

23 September 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'Any fool can know. The point is to understand.'* – Albert Einstein

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been one of sadness and celebration of the life and service of Queen Elizabeth II to our country and the Commonwealth. Those of us that watched the funeral either in person or on the television will inevitably have been moved by the event and the sense of occasion, such that we are unlikely to see again.

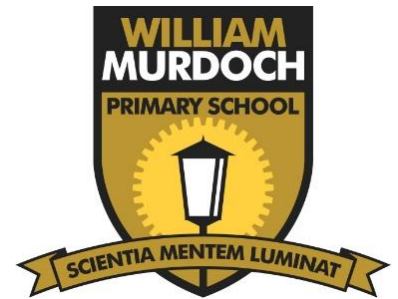
It has been lovely to have all of our Reception children in full time this week, and experiencing school lunches for the first time too. It's wonderful to see them exploring the learning opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom, including venturing into the forest school. They have been getting to know each other and growing in confidence throughout the week. We hope that everyone soon feels settled and part of the school family here at William Murdoch.

It has been another busy week with a multitude of learning activities taking place each day including the instrumental instruction of violin, guitar, brass and sitar to name a few. Before and after school clubs are also in full swing. We have a number of intervention strategies in place to support pupils in their learning with the school offering 1:1 or small group tutoring through Department for Education approved agencies.

We are spending tens of thousands of pounds on building a new school library and are really looking forward to its opening. Reading activities permeate all curriculum areas and we use every opportunity to develop a reading culture. We ask that children spend at least half an hour each day reading in order to develop a reading habit. I cannot overstate the importance of reading. It develops stronger analytical skills, expands the vocabulary as well as improving your child's ability to focus and concentrate.

***Did you know that if you read for 20 minutes a day, you'll read 1,800,000 words per year?***

I hope you all have a great weekend and as always, I am available on the playground in the morning and after school if you want to speak to me, or alternatively you can leave a message with the Main Office.



## PE Uniform Stock Update

Gogna, the school's uniform supplier, has informed us that regrettably it will be another two weeks before they receive stock of the PE uniforms. Please check our newsletter for an update on when the stock has arrived. In the interim, we ask that your child wears an unbranded navy-blue/black t-shirt with unbranded navy-blue/black shorts or jogging/tracksuit bottoms.



## Litter



Recently we have noticed an increased amount of litter around the school grounds and outside the school gate. Please ensure any rubbish is disposed of using the bins provided and encourage your children to do the same.

## School Meals Pre-Ordering Reminder

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 are having difficulty in placing your child's order or setting up your child's SchoolGrid account, please contact the Main Office at [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk).

## 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.**

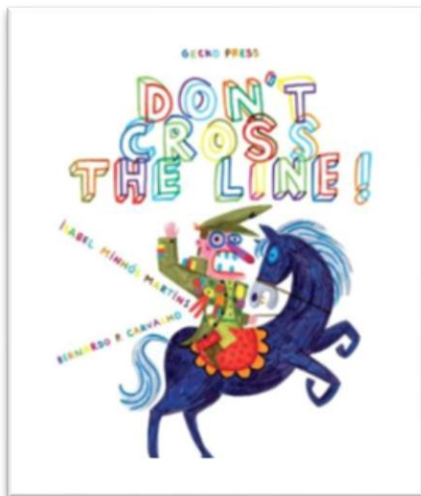
## Nursery/Reception Places for September 2022



