

21 October 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'They have money for war, but can't feed the poor.' – Tupac

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have somehow raced to the end of the half-term. It has gone at a blistering pace and autumn is well and truly here, so it is the perfect time to go on a local family walk and enjoy the abundance of wildlife in our local parks during the half-term break. If you would like to stretch further afield, the following link to the National Trust website will provide you with places to visit in the Midlands. Please make sure you check web pages for individual places before you travel for booking details and the most up to date information about visiting.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/half-term-in-the-midlands>



School Photographs

For parents who haven't already purchased their child's school photos and would like to do so, in order to receive the £5.00 off offer when purchasing photos, orders must be made **before midnight on Sunday 23 October 2022**. Class photos will be available to purchase after the half-term break. Further details to follow.

Harvest Donations



I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the very generous donations that we have received in school this week and last. We will be in contact with local charities that we support and we will update you once the items have been collected.

Trick or Treating



We have been asked by the Police to encourage parents and carers not to allow their children to go Trick or Treating unsupervised. This can cause unnecessary stress and can be very frightening to members of the community. Thank you for your support.

Half-Term Holiday

With food prices, along with many other bills rising rapidly, there are many restaurants and cafes where children can eat for as little as £1 throughout the half-term break. These offers should help parents and carers looking after children while they are off school, at a time when budgets are being stretched by rapidly rising inflation. Please visit <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/cheap-restaurant-deals/> for further information.

Please note that school will re-open again for pupils on Monday 31 October 2022 from 8.40am.



Diwali Celebrations

On Thursday morning we were treated to a special Diwali assembly by our Year 6 pupils. It was wonderful to be able to receive parents again for the assembly and chat over some tea or coffee and Indian sweets. This was followed in the afternoon with Diwali parties where children enjoyed party food, music and games.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all those in our school community celebrating the auspicious occasion of Diwali a wonderful time with their family and friends.



Design & Technology Day

DT Day took place on the 18 and 19 of October this week and it was a success for everyone involved. Nursery looked at structures and modelling homes, while the children over in Reception cooked up some tasty pumpkin soup. On the menu in Year 1 were healthy fruit kebabs which the children

enjoyed making – and eating. Year 2 made pizzas including making the dough from scratch. In Year 3, the children designed and created their own photo frames out of lollipop sticks, glitter and glue – very messy, but very fun. Year 5 put their raft building skills to the test using plastic bottles, cork and twine and tested whether their structures stayed afloat. Finally, in Year 6, the children enjoyed designing and sewing their own purses. They considered who the purse was for and the best stitch to keep the material together. Overall, DT day was a great success!



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.

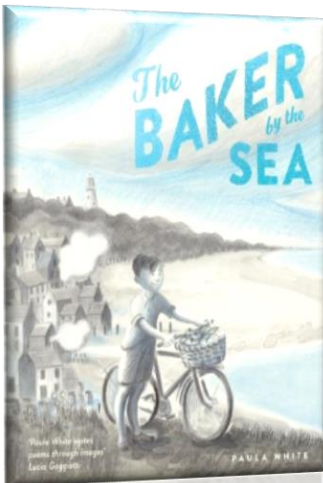
Nursery/Reception Places for September 2022



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. We are more than happy to help with completing the application process.

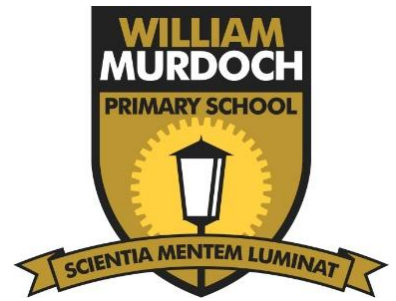
Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



