

10 December 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

***'You'll never be criticised by someone who is doing more than you. You'll always be criticised by someone doing less. Remember that.'* – Denzel Washington**

Dear Parents/Carers,

There are some Christmas performances planned for next week with both Year 3 and Nursery staging their nativity shows to other year groups. As you will be well aware, we have decided not to host audiences again this year and I have made the reasons for this really clear in my previous letters. The swift rise in cases of the Omicron variant and further restrictions has underlined the need for that decision. All performances are being recorded and links will be shared with you via your Class Dojo account.

COVID-19 cases in school are currently relatively low (compared to Local Authority data) and although there has been an increase in isolated cases, we are doing all we can to give our children the best experience of Christmas possible. We are managing all of the things that we are currently doing to try and minimise risk and protect the Christmas break for our children, families and staff. I am sure that you all want to be able to spend some quality family time over Christmas and visit those near and dear.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day for pupils and staff at WMPS is on Friday 17 December 2021 – the same day as Christmas parties. There is no expectation to buy a Christmas jumper; decorating school uniform or wearing an alternative Christmas accessory is fine. We ask for a donation of £1 for this non-uniform day, with all proceeds going to Save the Children.



This year we are being very cautious, and we do not want children bringing in more items from home than they need to. Therefore, we have taken a decision as a school to buy items for the Christmas Parties rather than ask for food donations.

Parent Governor

Following the recent parent governor elections only one nomination was received. Consequently, Mr S Kumar, parent of Hashwin, Mavin and Siyan, has been appointed to the school governing board as a parent representative.

Termly Report Card

Next week your child will bring home their very first Termly Report Card. The report card will share the latest assessment data for your child. A covering letter will also be sent which will provide more details on the report as well as giving a context to the data being shared.

Staffing

We are pleased to announce some new additions to our school staffing team. We would like to welcome Miss S Ashley who has been appointed as class teacher in the Reception class R.1, and Miss K Begum who has been appointed as class teacher in the Year 1 class Y1.1. They will both be in school next week to get to know the children and their families and will be well placed to hit the ground running after the Christmas break. We also welcome Miss K Kaur (teaching assistant in Year 5) to the WMPS family.

Christmas Cards

The school is running a limited Christmas card postal service. Children are asked to bring in their Christmas cards on Monday 15 December 2021. They will then be sorted and distributed on Thursday. Please help your child put the name and class clearly on the envelopes so we know where the Christmas cards need to go!

Healthy Snacks

We have noticed a number of children coming into school with snacks that are unhealthy and do not adhere to the school's healthy snacks policy. Whilst we appreciate children do get hungry, a snack should be small, healthy (fruit, vegetable, dried fruit bag etc) and easily eaten at breaktime. The healthy nature of snacks also applies to packed lunches. **In the Spring term children will not be permitted to eat unhealthy snacks in school.**

Please consider the above guidance when purchasing snacks for your child to eat in school. This will avoid the inevitable disappointment in children who are prevented from eating their snack.

Year 4 Roman Soldier Visit



On Thursday 9 December 2021, Year 4 were visited by a Roman Soldier. Fitted with full armour, a sword and shield, he educated the children on life as a soldier. The children learned about how to be recruited into the army and how soldiers were trained. They were also taught various battle strategies and were informed of what became of fallen enemies. We all had a great time and learnt lots of new information in an engaging way.

Reception Visit to Hatton Adventure World

The children in Reception went to Hatton Adventure World as part of their 'Our Environments and Celebrations' topic, where they embarked on a magical Christmas journey. The children met lots of different farm animals, took part in Santa's Christmas pantomime and finally visited Santa's Secret Toy Grotto where they received a special Christmas present for their brilliant behaviour.



Year 5 Visit to Bosworth Heritage Centre



Year 5 went to visit the battlefield site of Bosworth today, where, in 1485 Henry Tudor defeated his rival King Richard III in battle. The reign of the House of York was thus ended, with Henry of the House of Lancaster, having taken the throne by force of arms being immediately crowned Henry VII at the scene of battle.

