

7 October 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Life is not fair, it never was, it isn't now and it won't ever be. Do not fall into the trap. The entitlement trap, of feeling like you're a victim. You are not.' – Matthew McConaughey

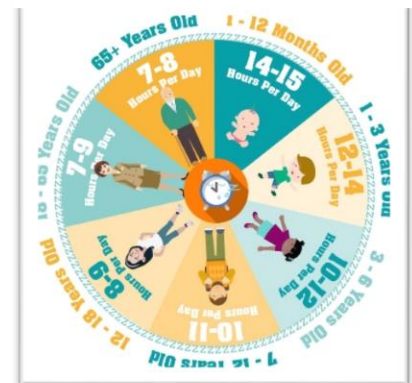
Dear Parents/Carers,

The importance of sleep for promoting growth, learning and wellbeing in children, adolescents and adults has long been reported. It might be argued that as we are becoming a 24-hour culture of connectivity fuelled by television, computers and mobile phones, the need for sleep education to develop good sleep habits is needed now more than ever.

Both animal and human studies have reported that the quality and amount of sleep can have a noticeable impact on learning and memory. Research suggests there are a number of ways in which getting a good night's sleep aids our thinking skills. Firstly, when we are sleep-deprived, our ability to focus is reduced and so learning feels harder. Secondly, when we are tired, we process information slower so our learning is less efficient. Finally, sleep plays an important role in the formation of memories which is an essential part of the learning process.

How much sleep do we need?

www.thesleepcharity.org.uk



Harvest Festival



With food poverty an increasing issue for many families up and down the country, the annual WMPS harvest donation to local food banks and charities is more important than ever. We are asking all children to bring in some non-perishable food items such as: tins, packets, pasta, cereal, biscuits, etc. Please do not send in any perishable items as their life span is not long enough for how

the food is distributed. The food donations are to be brought into school during the weeks commencing 10 and 17 October 2022. Many thanks in advance for supporting this initiative.

Parents of Year 6 Pupils

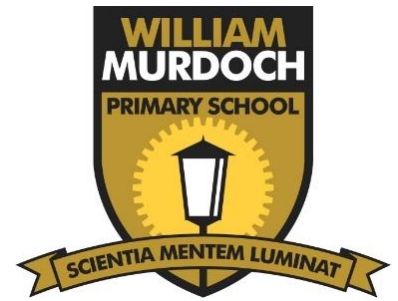
Families with children due to start secondary school in September 2023 (i.e. those children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012) are now able to apply online for secondary school places. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2022 and places will be offered on 1 March 2023.

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



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.

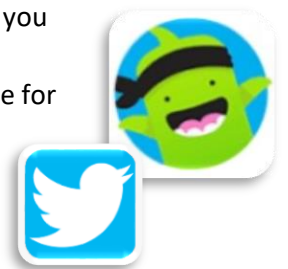
Homework

Homework is a staple of school life, and of home life. After all, almost every one of us will have done homework ourselves as a child and most of us will be drafted in to help with it at some point as a parent, carer or grandparent. Although schools are not *obliged* to set homework, and some don't, at WMPS we set daily homework and expect children to do it.

The only homework that will be marked regularly in school is spellings, knowledge organiser quizzes and Maths. We also encourage daily reading (at least 20 minutes a day).

Our Communication to You

Please take the time to read emails sent to you. We try to make sure that everything you are sent relates to your child, so nothing is irrelevant. If you would like further information on any email we send, please contact the class teacher or the Main Office for assistance. We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter where we post reminders, useful information, live updates from school and other community events of interest. Don't miss out, or let your child miss out! Please keep up to date with everything happening at William Murdoch Primary School via email, Class Dojo and Twitter.



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be held next week where you can find out from your child's teacher(s) how they have settled into their new class and year group. We will also be asking parents to complete a short questionnaire on the day. It will not take more than 3 minutes and will provide vital information to help plan our school improvement priorities. Many thanks in advance for taking the time to complete this.

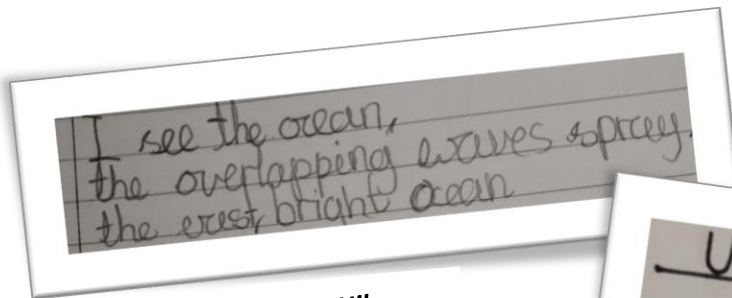
The Lower School Parents' Evening will take place on Monday 10 October 2022 with the Upper School Parents' Evening being held on Wednesday 12 October 2022. Appointments for parents' evening are for 5 minutes. If you have a particular concern that may take longer than this to discuss, please see your child's class teacher and arrange an appointment at another time.

