

10 February 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"There is no path to happiness; happiness is the path." – Buddha

Dear Parents/Carers,

More than 20,000 people are known to have died after Monday's earthquake, which has devastated southern Turkey and northern Syria. Rescuers in Turkey and Syria are continuing the painstaking work of sifting through the rubble to find survivors, but many days later hope is fading.

The World Health Organization has warned that the threat to life as a result of the earthquake continues, and that without shelter, water, fuel or electricity many survivors could yet lose their lives. It says that a danger of "secondary disaster" could occur.

An appeal has been launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). The committee is a collective of 15 UK charities – including Oxfam, Save the Children UK and the British Red Cross. The funds raised will go towards medical aid, shelter, food and clean water, as well as blankets, warm clothes and heaters. More information can be found at <https://www.dec.org.uk/>.

At William Murdoch Primary School we will be supporting the DEC appeal with a non-uniform day on the Tuesday 14 February 2023 for a £1.00 donation. We would like children to wear something red, the official colour of the Disaster Emergency Committee. It happens to be Valentine's Day and we hope to spread a little love to the people of Turkey and Syria who are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.



Every week as I put the newsletter together, I reflect on what goes on at William Murdoch and I am incredibly proud of the work the staff do to ensure that the children in their care get the best possible opportunities through our curriculum. I hope, as you look each week at the photos in this newsletter, you too are able to appreciate how special the William Murdoch knowledge rich curriculum really is.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2023 took place on Tuesday 7 February and was the 20th year it has been celebrated globally. This day is used to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. The theme this year was 'Want to talk about it'. Pupils took part in a range of activities this week learning and understanding why it's important to make time and space to talk about life online.

Children's Mental Health Week

Throughout this week, pupils have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and the theme this year was 'Let's Connect'. It introduced pupils to the idea of connection, and the different ways that we can connect. Connection is not just through words, but is also about eye contact, facial expressions, gestures and touch (such as shaking hands or high fives). In addition, pupils were taught about influential individuals such as Malala Yousafzai who has changed the world by thinking about others and connecting with others to do good.



'People Who Help Us' Reception Visits

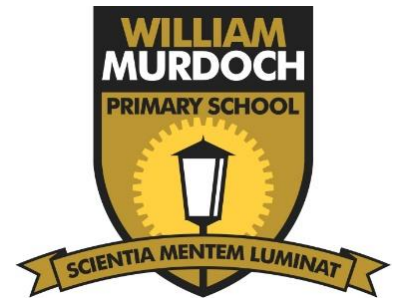
This term the children in Reception have been learning all about People Who Help Us and were very lucky to have a visit from both the West Midlands Fire Service and the Community Police Officers. The fire fighters let the children sit in their fire engine, listen to the siren, use the fire hose, beep the horn and they talked to the children about how they help people in the community.



School Football Tournament



Yesterday afternoon, the boys' school football team took part in a Year 5/Year 6 football tournament at Goals Perry Barr. The tournament consisted of teams from across the Aston and Handsworth area. There was a mixed bag of results with the boys facing some very tough opposition in all three games. Mr Harris and Mr Walker were incredibly proud of the effort and sportsmanship shown by the team in all matches played. Well done boys; you were a credit to the school!



Aston Villa Foundation Soccer Schools



During the February half-term holiday (20-24 February), the Aston Villa Foundation are running a series of 'Soccer Schools' for 5 – 12 year olds across Birmingham. The locations of the events are:

Aston (Academy Building, Villa Park)
Harborne (Lordswood Girls' School)
Sutton Coldfield (Sutton Coldfield Town FC)

The cost of the Soccer School is £80 for the whole week, and the days run from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Children who attend will be provided with lunch. If you would like your child to attend, please visit the following link: <https://tickets.avfc.co.uk/en-GB/categories/fitc-holiday-courses> or scan the QR code on the attached flyer. The attached flyer, along with the link, gives more details about the week.

School Car Park

It is very unfortunate to note that there are a small number of parents who have repeatedly disregarded the requests of staff not to park in the car park or to walk through the car park. The pedestrian path is there to separate pedestrians and vehicles and was brought in by the Health and Safety Executive following an incident where a child was knocked down in the car park a number of years ago.



Regrettably, I will be issuing warning notices to offending parents and, if their behaviour does not change, then we will reluctantly need to consider banning offending individuals from the school site.

Many thanks to the vast majority of parents who adhere to the site access guidelines.

Pupil Stories

Again, we welcome any news of our pupils achievements. If you have anything you would like to share, please contact Mrs Pemberton at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.



UNICEF Article of the Week

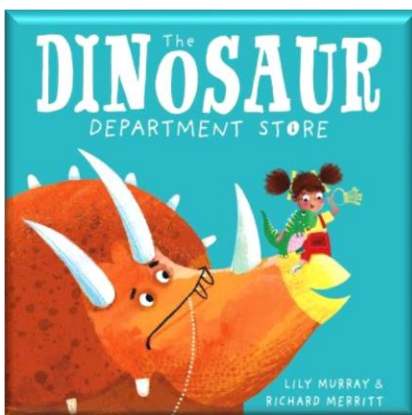
This week pupils across the school have focused on:

Article 13: (Freedom of expression): Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law. Pupils across the school focused on the question ‘Why do you think it’s important that children and young people are able

to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions freely?’. Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of sharing thoughts freely and listening to each other’s opinions. We also looked how adults can respect pupils’ right to express their thoughts and opinions.

