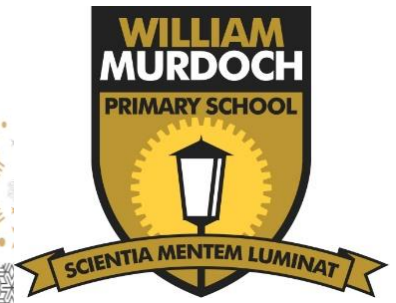


KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



16 December 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'A good conscience is a continual Christmas.' – Benjamin Franklin

Dear Parents/Carers,

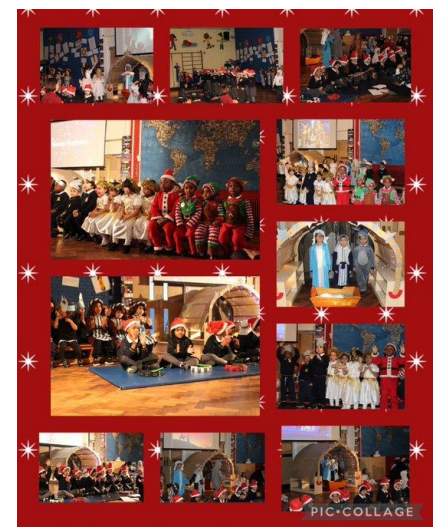
It has been such a pleasure watching the children's performances over the past week. There has been flair and confidence in every concert and drama performance. The quality of children's music playing and singing is exceptional. Music is such a huge part of what we do at William Murdoch Primary School and every child is encouraged to develop their talents.

A link to the Nursery/Reception nativity assemblies and the Year 3 Christmas Assembly has been posted to your Class Dojo account. I hope that you will enjoy viewing them with your children and families. You will also be able to share the links with other family members and family who may be abroad who wouldn't normally be able to see the shows and performances.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff who have helped put the Christmas performances together for our children. There is always so much work that goes into these behind the scenes and I'm sure that the children really appreciate all you have done.

Despite the ongoing challenges this term, I have been very proud of what we have achieved as a school community. We have managed to squeeze in a number of educational visits that broaden the educational experience for our children. We continue to work hard to ensure our children have a curriculum rich with knowledge and that the children remember more over time. We have also managed to schedule a number of competitive sports matches and tournaments which the children have enjoyed competing in.



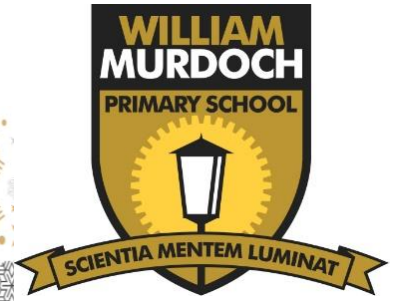
WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

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I would like to thank you all for your support during the course of the year and particularly this term. Have a wonderful Christmas break and a prosperous New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 4 January 2023.



Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day for pupils and staff at WMPS took place today and was a tremendous success. Many thanks for your contributions to the non-uniform day appeal for Save the Children.



Christmas Card Competition

We received a large number of entries this year and the standard of the entries was also very high. After careful consideration, a card designed by Halimah in Class Y4.3 was chosen as the winner. She has received printed copies of his card along with a voucher. Congratulations Halimah.



Termly Report Card

Your child has today brought home their first termly report card of the academic year. Please check for a sealed A5 envelope that contains the report card. A covering letter that explains the report card and a copy of the book band chart used in school, which outlines what colour books pupils should be reading in their respective year group, has been sent in a separate email and also placed on Class Dojo. As Year 1 parents are receiving the report cards for the first time today, pupils in that year group will bring home the accompanying letter and the book band chart for reference.

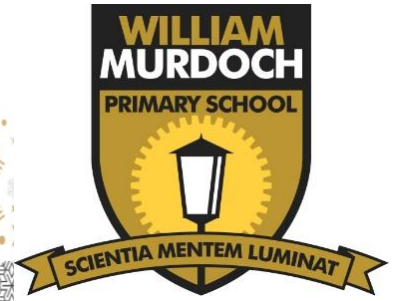
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Dolce Menu

The Spring term menu is available on SchoolGrid. Please spend some time with your child to choose menu options for the Spring term.

Online Safety Tips

Some children will be unwrapping digital devices this Christmas. For many it will be the first time they have owned a device that connects them to the online world. Unfortunately, this also means being exposed to new risks that they need to be made aware of. The National Online Safety organisation has produced a very useful leaflet (see attached), full of tips, to support parents in ensuring their children enjoy their new digital gifts safely.



Autumn Project

Pupils have been bringing in their Autumn Term projects this week, and we are delighted with the standard of what has been brought into school. This term's Year 1 project was called "People Who Help Us", and was about those people who are in our lives that help us in times of need, e.g. the police and fire service; Y1.1 created some excellent models, as you can see in the picture. Year 2's project was based on The Royal Family. Harkeerat produced an excellent model of the monarch's orb, as well as Buckingham Palace. Meanwhile in Year 3, pupils completed a project based on Law and Power. Amoljot spent a lot of time on his project, which contains lots of interesting information. In Year 4, projects were based on Ancient Egypt, and Afshan produced an excellent model which contains lots of the key images we would associate with the Ancient Egyptians. Well done to all pupils who completed a project over the past few months.