National Poetry Day

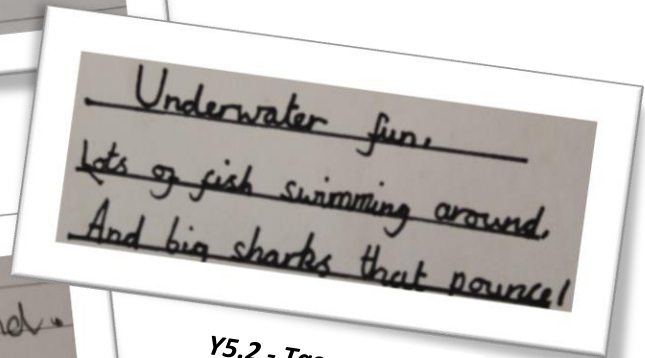
Pupils this week got to engage in a variety of creative and fun poetry this week as National Poetry Day 2022 was marked on Thursday 6 October 2022. National Poetry Day is a UK-wide celebration of poetry which aims to encourage everyone to enjoy, discover and share poetry.

Each year group looked at different poetic genres such as rhyming couplets, haikus, rhyming songs, free verse poems as well as many others.

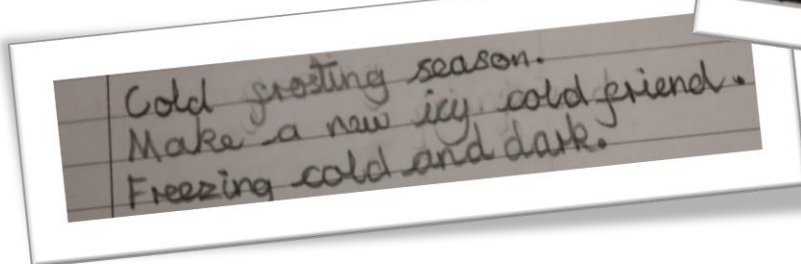
This year's National Poetry Day was based around the environment and so Year 5 made some wonderful Haiku poems based around the environment in the novel they have been studying in English. Here are just some of the best ones.



Y5.1 - Hiba



Y5.2 - Tasneem



Y5.3 - Antonia

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



It Fell from the Sky - Terry Fan & Eric Fan

The Fan Brothers' book was awarded the Irma Black Gold Award from thousands of children across the US, Canada, Europe, Asia and the UEA.

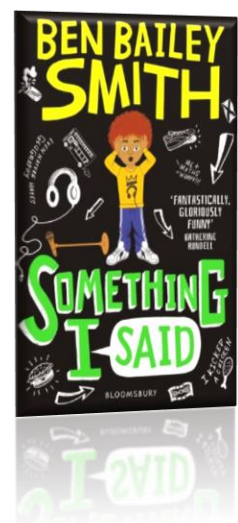
A colourful wonder falls from the sky into a garden. Everyone needs a marvel in their life. But, when a greedy spider takes the opportunity to charge a fee to see it, what will happen? Illustrated with delicate, dreamlike images, this is a must for anyone who loves insects – and marbles!

Upper School

Something I Said – Ben Bailey Smith

For fluent readers looking for more than just a great book, the brilliant comedian, actor, rapper and screenwriter Ben Bailey Smith shares more about the funny and relatable teenage comedian, Car, in Something I Said.

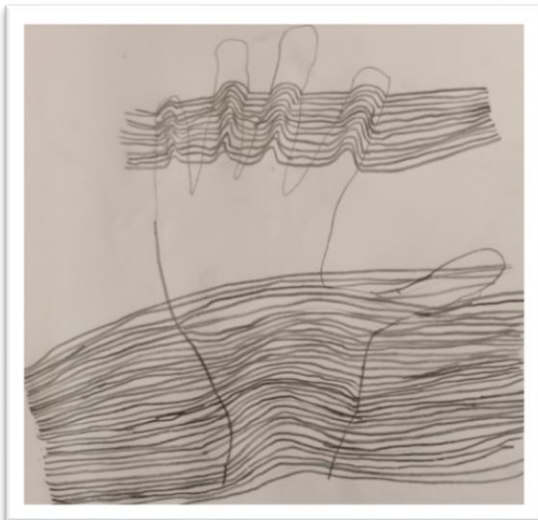
It's a journey of self-discovery with a viral video difference. How far will Car go to get a laugh and succeed as a comedian? Does fame and fortune come with a price? Car finds out what really matters in this touching tale of family and friendship, told honestly and with plenty of laughs.



Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

Hashir and Annaya R.3

The children in Reception have been reading 'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allen Ahlberg. They then thought about the various parts of the body and specifically focussed on the skeleton and how it works. The children thought about the various bones in their hands and some fantastic artwork was created afterwards. Hashir and Annaya produced excellent pieces of work and put a lot of attention into the details that they used.



Faraaz Y3.2

In Year 3 the children have been learning about the different ways that artists use lines in their work. The children then used a selection of lines to create artistic representations of their hands. Once these initial drawings were completed a number of different line types were added over the top. Faraaz worked very hard on the work that he produced and he should feel very proud of himself.

Pupil of the Week

Well done to our pupils in Year 4 for showing remarkable effort throughout the week.



Another busy week has gone by and - blink and you will miss it - the first month of the school year has finished. I suppose time flies when you are having fun!

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

10 October 2022	Lower School Parents' Evening
12 October 2022	Upper School Parents' Evening
20 October 2022	Pupils break up for the half-term break
21 October 2022	Staff Training Day
31 October 2022	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Deadline
31 October 2022	Pupils return to school