

4 November 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

***'Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as truth. Be critical and evaluate what you believe in.'* – Aristotle**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a good half-term break and some much-needed time with friends and family. I am sure you are looking forward to the term ahead - it is always a very busy time of the year with lots of festivals and celebrations. On Tuesday 8 November 2022, we look forward to Year 2's special assembly celebrating the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev. I would like to pass on our best wishes from all at William Murdoch Primary School to those pupils, parents and staff who will be marking this auspicious occasion.

Bonfire Night



*Remember, remember the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, Treason and Plot.
I see no reason why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.*

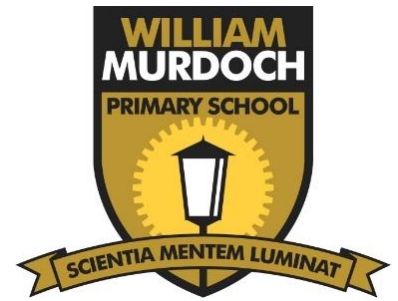
On November 5th, 1606, people in London lit bonfires to mark the anniversary of the foiling of the plot to kill King James I and blow up the Houses of Parliament, beginning a tradition of not only lighting fires, but later the use of fireworks which has survived right through to the present day.

Please read the below information on firework safety and the law around the use of fireworks and discuss this with your child. Not only could they be putting themselves and others at serious risk of harm, they could also be committing a criminal offence if they set off fireworks in a public place.

Be aware it is illegal to:

- Have or use adult fireworks if you're under the age of 18. Adult fireworks are any firework except for a cap, cracker snap, novelty match, party popper, serpent, sparkler or throw down.
- Set off fireworks between 11.00pm and 7.00am. There are different arrangements for special occasions like Guy Fawkes' Night (midnight), Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year (1.00am).
- Have professional fireworks without a licence.
- Sell fireworks without a licence.





Figures show more children rather than adults get hurt by fireworks. Between 2011 - 2014 over 350 pre-school children, some only a year old, were treated in hospital for fireworks injuries. **Here are some facts about fireworks and the potential risks of not using them properly:**

- Sparklers get five times hotter than cooking oil.
- A rocket can reach speeds of 150mph.
- A firework shell can reach as high as 200m.
- Three sparklers burning together generate the same heat as a blowtorch.
- You see the explosion of a firework before hearing it because sound travels at 761mph but light travels at 671 million mph.
- The majority of firework-related injuries happen at family or private parties.
- Around half of all injuries are to children under the age of 17.
- The most common injuries are to hands, followed by the eyes and face.
- Fireworks are safer now than they have been in the past, thanks to safety standards. Make sure your fireworks comply with British Standard 7114 or its European equivalent. Instructions should be in English.

Often a safe way to enjoy these seasonal activities is to attend a professionally organised event. Although having your own fireworks party or celebrating with family and friends can be great fun providing you do it safely and considerately. If you are holding your own fireworks party please don't put your family and friends at risk.

Dark Nights

Now that the clocks have gone back and it is getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you are out especially near roads. There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safe. Please see attached leaflet for more information.

Change of Circumstances

We ask if you have any change of circumstance that could be relevant to school that you inform us as soon as possible. This could be as simple as change of address or telephone number, but also if you think you may now be eligible for Free School Meals or a change in family dynamics that may unsettle your child in school. General changes can be reported to the Main Office either by telephone or email. Changes of a sensitive nature can be reported either to myself or the class teacher.

Medicines in School

Prescription medicines will only be administered at school:

- When it would be detrimental to the pupil's health or school attendance not to do so **and**
- Where we have parents' written consent

The school will only accept prescribed medicines that are:

- In-date
- Labelled
- Provided in the original container, as dispensed by the pharmacist, and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage

The school will accept insulin that is inside an insulin pen or pump rather than its original container, but it must be in date.