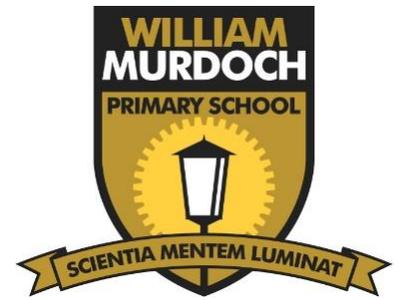
On arrival, the children were instructed in the art of medieval warfare by Master John, the Bosworth soldier. Later they toured the exhibition galleries, displaying original artefacts and first-hand accounts of

the historical event. The pupils made their teachers proud, with the way they calmly and stoically endured a winter squall of Shakespearian proportions, as they traversed the open battlefield after lunch.



Nursery Parents – Apply online for a place in Reception

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 you are now able to apply for your child's school place. Please visit <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> and submit an online application for a place in Reception by 14 January 2022 (the final closing date). Online



applications will receive an immediate email confirmation when the application is submitted. If you experience any problems completing the form or require support, please see Mrs Kullar.

Please visit the school website at <https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/new-nursery-reception-2020-intake/reception-intake-2020> to see our excellent early years offering.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Birmingham City Council have confirmed that they have secured provision of supermarket vouchers for children eligible for free school meals over the Christmas holiday, using funding Birmingham has recently been allocated through the government's Household Support Fund.

Sodexo will once again be used as the provider and the £30 vouchers will be distributed to the parents of eligible pupils via email next week. Please be aware there has been a change to the format of the vouchers. You will now receive a weblink that will take you directly to the website to redeem and select a voucher at the supermarket of your choice. Further guidance will be sent out alongside the voucher links next week.

If you have recently changed your email address, you must inform the Main Office as soon as possible to ensure you receive your link next week.

COVID-19 Community Champion Update

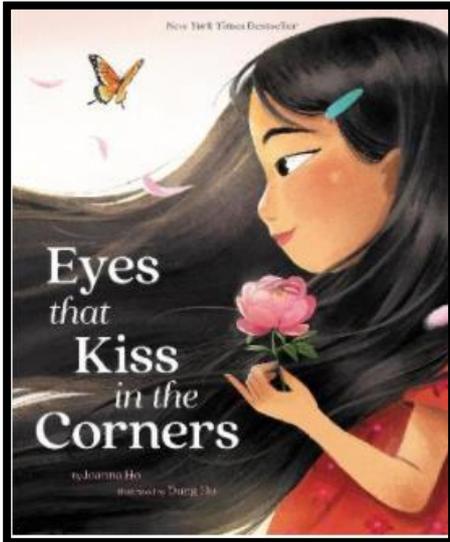
The government has announced new COVID-19 rules for England - including working from home if possible and wearing masks in more public places.

From Friday 10 December 2021, **face coverings** are mandatory for most indoor public venues including places of worship, theatres and cinemas - as well as on public transport and in places like shops and hairdressers. Masks are not mandated in pubs or restaurants, nor in venues like gyms where it is 'not practical to wear them.'

From Wednesday 15 December 2021 (subject to parliamentary approval), people will need an NHS COVID-19 Pass - showing their vaccination status or a recent negative lateral flow test - to gain entry to certain large indoor venues.

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



Eyes that Kiss in the Corners - Joanna Ho and Dung Ho (Illustrator)

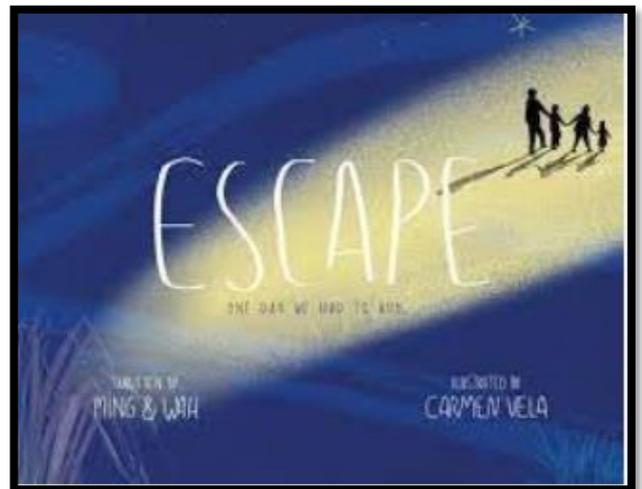
I'm not going to reveal too much about this charming book but what I will say is that I adore a poetic picture book and they don't come much more captivating and lyrical than this gem. It's a magical celebration of diversity that mirrors a similar message to that of Hair Love by Matthew A Cherry (another great modern picture book worth exploring!). You should definitely buy this for your child and let children get lost in its beauty!

