

18 November 2022

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

***'Things work out for the best for those who make the best of how things work out.'* – John Wooden**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Educational visits are a hugely important part of our curriculum and add to the 'wider offer' at our school. It has also been wonderful to see some of our children return to competitive school sports and team events over the last few weeks. Well done to the children who took part in the mini football tournaments recently. Everyone did their very best and some great games were played.



This weekend marks the start of the World Cup in Qatar. Mr Matthews held a World Cup draw on Monday and over the course of the coming week children will

be learning about the country they have been drawn. Naturally we will be supporting England as well, and there will be time for children to watch part of the game on Monday in school.

We are mindful that occasions like these where children watch live tournament matches together are special moments that are often remembered and treasured in years to come. For this reason, although children are expected to come to school in the normal school uniform, they will be able to change into their England top if they have one or a top in the England colours of red or white. Come on England!



### Children In Need

The school community has been supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal this week. It was great to see so many children marking the day by wearing bright colours. Children in Need merchandise sold out quickly and the biscuit sale was a complete sell out as well. Many thanks to you all for supporting this annual appeal. I will write to you in due course to confirm the amount of funds raised.



## Reception Green Bus Ride

The children in Reception went on an exciting bus ride around their local area as part of their Environments topic this term. This trip gave children the opportunity to identify and learn about key features and landmarks in their local environment. All the children were excited to see familiar routes and places whilst on the bus ride.



## Christmas Card Competition

To celebrate Christmas, we would like pupils to help us to create our official school Christmas Card. This card will be sent to William Murdoch Primary School friends and supporters. As such it must show both the originality and skill for which the school's pupils are justifiably known. The children

**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



have been provided with a template today and they can use any non-computer-based resource they wish to use to create their design, e.g. pencil, crayon, felt-tip pens etc. Please avoid using chalk as it does not print well. The printers have asked for a physical copy and these should be handed into the class teacher. The deadline for all entries is now **Monday 28 November 2022**.

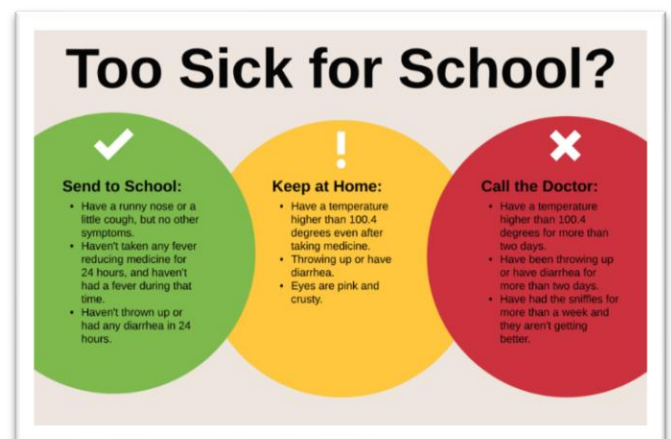
## Sickness & Absence

From time to time children are sick (vomit) either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or diarrhoea.

In the Health Protection Agency document, “Guidelines for the Control of Infection and Communicable Disease in School and Early Years Settings”, the guidance is:

### Diarrhoea and Vomiting exclusion

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any staff member or child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school or early years setting until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the ‘48 hour rule’) and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.



**If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours.** We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school. As an example, if your child is sick at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunch on Thursday, provided there have not been any further episodes of vomiting.

Thank you for your understanding with this.

## Sport Leaders



and are looking forward to putting on games for our Year 4 pupils during lunchtimes. Well done to our 12 Sport Leaders!

Over the past few months, 12 pupils from Year 6 have been training to become Sport Leaders with our Aston Villa coach. The pupils have learnt how to put on challenging and enjoyable games and activities for other pupils to take part in. They have recently completed their training and become official Sport Leaders- it is a qualification which will stay with them until they are 18. They were awarded their badges in assembly this morning,



## Forest School in the Autumn - Coppicing



During Autumn, the woodland trees in our Forest School put on a magnificent show of autumnal colours rivalling any Bonfire Night or Diwali fireworks display.

Why and how does this happen? Because of the change in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green colour disappears and the yellows oranges and reds, which are the colours of the stored sugars within the leaves are revealed to us in their full splendour.

