

16 September 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*"It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." – Queen Elizabeth II*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a delightful first full week back in school. Our children have all made an excellent start back at school and it is wonderful to see the school community again. We are so proud of the way the children have got back into school routines and the great learning behaviours they have displayed. There has been a calm, focused and determined start to the academic year and they all look extremely smart in their new uniforms.

Over the summer break, the school was a hive of activity as the building contractors worked diligently to get as much of the essential works completed over the holiday period as they could. I am grateful to local residents for their patience during these works. Unfortunately, due to national and international supply chain problems, the works have been delayed for a small number of weeks. We are hopeful of moving into the new areas after the half-term break. This means, due to risk assessments in place, parents will still not be able to attend Good Work and Class assemblies for the foreseeable future. We are disappointed to again have to share this news but are hopeful it won't be for long. We will however continue to take photographs and share these on Class Dojo.

Your children are the most important part of our school and working in partnership with families to support their learning will make their time at school both happy and successful. If you have any concerns or questions, please do come and speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance as they are best placed to help. Myself and my two deputies, Mrs Pannu and Mr Matthews, are always available outside on the school playground at the beginning of the day should you wish to meet with us.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Miss K Kaur, Class Teacher in Class Y2.1, to Miss R Takhar in Class Y4.2 and to Miss A Viridi in Class Y5.1. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the William Murdoch Primary School family to all our new children and their parents.

## Queen Elizabeth II



I am sure you are aware that the Government has announced the Queen's state funeral is due to take place on **Monday 19 September 2022**. As a mark of respect, this day has been declared a national Bank Holiday. Therefore, school will be closed for both pupils and staff on this day.

**We will reopen as normal on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 8.40am.**

The State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19 September 2022 at 11.00am. A Committal Service at St George's Chapel, Windsor, will take place later the same day at 4.00pm. Presently, The Queen Lies-in-State in Westminster Hall at the Palace of Westminster, having arrived in Procession from Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 14 September 2022.

Her state funeral will be attended by more than 2,000 official guests including the heads of state of many nations, and will end with the last post, a two-minute silence, and a lament played by the Queen's personal piper. Queen Elizabeth II will be buried next to the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor in a private ceremony attended by her family.

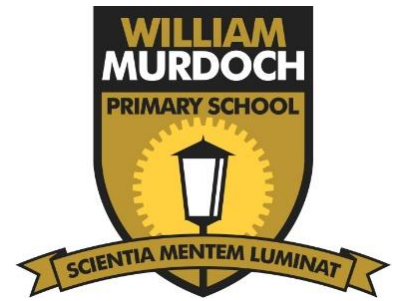
## School Meals – Dolce

We are aware a number of parents have received emails from SchoolGrid notifying them that their child's school meal pre-order has been cancelled. We have been informed by Dolce that there were incorrect menu choices published on SchoolGrid, which are being rectified. If you have received an email from SchoolGrid, please login to your child's account and reselect a meal choice for that date. Rest assured, all children affected by cancellations of pre-ordered meals will still receive a school meal.



If you would like your child to receive school meals, this includes Free School Meals, Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and paid school meals, you will need to set up a SchoolGrid account. All new parents have received an email to set up a SchoolGrid account. I ask that you check your inbox and junk mail folders if you have not yet accessed the email. If you cannot retrieve this link, please email the Main Office at [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk) and a new one will be sent out to you.

Dolce requires all parents to pre-order their child's meal in advance. This can be done on a weekly or termly basis. This is to help the catering team to prepare the right amount of meals. A reminder,



where a meal has not been selected by parents, children will receive the default option of a jacket potato. There is no facility to pre-order the sides or dessert options as these are chosen on the day.

Once you have set-up your child's SchoolGrid account, parents must enter all food allergies related to their child and keep this up to date. Once this information has been entered, all meal options with those allergies are greyed out so that you are unable to select that meal choice. If you would like your child to have a vegetarian meal, please select the meal with a (v) next to it. If your child does not eat egg, please either select 'egg' on the allergy list (in this way the meals containing egg will be greyed out and therefore cannot be mistakenly selected) or read the ingredients list (i) next to the meal choice. Please note the meat used in the school meals is not halal.

If you have any other issues relating to your child's SchoolGrid account, please contact SchoolGrid technical support directly on 01506 303310 or via email at [support@schoolgrid.co.uk](mailto:support@schoolgrid.co.uk).

## Termly Newsletters

Last week your child was given a physical copy of the termly newsletter which details the topics your child will be covering in each subject this term. It is good practice for children to do some background reading on topics that they will be studying.

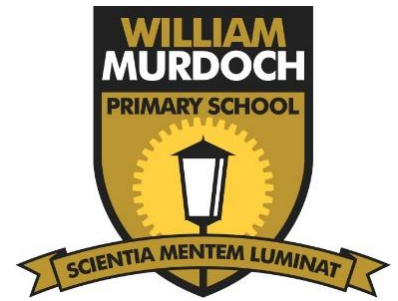
## Welcome Meetings

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be holding Welcome Meetings for parents so that you can become familiar with the team that is supporting your child, the curriculum being taught, school policies and procedures, and other information that will provide you with a broad insight into what you can expect your child to learn this year. The meetings will take place in the Lower School hall as follows:

- Year 1 – Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 3.30pm**
- Year 2 – Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 3.30pm**
- Year 3 – Monday 26 September 2022 at 3.30pm**
- Year 4 – Thursday 22 September 2022 at 3.30pm**
- Year 5 – Friday 23 September 2022 at 3.30pm**
- Year 6 – Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 3.30pm**

## School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 29 September 2022 to photograph the children in the Upper School. On Friday 30 September 2022, the photographer will be in school to photograph the children in the Lower School. We will arrange for brothers and sisters in the Upper School and Lower School to be photographed together on Friday 30 September 2022 along with family photographs which will be taken at 9.00am in the Lower School hall. **Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform.**



## Free School Meal Eligibility

The school has implemented a system to accurately record pupils' entitlement to Free School Meals. Please access the following link to register, [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/). The school will be notified of all children who qualify for Free School Meals. Even if you are not eligible at present, please complete the application online as you will be notified of your entitlement if your personal circumstances change.