Upper School

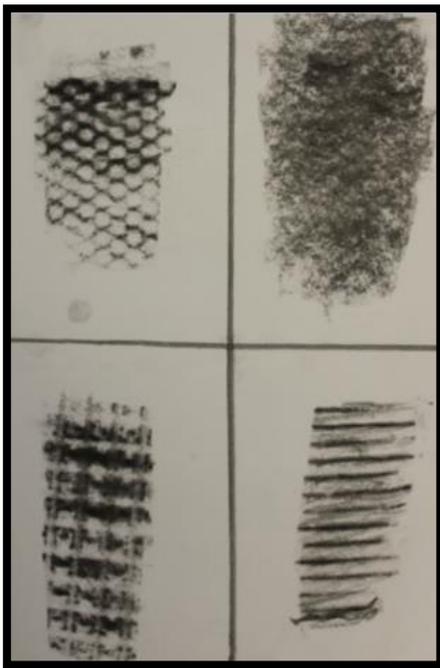
Escape: One Day We Had to Run - Ming & Wah and Carmen Vela (Illustrator)

At first, this book seems very simple and aimed at younger readers as it looks more like a picture book. However, don't be fooled! Using 12 action verbs, this book introduces children to groups of refugees and individuals who were left with no choice but to escape their own country.

Spanning both the geography and history of our planet, this book is a compelling look at refugeeism and its history. Its stories are charted on a map and timeline and each one offers new insight for young readers. This would be a book I'd relish sharing with KS2 students because this book is rife with talking points throughout.

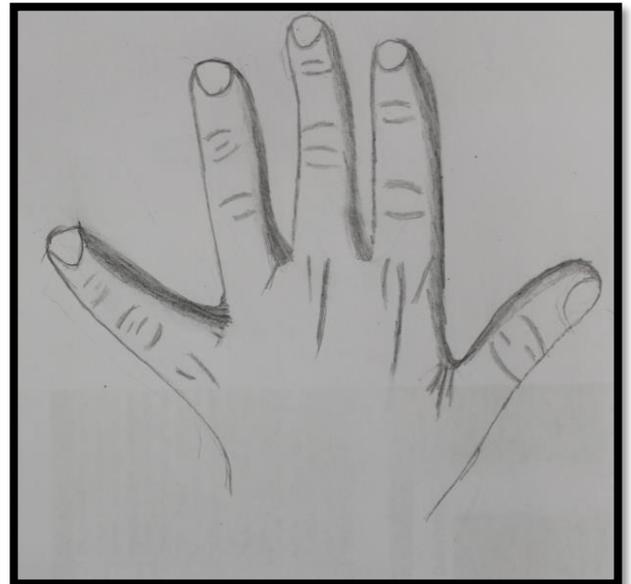


Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



Aaliya Y2.3

In Year 2 the children have been learning about visual texture and how artists can show how things feel in their work. They placed a piece of paper over different objects and using charcoal created rubbings. Aaliya created some brilliant pieces of work that showed different textures.



Harveen Y6.1

In Year 6 the children have been learning about Leonardo da Vinci and his anatomical artwork. The children then created drawings of their hands using light and shade to create a three-dimensional effect. Harveen worked very hard on her artwork and produced an excellent drawing.

Pupil of the Week



Y2.1 – Muhammed



Y2.2 – Inayah



Y2.3 – Abdur-Rahim

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

Christmas Jumper Day	17 December 2021
Christmas Parties	17 December 2021
School closed for Christmas break	17 December 2021
Pupils return to school	5 January 2021