School Meals



We still have a small number of parents who are not selecting their child's meal on School Grid in time resulting in them receiving the default meal option of a jacket potato. A polite reminder to ensure school meals are ordered in advance of the week ahead. Parents can in fact order meals right up to the end of term.

School Photographs

For parents who have not yet purchased their child's school photos and would like to do so, please visit <https://starvisionphotography.co.uk>. Parents who have purchased their child's photos and have selected the school as their delivery point, you will receive them early next week along with information on how to purchase class photos.

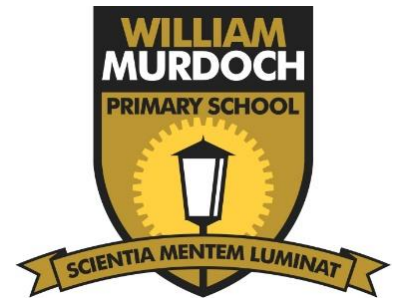
Harvest Donations



The harvest food items donated before the half-term break were collected on Thursday of this week by The Handsworth Association, who work to help combat poverty and hunger across Birmingham. Many thanks again for your kind generosity.

Reception Reading Stay & Play Session

Reception will be holding a Reading Stay & Play session from 2.15pm-3.15pm on Friday 11 November 2022. During this session we will provide you with an opportunity to observe how we model reading stories with the children. You will then be given tips and ideas on how you can support your child by reading with them at home.



Community News

As you are aware from time to time we send home leaflets for a variety of things, we include in our newsletter messages from the wider community and we also mention other items at parents' requests. Can we reiterate this is not an endorsement from the school for any of the products, events or services and we must emphasise that you must carry out your own checks to validate any of the information. If you are interested in something shared vis school, please contact the relevant parties for further information. The exception to the above is any after school club or holiday club that take place on the school premises as school ensures that these providers adhere to the schools safeguarding procedures.



Healthy Start Food Vouchers

Despite being eligible, many families in Birmingham are not registering for their Healthy Start food vouchers, entitling them to £4.25 of free food per week.

- To qualify for Healthy Start, applicants must be 10+ weeks pregnant and/or have at least one child under 4 and be in receipt of benefits such as Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.
- Healthy Start food vouchers can be exchanged for milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables and pulses.
- For more information - Healthy Start Website [Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)
- To find your local Healthy Start Vitamin collection site please use our postcode finder [Healthy Start vitamin distribution sites | Birmingham City Council](#)

In addition, Birmingham City Council have launched a campaign, called [#Help in Brum](#), to help families who may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, transport and housing. Please see leaflet attached for more information.



WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



Felix after the Rain - Dunja Jogan

Felix after the Rain is a book all children and adults can relate to. I enjoyed it so much that I am having to recommend it again after re-reading it the other week.

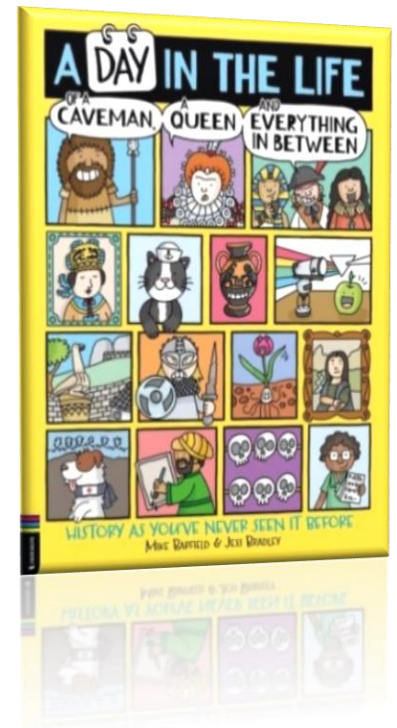
This book will appeal to all who worry about their worries and its uplifting message celebrates the hopeful nature of life in all its fullness. The child who empties the suitcase epitomises the concept that empathy is more than sympathy...it is about action. It is those actions that allow Felix to live again. A beautiful book illustrated with powerful words and pictures that transform us as readers.

