

9 December 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life.'* – Sandra Carey

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we countdown to what will be an extremely busy end to the term, I wanted to thank parents for supporting the Christmas festivities and performances. School is a partnership and I am grateful we have such wonderful partners to call upon. A reminder that a full breakdown of all our Christmas activities including dates and timings for performances are listed at the end of this newsletter.

There are a number of Christmas performances planned for next week. Year 3 and Nursery/Reception will be staging their nativity shows. Parents in those year groups are invited to attend and further details on the performances have been shared on a separate letter. The annual Staff Panto will run next Friday for Upper School pupils and promises to be a lot of fun. As does the theatre panto performance for children in Lower School on Tuesday. We will round off the week with Christmas parties on Friday afternoon.

Still on the theme of Christmas, and as we approach the end of term and the holiday season, we are all too aware of the heightened financial pressures that many are facing at the moment. As such, this year more than any other, we really want to emphasise that our staff never expect to receive any 'thank you' gifts from pupils and no parent should ever feel that they have to buy a present or contribute towards a collection for any member of staff. Any gifts are always very much appreciated and greatly received, however nothing beats a home-made Christmas card with a few kind words inside; they are gestures that really do mean a lot!

### Christmas Cards

The school is running a Christmas card postal service until Friday 16 December 2022. Pupils will have the opportunity to post their cards at break and lunchtime in the post box placed outside the foyer to the Lower School hall. They will then be sorted and distributed the next day to the classes by a selection of Year 6 pupils.

### Christmas Lunch

As part of the Christmas celebrations this year, the school will again treat all children to a **free** Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 14 December 2022**. All pupils will have received a Christmas lunch letter where parents are to select their child's menu option. Lunches on this day will be unavailable to order through SchoolGrid.



**Christmas Jumper Day**



The school will be taking part in the ‘Christmas Jumper Day’ appeal on Friday 16 December 2022. Pupils and staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumper to help raise funds for Save the Children. We would like everyone to take part so please send your child into school on the day wearing their Christmas jumper. It will also be a non-uniform day. The contribution for this will be £1.00. If you don’t have a Christmas jumper there is no need to buy one, why not design your own by adding some tinsel to a colourful old jumper? Let your imagination go!

**Reception Visit to Hatton Adventure World**

The children in Reception went to Hatton Adventure World on Tuesday as part of their ‘Our Environments and Celebration’ topic, where they embarked on a magical Christmas journey. The children met lots of different farm animals, visited Santa and his Secret Toy Grotto, where they all received a special Christmas present for their brilliant behaviour.



**Young People’s Parliament**

On Wednesday 7 December 2022, our 4 YPP delegates and Mr Harris were invited to attend a question time event at Birmingham Council House. Our pupils, and pupils from other local schools, had the chance to discuss important issues in our community including fly tipping and climate change. Pupils met with four Birmingham City

Councillors and were fortunate to have a tour of the chambers where important political issues are

debated. Following that, pupils were able to visit the Lord Mayor's Office where important meetings have taken place, including with former Presidents of the United States.

### School Games Dance Competition

Miss Tregellis took twelve Year 6 girls to a School Games Dance Competition this week. The standard of the other schools was very high, and the girls had practised every lunchtime to prepare and perfect their dance routine. Starting at 10.00am, it was a long and busy day for everyone involved. Each performance was judged and scored by all schools involved and William Murdoch was placed third out of eight schools! This is an excellent result and the girls should be incredibly proud of their achievement.

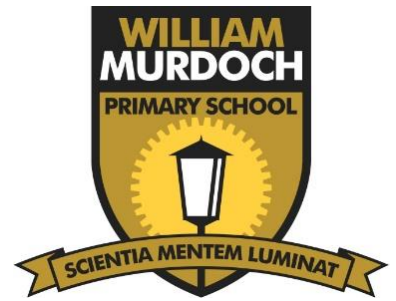


### Roman Gladiator Workshop

This Thursday, Year 4 were visited by a Roman gladiator. Fitted with full armour, a sword and shield, he educated the children on life as a Roman soldier. The pupils learned about how soldiers were recruited into the army and how they were trained. Year 4 were also taught various battle strategies and were informed of what became of fallen enemies. The Roman gladiator also taught the children about the different parts of the Roman baths and explained how Romans made use of the pool, sauna, steam and massage treatments. Year 4 had an amazing time and learnt lots of new information related to their History topic in an engaging way!



# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



## Children in Need

On Friday 18 November 2022, the school took part in the BBC Children in Need Appeal. The total amount raised was £801.00, which is a fantastic achievement. Each year our parents and children continually amaze me with their support and generosity.



## Projects

All pupils were set an autumn term project back in September, and the deadline to submit these to their class teacher is Monday 12 December 2022. Pupils should continue to work on their projects during their weekends, and submit a photo of their progress on Class Dojo every two weeks. The titles of the projects which were set for each year group were as follows:

- Reception: Look at Me
- Year 1: People That Help Us
- Year 2: The Royal Family
- Year 3: Law and Power
- Year 4: Ancient Egypt
- Year 5: Ancient Rome
- Year 6: The Tudors



Projects have been a long-standing tradition of the school and provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their research, analysing, organisation and presentation skills. It also provides a chance for parents to get involved by helping their child complete their project.