## Class Dojo

At William Murdoch Primary School, we use Class Dojo as our remote learning platform. Class Dojo provides a way for children to complete learning online and submit work to their class teacher. As parents, you can see the work set by the class teacher and the completed homework submitted by your child. On the 'Class Story', you will be able to see latest information and updates. There is also a messaging feature for you to contact your child's class teacher, however this should not be used for sensitive issues, nor for reporting absences. All messages will be responded to within two working days.

If you experience any technical issues, then please contact the Main Office for further assistance.

## 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.

## After-School Clubs

The school continues to provide an outstanding before and after school club offer. Places will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Pupils who have shown an interest in joining a club will be given a letter for their parents to complete and sign. It should be returned to their class teacher as soon as possible.



## Projects

On Friday 9 September 2022, pupils were set an Autumn Term project, which should be handed in on Monday 12 December 2022. Pupils should work on their projects during their weekends, and submit a photo of their progress on Class Dojo every two weeks. Their class teacher will remind them to do this. The titles of the projects which have been set for each year group are as follows:

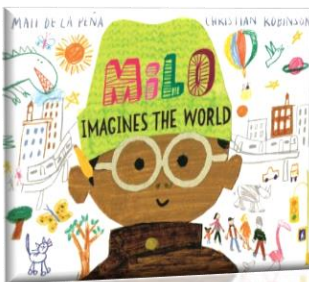
Reception: Look at Me  
Year 1: People That Help Us  
Year 2: The Royal Family  
Year 3: Law and Power  
Year 4: Ancient Egypt  
Year 5: Ancient Rome  
Year 6: The Tudors



Your child will have brought a project letter home last week with further details, which can also be found on Class Dojo. Projects have been a long-standing tradition of the school and provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their research, analysing, organisation and presentation skills. It also provides a chance for parents to get involved by helping their child complete their project.

## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School



### **Milo Imagines the World – Matt de la Peña & Christian Robinson (illustrator)**

A young boy people-watches on a monthly subway journey, speculating and sketching about their lives. The destination is initially unknown to readers, although a sense of an impending, suspenseful climax builds from the start.

This picture book provides a wonderful launch pad for readers from Key Stage One onwards to consider how we 'read the world' and how perceptions can be altered through viewing individuals in their complicated totality. The book was awarded the Josette Frank Award (2022) by the Bank Street Children's Book Committee for a work of outstanding literary merit for young readers.

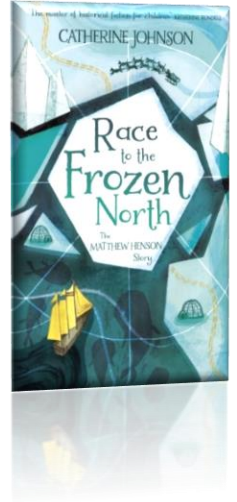


## Upper School

### ***Race to the Frozen North – Catherine Johnson***

Matthew Henson was simply an ordinary man. That was, until Commander Robert E. Peary entered his life and offered him a chance at true adventure. Henson would become navigator, craftsman, translator and right-hand man on a treacherous journey to the North Pole. *Race to the Frozen North* tells the remarkable story of Matthew Henson, the first man to reach the North Pole. A little luck and a lot of hard work led to a life of adventure for Henson on the high seas and in the Arctic but back home in America, his achievements were ignored due to the colour of his skin.

Written in simple, easy-to-read language, this is accessible historical fiction that will appeal to readers of all abilities.

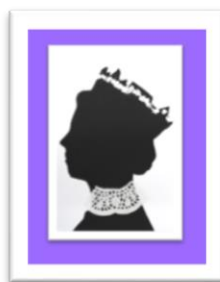


## Celebrating Queen Elizabeth II through Artwork

This week the children have been creating artwork in recognition of the life and service of Queen Elizabeth II. In addition to this, time was also spent exploring lots of work by other artists focussing mainly on portraits of Queen Elizabeth II and paintings of various royal buildings.

Different year groups were tasked with creating artwork along different themes. EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 created silhouettes of crowns that were then decorated in an appropriate and thoughtful manner. Year 3 and Year 4 cut out silhouettes of Queen Elizabeth II's portrait and added detail in order to form a necklace and a crown. Finally, Year 5 and Year 6 created silhouettes of Buckingham Palace and put lots of thought into how best to place a wide variety of different shapes in order to create a successful image.

A selection of the work created is going to be shown on displays around the school and shall act as a reminder of the amazing life Queen Elizabeth II lived and the significant impact on history that she had.



## Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 6 pupils for showing remarkable respect throughout the week.



Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working alongside you this year.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

### **Dates**

19 September 2022	Bank Holiday (School closed)
21 September 2022	Year 2 Welcome Meeting
22 September 2022	Year 4 Welcome Meeting
23 September 2022	Year 5 Welcome Meeting
26 September 2022	Year 3 Welcome Meeting
27 September 2022	Year 1 Welcome Meeting
28 September 2022	Year 6 Welcome Meeting
29 September 2022	Upper School Photos
30 September 2022	Lower School & Family Photos