

30 September 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'If you feel pain, you're alive. If you feel other people's pain, you're a human being.'* – Leo Tolstoy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Everyone has been busy learning together as well as building new relationships. As a school we pay particular attention at the start of the year to the themes of respect, kindness and friendship. It has been wonderful to see the hundreds of little acts of kindness that children have shown to one another, as well as adults, along with fantastic manners.



With the nights drawing in, invariably it is starting to get darker earlier. It won't be long before the clocks go back! It is important children wear visible clothing and have their wits about them. The school does regular assemblies on road safety. Our Year 5 and Year 6 children have the opportunity to walk to and from school on their own at the request of their parents, however, it must be authorised by the school. Where possible, it is best practice that they do this with a friend so that they support each other for all or part of the journey home.

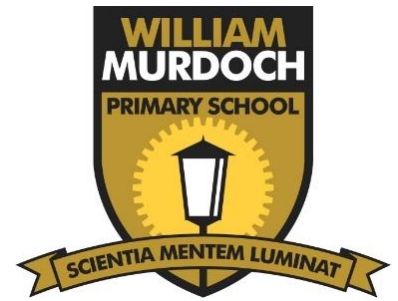
### Parents' Evening

Please note the autumn term Parents' Evening has been scheduled for the week commencing 10 October 2022. The Lower School Parents' Evening will take place on Monday 10 October 2022 with the Upper School Parents' Evening being held on Wednesday 12 October 2022. Parents' Evening will be held in the traditional way, with a five-minute appointment slot and an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books. A Parents' Evening appointment letter will be shared with you next week. Parent consultations will be supplemented with end of term report cards.

### National Poetry Day

This year, National Poetry Day takes place on Thursday 6 October 2022, and the theme is The Environment.

National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. Each year we come together because voices, words and stories help to bridge understanding in our community.



National Poetry Day generates an explosion of activity nationwide, thousands of amazing events across the UK – on doorsteps and at kitchen tables, in gardens and streets, in schools, libraries and public spaces both online and offline – all celebrating poetry’s power to bring people together.

Listening and reading poetry aloud is the gateway into a world of rhythm, rhyme and infectious musicality. Great poems use riddles, question and answer and raps to immediately appeal to younger readers, which is why many of our children love learning poetry in school. In order to celebrate this fantastic occasion, children across the school will spend an English lesson devoted to all things poetry. Many will learn about rhyming couplets, haikus, sonnets, limericks and much more. It sure will be an amazing day.

## Reading

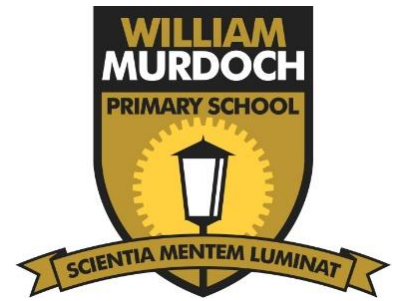
Last week I wrote to you about the importance of reading, and it is a drum I will unashamedly beat throughout the year.

Hearing children read is a vital part of helping them to make continued progress, whatever age and ability they are currently at. All children are required to read at home, to an adult, during the week as part of their home learning activities. Reading is an essential life skill and children do not make progress unless they practice at both home and school.

It is important when hearing your child read, that as well as focusing upon the fluency (reading with good speed and accuracy), time is spent developing their ability to use inference and deduction. This is particularly important when your child can “read” fluently. This is not the time to assume that you do not need to support them. This is where the higher order reading skills need to be developed so they are able to talk about the more complex aspects of the texts they are reading. After hearing your child read, please make a note of the book they have read in their Reading Record and sign that you have heard them read. The class teacher will not be countersigning the Reading Record. They will however keep a school-based record to monitor the reading progress of your child. This ongoing assessment of reading will be supplemented by termly PiRA Reading tests.

The BookTrust have developed some excellent reading guides for parents, and these are available using the following link: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>





## Bag Sale

Upper School rucksacks will be available for sale on Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 3.30pm from the Lower School hall. Payment by cash will be available on the day. Purchases after this date must be made using ParentPay.

Where parents have paid using ParentPay, the rucksack will be given to the child to take home.

## Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer Meeting

You will be aware that your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2023. The school has this week shared an information letter from the Local Authority for parents/carers on how to apply online. To support parents and pupils, answer your questions and explain the process as clearly as possible, a Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting has been arranged on **Thursday 6 October 2022** at **9.00am** in the Lower School hall and again at **3.30pm** in the Lower School hall.

Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. Your application must be submitted by **Monday 31 October 2022**.

## Severn Trent Water Assembly

On Friday 23 September 2022, Severn Trent Water delivered a special assembly to our Year 4, 5 & 6 pupils. Mrs Gill, from Severn Trent, talked to the pupils about the importance of staying hydrated throughout the day, and how doing so helps a young person's mood, focus and memory. She then went on to talk to pupils about the damage caused to the environment by single-use plastic bottles; a really important message that we regularly share with the children at William Murdoch.