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



### **Don't Cross the Line - Isabel Minhós Martins**

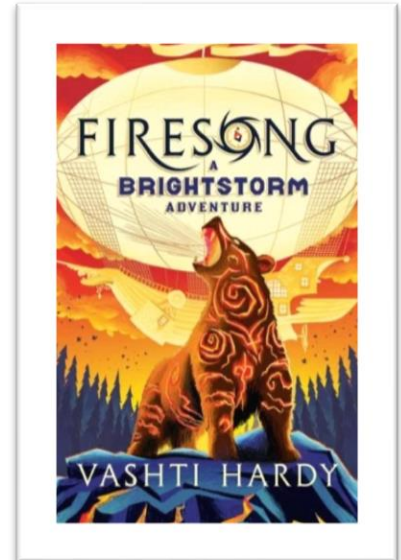
'STOP!' shouts a guard. 'I'm very sorry but no-one's allowed onto the right-hand page.' In this book every word, line, shape, colour and white space conveys meaning. The longer you spend exploring each page, the greater your appreciation of the circumstances in which the characters find themselves. The first end paper introduces the rather submissive-looking characters. Few of them are smiling. In fact, many don't have mouths to smile or speak. Each group that enters the pages is held back by the guard. The left-hand page becomes more and more crowded. Two boys accidentally kick their bright red ball on to the right-hand page. Now what will happen? A clever and thought-provoking book which readers of any age can

enjoy. Look at the final end papers; the characters are not subdued anymore but loud, opinionated, unruly, active and free to roam wherever they wish.

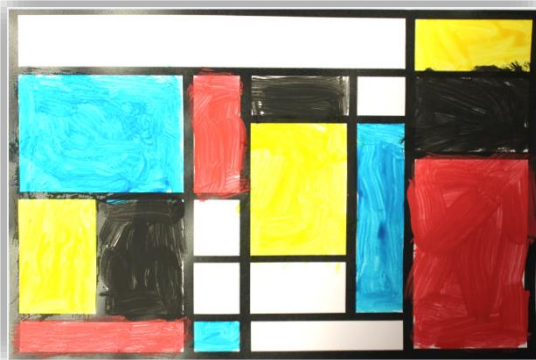
## Upper School

### **Firesong: a Brightstorm Adventure – Vashti Hardy and George Ermos (illustrator)**

The Brightstorm Twins are back for the final time, in another thrilling adventure. Book Three wastes no time before plunging the reader straight into the latest exploration undertaken by the Sky Ship Aurora and her undaunted crew. This time, the ship is travelling north to the volcanic islands and the site of the first adventure for Ernest Brightstorm, the twins' father. This time the crew have two new members - Gan a princess who just wants to be an explorer and Hugo, a vulcanologist from the North. In this book we are also introduced to new sapients, some of which, like the terrier, seem to deserve entire books of their own. At the centre of the story is a huge bear and there was definitely a Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe moment in the latter half of the story. There is something about reading the next novel in a series you have particularly enjoyed - is it going to live up to expectations? This one certainly does, raising the high-octane adventure to a new level, with plenty of cliff hangers and new places to discover. Arthur and Maudie, the twins, also find out more about their own family history and of course there are more maps to pore over. The story raises issues over how we treat the Earth (even an imaginary one) and how we view animals. It also looks at growing up and changing and physically moving away from the people we love, a particularly difficult issue for twins. This may be the end of the books about the Brightstorm twins, but it didn't feel like an absolutely closing and perhaps Vashti Hardy has left it open to return to one day. I hope so.



## Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



### R.2 - Kemal

In Reception the children have been learning about the primary colours. In addition to this they have explored how these colours can be used together in pieces of art work. The children learnt about Mondrian and the work that he created during his lifetime, especially the pieces of art focussing on the primary colours. Kemal created his own work in a similar style to that of Mondrian and applied the paint incredibly well. Kemal is clearly a very talented artist.

## Y5.1 - Hiba

In Year 5 the children have been learning about different artistic techniques and have discussed at length the similarities and differences between different pieces of work. Lots of time was spent looking at the work of George Stubbs and Edvard Munch and thought was put into how these artists compare and contrast with one another in relation to their work. The children then used chalk and oil pastels to create two images of a pear in different styles. Hiba produced some excellent work and she should be very proud of the outcome.




## Pupil of the Week

Well done to Akeelia Y5.1, Christina Y5.2 and Saanvi Y5.3 for showing remarkable respect throughout last week.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher



### Dates

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