## Winter Food Boxes and Activities

As part of the winter Bring it on Brum! programme, which is supported by the Department of Education and Birmingham City Council to help support families with the rise of living costs, families are able to request winter food boxes. All families and households with and without children eligible for benefits-related free school meals can apply. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/activity-packs-and-food-boxes/>.

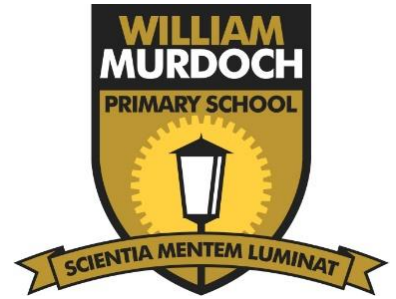
**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Bring it on Brum are also working in partnership with Handsworth Association of Schools in delivering winter activities for children during the Christmas break. For more information, please visit <https://www.haos.org.uk/news.php?story=62>.



## Parents of Nursery Pupils

Applications are now open for the 2023 Reception intake. The application must be made directly with the local authority and **must** be submitted by Sunday 15 January 2023. Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. If you need any help or support in completing the application for your child, please speak to Mrs Kullar in the first instance or contact the Main Office.

## Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

### Ameera Y6.2

In Year 6 the children have been learning about Leonardo da Vinci and his anatomical drawings. The children learnt about using proportions in their drawings and had a go at creating pencil images of their hands. Ameera used a range of different lines and added details very effectively when creating a sketch of her hand. It has been encouraging to see Ameera excelling in Art throughout her time at school.

### Annaya R3

In Reception the children have been learning about the 'Winter' season. Some time was spent in class considering different fabrics that could be used to keep people warm in the colder months. The children then used a variety of these materials to create their very own winter coats. Annaya worked hard on her artwork and put lots of thought into the whole process.



## 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

## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School



#### **Maybe You Might - Imogen Foxell & Anna Cunha**

The illustrator dedicates the book to her great grandmother, one of the indigenous people of Brazil and the story is clearly a plea for us all to think about our treatment of the planet and not to give up when the scale of the environmental challenge facing us seems so huge. What first strikes you about this picture book are the beautiful and unusual illustrations - simple shapes and evocative colours that move from browns to greens, always muted and rich. They conjure a bare and barren landscape that is slowly transformed into a vibrant and plentiful rainforest. The story is told in the first person and so as readers, we never know the name of the little girl in the story, suggesting it could be any one of us. The powerful beginning tells us that "they said I couldn't change the world" and this hopeful story says to both the girl in the story and to the reader that maybe you might. The little girl explains that in the place she was born there is

now just desert, where once there were rivers and trees. One day she finds a seed and plants the seed in the dried-up river bed. Despite the protestations of those around her telling her that the seed will never grow, she continues to protect and nurture the seed until it grows into an amazing fruit tree – and so producing more seeds that can be planted. A great book to share with your child, to reflect on life and themselves in a very child friendly manner.

### Upper School

#### **The Miraculous Sweetmakers: The Frost Fair - Natasha Hastings & Alex T Smith (illustrator)**

Thomasina's family own a sweet shop and she longs to take over the business one day. However, since the death of her twin brother, Thomasina's dad barely talks to her and her mum has taken to her bed with grief and no longer speaks to anyone. Thomasina helps to make sweets to sell in the shop and is in charge of running the household.

One winter, the River Thames freezes over solid enough for people to walk on. A number of local businesses decide to set up stalls on the Thames, including Thomasina's dad. She helps him to make extra sweets and to sell them on the Thames and it becomes known as 'The Frost Fair'. She also meets Anne, who works in a local apothecary. Thomasina hasn't really had a proper friend since her brother Arthur died, so she enjoys her newfound friendship with Anne. One night, Thomasina has a strange dream about a conjurer named Inigo who promises that he can conjure her brother back from the dead in exchange for the temporary loss of her memories of him. She must visit 'The Other Frost Fair'



with Inigo, where she encounters frost folk, frost beasts and the creepy Father Winter. A brilliant creepy tale involving magic, but also rooted in a family dealing with grief, *The Miraculous Sweetmakers* is an atmospheric read. Particularly appropriate to read on a cold winter's night, children looking for something atmospheric and intriguing will enjoy this book. I enjoyed the relationships between the characters and the twists and turns the story took – I was never quite sure what was going to happen next!

### Pupil of the Week



On a final note, the weather has turned really cold in the last few days and will remain so in the coming week. Please make sure that your child has a named coat in school for play and lunchtimes.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation. Have a relaxing weekend.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

#### Dates

12 December 2022	Project Deadline for Pupils
14 December 2022	Pupil Christmas Lunch
14 December 2022	Nursery AM & Reception Nativity at 9.30am
15 December 2022	Nursery PM & Reception Nativity at 2.00pm
16 December 2022	Year 3 Christmas Assembly at 9.00am
16 December 2022	Christmas Parties
16 December 2022	Christmas Jumper Day
16 December 2022	Pupils Break-up