Upper School

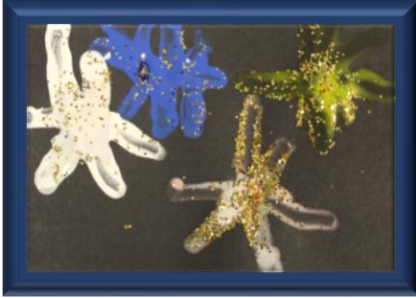
A Day in the Life of a Caveman, a Queen and Everything In Between - Mike Barfield & Jess Bradley

History in the form of a graphic novel! A fantastic way to help children develop a broad and interlinked knowledge of human history in bitesize chunks with amusing illustrations.

Not a book packed solely with facts, but a fun exploration of the life and times of the historical figures and events that have shaped today's world.



Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



Hana (R.3)

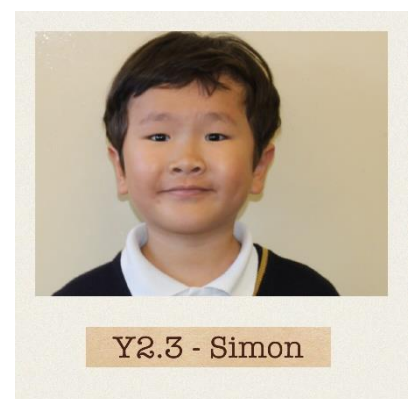
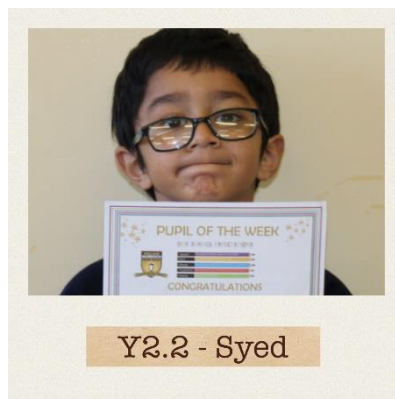
In Reception the children have been creating firework scenes in recognition of bonfire night. The art created included many different materials in a range of colours. Hana produced a piece of work with a real glow, and it almost looks like a photograph of actual fireworks in the night sky.

Hafsah (Y5.2)

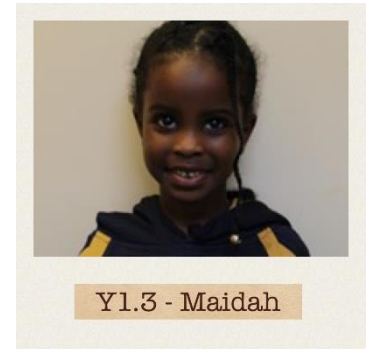
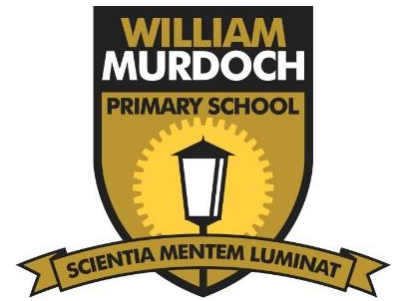
In Year 5 the children have been learning about abstract art and had a go at creating their own work in a style similar to that of different famous artists. Hafsah created a range of abstract shapes and used the primary colours very effectively in the work that she created.



Pupil of the week



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Well done to pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 for their superb attitude shown in school this week. Keep up the good work!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for supporting all of the procedures we have in place, as well as the children who continue to exhibit excellent learning behaviours.

Have a relaxing weekend.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mr. Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

8 November 2022	Year 2 Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Celebration Assembly & Class Parties
11 November 2022	Year 6 visit to the Black Country Museum
11 November 2022	Reception 'Stay & Play' Session
16 November 2022	Reception Green Bus Trip
18 November 2022	Children in Need

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