-1. Overall, it was outstanding effort and performance from all players. Well done!



## Bicycles/Scooters

There has been occasions where children are riding their bikes/scooters onto the school site. I would like to remind parents/carers that bikes and scooters are banned from the school site for health and safety reasons, so children should not be riding their bikes/scooters around the school grounds. Pupils, parents and carers should be able to travel to school in a safe environment.



## Harvest Festival



With food poverty an increasing issue for many families up and down the country, the annual WMPS harvest donation to local food banks and charities is more important than ever. We are asking all children to bring in some non-perishable food items such as: tins, packets, pasta, cereal, biscuits, etc. Please do not send in any perishable items as their life span is not long enough for how the food is distributed. The food donations are to be brought into school during the weeks commencing 10 and 17 October 2022. Many thanks in advance for supporting this initiative.

## 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.

## Parents of Year 6 Pupils

Families with children due to start secondary school in September 2023 (i.e. those children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012) are now able to apply online for secondary school places. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2022 and places will be offered on 1 March 2023.

All the information families need to make their applications is on the council website: [Before you apply: researching schools | Apply for a secondary school \(year 7\) place | Birmingham City Council](#)

It is particularly important that families carefully consider the school's admission criteria and name at least one school on their application where their child would have been offered a place in previous years. Please be aware of the deadline as parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.

## Nursery/Reception Places for September 2022

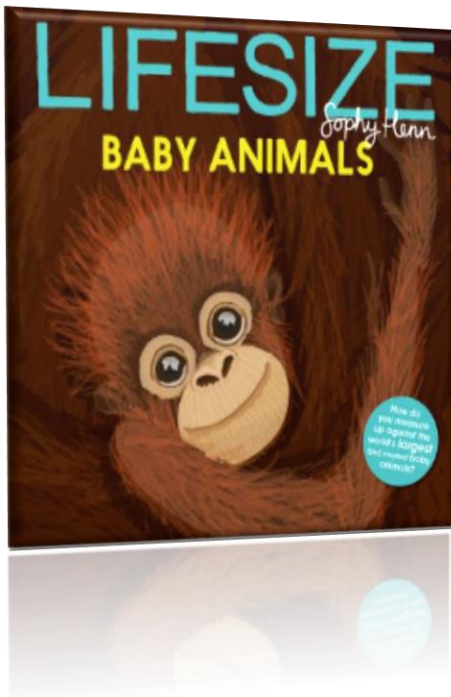


There remain a limited number of Nursery and Reception places for this academic year. If you have a child (or know of a friend or family member who has a child) who is born between 1/09/2018 and 31/08/2019 (Nursery) or 1/09/2017 and 31/08/2018 (Reception), we strongly encourage you to apply as spaces 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

#### *Lifesize Baby Animals - Sophy Henn*



Following on from Lifesize Animals and Lifesize Dinosaurs, Lifesize Baby Animals does exactly what it promises and over the course of its 32 oversized pages, shows the actual size of real-life babies, from tiny baby possums (the size of a full stop) to gargantuan baby blue whales (the size an ambulance at birth). The illustrations are attractive and often portray the animals within their natural habitats. The text is accessible and clear, suitable from 3+, and introduces basic information, combined with engaging questions. Reading this book will prompt a chorus of oohs and aahs! A nice finishing touch is the final page, which shows a summary of each baby and adult creature with its length shown in 'lifesize books' and an invitation to measure yourself in books to see how you compare – this could make an excellent maths link, measuring out bears, elephants and whales on the floor. Lifesize Baby Animals is a beautiful book which would be invaluable whilst your child is learning a topic on lifecycles/growth in school.



## Upper School

### **Paper Boat, Paper Bird – David Almond & Kirsti Beautyman**

From the author of Skellig, the story of Paper Boat, Paper Bird is an unlikely tale of finding friendship in unlikely places. When Mina and her mother travel to Japan, the unfamiliar language and intriguing sights fuel her imagination, especially when she is gifted an origami boat and bird by a kind woman on the bus. When Mina decides to write a message on her new origami gift and leaves it on a river in the temple gardens, she couldn't predict that it would find its way to a young boy who was in need of a friend of his own. Easy-to-read, with striking black, white and red illustrations, Paper Boat, Paper Bird is a perfect addition to your child's bookcase. Anyone who has travelled will understand the wonder and hope that comes with visiting a new place and discovering its wonders, and the reader feels this through Mina and her own journey in Japan. David Almond's poetic storytelling also allows for readers to touch on what could otherwise be difficult topics: the loss of a parent, dealing with life changes, new members to a family. Kirsti Beautyman's illustrations add to the layers of meaning beautifully. I particularly liked that this was not a long book and that it was broken up by the wonderful illustrations: many children can find reading daunting, however the layout and structure of the story makes this book accessible to most children in KS2 and is perfect for those that are transitioning from smaller picture books.



## **Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week**



### **Mihran Y1.2**

In Year 1 the children have been learning about tints and shades. They learnt how to make tints of a colour by adding white and shades of a colour by adding black. Mihran created multiple tints and shades of the colour blue very well and applied the paint very carefully to his work.

## Laiba Y5.2

In Year 5 the children have been learning about the Rococo style. They learnt that Rococo art tends to show everyday life and often features natural forms including leaves and plants. The children had a go at copying some examples of Rococo patterns and the outcomes were very impressive. Laiba produced an excellent piece of work with great attention to detail.



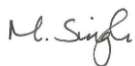
## Pupil of the Week



Well done to our Year 3 pupils, Daamin, Oliver and Eesha for showing remarkable effort throughout the week.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

### Dates

20 October 2022	Year 6 Diwali Assembly & Class Parties for Whole School
20 October 2022	Pupils break up for the half-term break
21 October 2022	Staff Training Day
31 October 2022	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Deadline
31 October 2022	Pupils return to school