The Baker by the Sea - Paula White

This sublime picture book is written and illustrated by Paula White, set in the beach village that once stood where she grew up in Lowestoft, a port with a rich fishing heritage, on the East Coast of Suffolk. The village housed the working community along with the Scottish fisher girls and men, who followed the fish along the east coast, arriving to help pack and preserve the catch. Accompanying a lyrical text, the atmospheric illustrations in pen and ink, using a muted palette of blue and grey, with yellow highlights, depicts a traditional way of life. The young boy at the heart of the story takes the reader on a walk around the wooden buildings and small shops, introducing the grown-ups of the village going about their work, including the fishermen, the blacksmith and the boat-builders. The boy's father is the baker, but the boy wants to be a fisherman when he grows up. While helping out in the bakery, the boy's father explains that without his bread, buns and biscuits, many of the others wouldn't be able to do their jobs. The bread is used by the café to make bacon butties for the boat builders, the fresh, hot buns warm the fingers of Scottish girls as they pack the barrels while the fisherman out at sea dunk their savoury biscuits in hot broth to stave off cold and hunger. The baker is proud of his place in the community and the boy realises that everyone has their part to play. Suffused with warmth and nostalgia, this evocation of bygone times should help to inspire discussion and exploration of community, local and family history. Paula White dedicates the book to her grandfather, who, she explains, was a baker but sometimes felt guilty for not being a fisherman. It also includes his recipe for hot coconut buns.

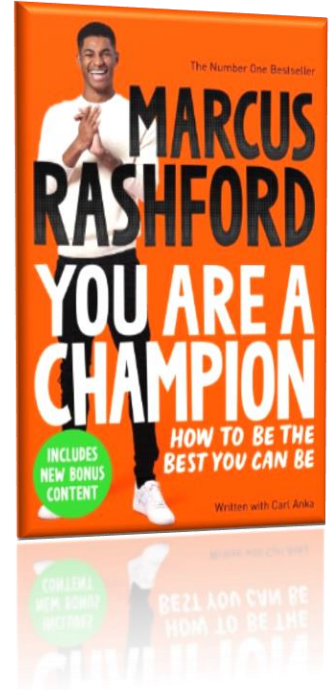


Upper School

You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be – Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka

Full of good advice for how to live your life well, broken down into small chunks of accessible information from a well-known name. A guide for children to help them develop their potential to the full, from Manchester United and England footballer and campaigner to end child food poverty Marcus Rashford. It's hard to know what is possible until you start. You have to be able to dream big and be prepared to work towards your dreams. Good things take time. Marcus achieved a lot, but it didn't come in one go - big things rarely happen overnight and good things rarely happen as if by magic. This book really helps to ground children in believing that they can dream BIG but instils the need for hard-work and dedication to get there and have an 'end-game' plan.

As most of you will be aware, Marcus Rashford is famous worldwide for his skills both on-and-off the pitch - but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer and long before he started his inspiring campaign to end child food poverty, he was just an average kid from Wythenshawe, South Manchester. Now, Marcus Rashford MBE wants to show your child how to achieve their dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide-for-life. I found it a really useful and uplifting read and I'm sure your child will too.



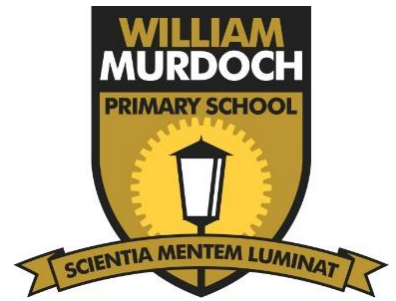
Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



Muhammad Musa - Y2.2

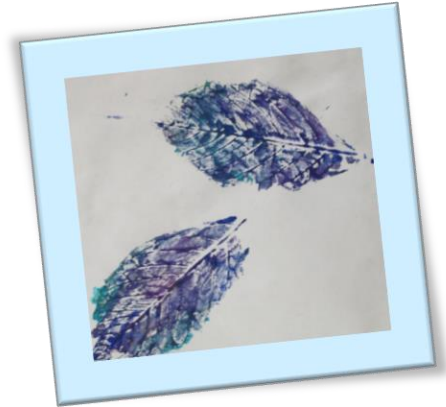
In Year 2 the children have been learning about tints and shades and how a variety of artists use these in their artwork. One particular artist that the children studied was Paul Klee. Time was spent investigating how this artist used tints and shades in his art work, notably in a piece of work called 'Three Houses'. The children then experimented with paint and created their own versions of 'Three Houses'. Muhammad Musa worked really hard on his painting and the end result was excellent.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Hafsa - Y6.1

During this term in Year 6 the children have been learning about artists that use print in their work. They explored several different printing techniques and then had a go at printing themselves. The children were tasked with printing using a leaf and printing ink. The outcomes were brilliant. Hafsa took lots of care when creating her print and used colours very thoughtfully.



Finally, we would like to send our very best wishes to Mrs M Street who starts her maternity leave. We look forward to her bringing her baby to school in a few months' time.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Mr. Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

31 October 2022	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Deadline
31 October 2022	Pupils Return to School

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