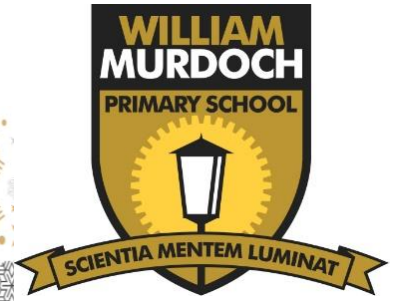
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Christmas School Uniform Sale

Gogna Schoolwear are offering parents a 15% discount across all items online during the period of 13 December 2022 and 8 January 2023. Please visit <https://www.gogna.me/> for more information.

Winter Food Boxes and Activities

As part of the winter Bring it on Brum! programme, which is supported by the Department of Education and Birmingham City Council to help support families with the rise of living costs, families are able to request winter food boxes. All families and households with and without children eligible for benefits-related free school meals can apply. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/activity-packs-and-food-boxes/>.



Bring it on Brum are also working in partnership with Handsworth Association of Schools in delivering winter activities for children during the Christmas break. For more information, please visit <https://www.haos.org.uk/news.php?story=62>.

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.



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Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

Early Years have been enjoying lots of festive fun this week! Nursery have been exploring the Christmas story and creating art work relating to it. The work produced depicted different parts of the story very effectively. In Reception the children had a great time producing calendars and cards. The calendars that were made focussed on the four seasons and the children enjoyed painting a tree for every season. The outcomes were exceptional! Year 1 made Christmas decorations using a range of

different materials. They were then placed around the room and admired by all! The pop-up cards created were splendid and made in such a creative manner. Year 2 decorated biscuits and produced cards. The children thoroughly enjoyed eating the biscuits afterwards and celebrating their successes! Year 3 kept themselves very busy with cards, calendars and lanterns! The lanterns were assembled with great care and the final products were wonderfully vibrant. Year 4 have enjoyed creating cards and crackers over the last couple of days. They have really been getting into the Christmas spirit!

Lots of fun activities have been happening in Year 5! Calendars, Christmas cards, baubles and lanterns were produced and all done to an

excellent standard. In Year 6 the children have been very busy making Christmas cards and crackers. The children took great care in assembling the crackers and enjoyed decorating them very much!





Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



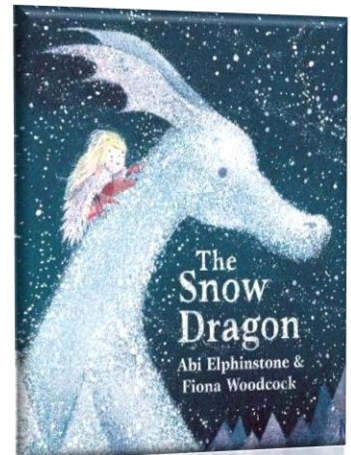
How Winston Came Home for Christmas- Alex T. Smith

There's no feeling quite like cosying up with the next instalment of a much-loved story and Alex T. Smith's Winston books offer an almost month-long delight of a festive tale. A cross between a Christmas story and an advent calendar, the Winston books are charming full-colour hardbacks structured into 24½ chapters – one for each day of advent. Each day's offering includes the next chapter of the story and easy-to-follow instructions for an accompanying craft to make or activity to try. How Winston Came Home for Christmas is the second Winston story and follows Winston the mouse on a quest to find a long-lost friend. Themes of kindness, connecting with loved ones, recovering what is lost and valuing friendships abide - all perfect for Christmas time - and the daily activities range from art and baking to giving gifts to others and finding out about festive traditions from different cultures. This is a gorgeous gift book that will be treasured year after year as a treasured festive tradition for young readers.

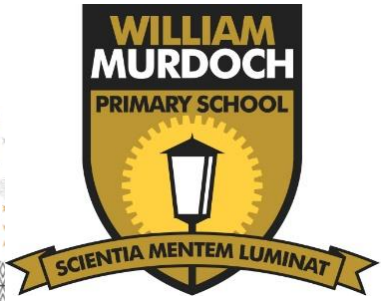
Upper School

The Snow Dragon - Abi Elphinstone & Fiona Woodcock (illustrator)

You can be late for many things in life but you should never keep an adventure waiting . . . In Griselda Bone's gloomy orphanage, daydreaming is banned, skipping is forbidden and Christmas is well and truly cancelled. Until, of course, the Snow Dragon comes to life and takes Phoebe on the adventure of a lifetime. Abi Elphinstone and Fiona Woodcock have created an enchanting, magical and deeply moving older picture book, with illustrations that swoop off the page, and a story that pulls at the heartstrings. A perfect family read during this time of year.



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



I wish you all a very happy and peaceful holiday and a prosperous new year in 2023. I hope you all have a wonderful time with family and friends and look forward to welcoming the children back on 4 January 2023.

Best Wishes,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher



January						2023
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4 Pupils return to School	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Deadline for Reception Intake
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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