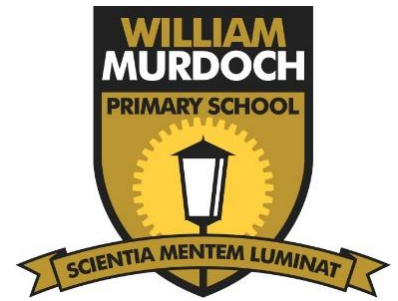
On Friday 30 September 2022, Mrs Gill returned to school to talk to pupils in Year 1, 2 & 3. The children learnt about how to stay hydrated, and that they should drink 5 cups of water per day. They were also told about how plastic in the oceans is damaging wildlife and underwater habitats.

Severn Trent Water have asked if parents can complete a very short survey to help them analyse the impact of the two assemblies. That survey can be found at the following link, and we would really appreciate you giving a minute or two of your time to complete it:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=mR5c4eN7XEmXjuynuOqfMR6MwD9FKgRJkvHKVy10yQBUMzI0WjM1WlJINDZaNFpYM0ICQURCM0VIUC4u>



# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Following the two assemblies, we have decided to ban all single-use plastic bottles in school. We all have a responsibility for the world we live in, and as a community we need to do all we can to contribute to tackling climate change and environmental degradation. We have already acted to make this decision possible by giving all pupils a William Murdoch water bottle in July to commemorate the Commonwealth Games.

Please make sure that from Monday onwards,

pupils only come to school with a reusable water bottle, which can be refilled throughout the day using the water filter taps in all classrooms. We very much appreciate your support in tackling this serious issue.

## Flu Vaccine

A reminder that Flu Vaccine Forms are to be returned to the class teacher on Monday 3 October 2022.

## Aston Villa Foundation Soccer School

During the October half-term holiday (24th-28th October), the Aston Villa Foundation are running a series of 'Soccer Schools' for 5-12 year olds across Birmingham. The locations of the events are:

Aston (Academy Building, Villa Park)  
Burntwood (Highfields Primary School)  
Harborne (Lordswood Girls' School)  
Sutton Coldfield (Sutton Coldfield Town FC)

The cost of the Soccer School is £80 for the whole week, and the days run from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Children who attend will be provided with lunch. If you would like your child to attend, please visit the following weblink: <https://tickets.avfc.co.uk/en-GB/categories/fitc-holiday-courses>

The attached flyer, along with the weblink, gives more details about the week.



## WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

EMAIL: [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk), WEB: [www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](http://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk)

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

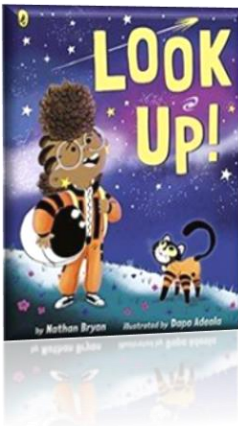
## Nursery/Reception Places for September 2022



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



#### **Look Up! - Nathan Bryan and Dapo Adeola (illustrator)**

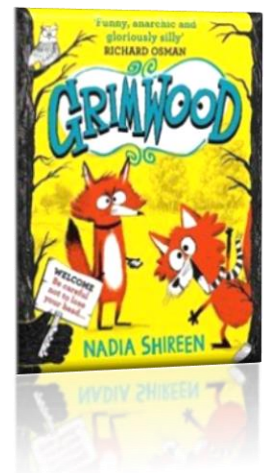
Children join Rocket on a joyous, life-affirming adventures with the first book in her series Look Up! and the later title, Clean up! The ever-curious Rocket explores space, the natural world, and even fights plastic pollution. But will her big brother ever look up from his phone?

Full of passion and heart-warming energy, Rocket's questions and positive approach to life make the books a joy to read aloud, and the illustrations provide much fun for younger readers.

### Upper School

#### **Grimwood – Nadia Shireen**

There was a special edition of Nadia Shireen's Grimwood for World Book Day. I enjoyed reading it so much that I thought that this book would be fantastic. Children can spend even more time in the woods with Nancy and Ted the fox cubs finding out all about life on the wild side. Whether they're evading the ferocious street-cat Princess Buttons, dallying with dramatic ducks, or learning how to play Treebonk, they are having many adventures and learning about what makes 'home' along the way. Nadia Shireen's anarchic humour is warm as well as off the wall. Grimwood is full of hilarious illustrations, super daft characters and brilliantly silly stories for readers who are growing in confidence and ability.



## Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

### Liyana and Younis – Nursery

In Nursery the children have spent lots of time thinking about themselves as individuals. One particular activity that the children were tasked with was to create a self-portrait of themselves. After looking at many examples of portraits the children had a go at creating their own. Liyana and Younis worked very hard on their self-portraits and put a lot of thought into the art work that they created. It is clear that both of these children are very talented artists.



### Sumaiyah - Y4.3

In Year 4 the children have been learning about shading using dark and light tones. They created pencil sketches of an apple and ensured that there were areas of reflection and others of shadow in the work. Sumaiyah created an excellent sketch and took lots of care when adding detail to her work. The apple drawing that Sumaiyah created certainly has a three-dimensional feel to it and she should be very pleased with the final result.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

#### Dates

3 October 2022	Flu Vaccination Forms to be returned
4 October 2022	Bag Sale
6 October 2022	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meetings
20 October 2022	Pupils break up for the half-term break
21 October 2022	Staff Training Day