Late autumn and winter historically was the time of year when our ancestors, from the Stone Age down to more modern times, practised the traditional woodland technique of coppicing. Trees, such as hazel, willow and chestnut are cut down at their base to create a 'stool' where new shoots will grow. This gives a ready, renewable supply of timber for hedge laying, wicker basket weaving and other uses. Hazel is usually coppiced

on an eight-year cycle. Coppicing has many benefits to biodiversity, wildlife and the trees themselves. To encourage this regenerative process,

the children in Reception and Year 5 have been learning how to coppice, using junior hacksaws, tenon saws, bowsaws and Devonshire billhooks. In future months we will use the coppiced wood to learn how to weave fencing through our hazel structure that surrounds the orchard trees.

## Anti-Bullying Week



Children celebrated Anti-Bullying Week this week by coming into school wearing odd socks on Monday 14th November. Celebrating what makes us all unique was a great way to start the week. Throughout the week, pupils completed various activities related to this year's 'Reach Out' theme. Children had the opportunity to consider how our school deals

with bullying and have strengthened their understanding of what to do if they ever find themselves in a bullying type situation.

## Photos

Your child's class group photos are now available to purchase online. An email was sent out last week with the relevant details and codes which you will need to be able to view and buy. Parents have until this Sunday 20 November 2022 to take advantage of the £5.00 discount offer and the option to have your orders delivered to the school next week.



## 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.



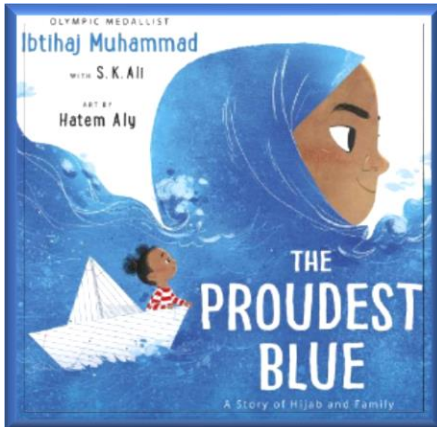
## Nursery/Reception Places for September 2022

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



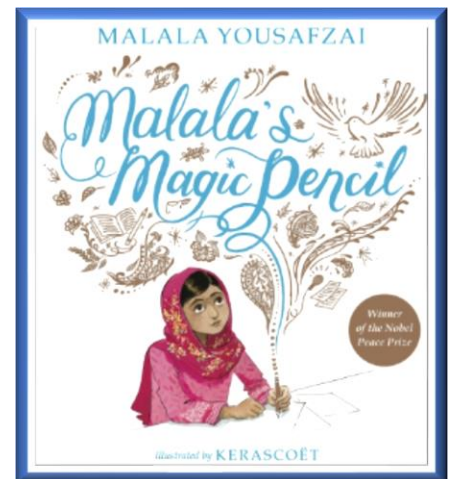
### **The Proudest Blue - Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali & Hatem Aly (illustrator)**

Faizah is proud of her older sister Asiya who is wearing her hijab to school for the first time and looks forward to the day when she will do the same. Asiya has chosen a blue hijab that is 'like the sky on a sunny day' and 'like the ocean waving to the sky', words and pictures complementing each other and reflecting positive images. Both sisters gain strength from their Muslim faith, symbolised for them by the hijab and from each other, and this helps them to cope with prejudice and hurtful words. This is an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond shared by siblings and of being proud of who you are, from Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

### Upper School

### **Malala's Magic Pencil - Malala Yousafzai & Kerascoët (illustrator)**

Malala is the brave young woman from Pakistan who achieved international fame after her fearless campaigning for girls' rights to education led to her being attacked and almost killed by the Taliban. The title of this book refers to the childhood wish of Malala Yousafzai, for a magic pencil with which she could redraw reality, drawn from an idea from a favourite TV programme. As she grew older, Malala wished for bigger and bigger things. She saw a world that needed fixing. Even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realised that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true. This beautifully illustrated book tells Malala's story, in her own words, for a younger audience and shows them the worldview that allowed her to hold on to hope and to make her voice heard even in the most difficult of times.



**Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week**



**Y4.1 Sufwan**

In Year 4 the children have been learning about tints and shades and creating images with shadows. Sufwan produced an excellent drawing focussing on a piece of fruit and used a pencil very carefully. The children in Year 4 have enjoyed having the chance to improve their sketching skills and there are many talented artists showing their potential!

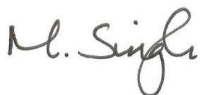
**Y1.2 Imaan**

Imaan produced an excellent piece of work using a wide range of different materials in a selection of colours. It was encouraging to see so much care being taken when producing the art work. The children have enjoyed having the chance to experiment with a wide range of materials in the work that they produce



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

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

**Dates**

22 November 2022	Quidditch Workshops (Y4-Y6)
23 November 2022	Year 5 Geography Workshop and Activity Sessions
25 November 2022	Reception 'Phonics Stay & Play' Session