Mr Panichi’s Book of the Week

Lower School



The Dinosaur Department Store - Lily Murray and Richard Merritt (illustrator)

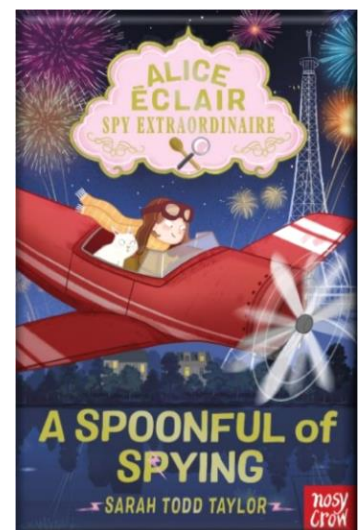
If you have a child that is dinosaur obsessed, this book is for them! Before reading this book, it might be worth checking how to pronounce some of the names! Eliza Jane is obsessed with dinosaurs and all she wants for her birthday is a real one! Mam and Dad grant her wish and take her to the dinosaur department store. When entering the store, she is met by the magical Mr Magisaurus who will take her on the grand tour. On her tour, she meets carnivores grinding their jaws, honking Hadrosaurs, a colossal Diplodocus and so many more. There are dinosaurs I had never heard of before! The illustrations are bright and detailed,

they show the dinosaurs off in the best light and will keep readers enthralled. If you look carefully, the dinosaurs have clothes or objects to show their personalities. The ending has a good twist and if you look at the illustrations, you can guess what Eliza Jane is going to do!

Upper School

A Spoonful of Spying - Sarah Todd Taylor

Alice Eclair, Spy Extraordinaire will whisk you away on a fabulous adventure, full of daring action and delicious cakes! Baker by day, spy by night – Alice Eclair leads an exciting double life! Alice Eclair, Spy Extraordinaire is a heroine for modern times and a brilliant role model for young girls. She is strong-willed, determined and resourceful. Yet, she is fallible at the same time. This is part of what makes her so endearing. Alice is just finding her feet in the spy game and is working hard to gain



the respect of her fellow spies and prove herself. And somehow, she does all of this without her mum finding out. Very clever indeed! Sarah Todd Taylor is a splendid writer with a knack for creating stupendous characters that leave a strong impression on the reader. This is Alice's second adventure as a spy and we can see how she has developed from the first book. All of the main characters are dynamic, each contributing in their own way to the story. This is an easy-to-read series laced with a good potential for collectability and a super introduction to the detective fiction genre, laced with excitement and enough clues to keep you guessing.

Artist of the Week

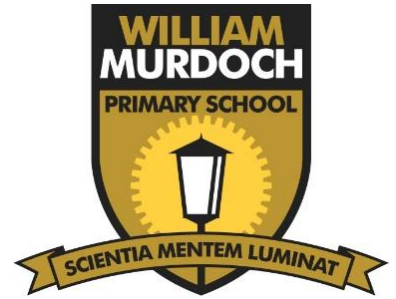


Y1.2 Alyaan

In Year 1, the children have been learning about sculptural form and architecture. The children have investigated different ways in which artists create three dimensional pieces of work. Having been tasked with producing a 3D flower out of clay, it was amazing to see how much talent the children in Year 1 have in Art. Alyaan created a wonderful piece of work that was constructed and painted very carefully.

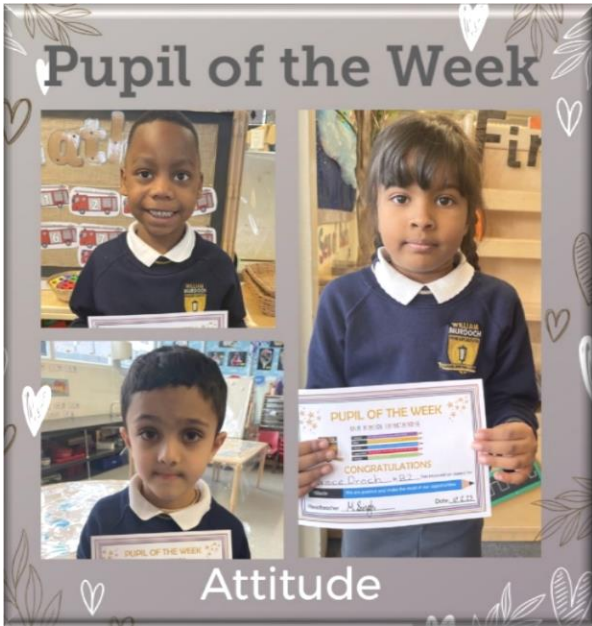
Year 6

In Year 6, the children have been learning about Renaissance Sculpture. The children learnt about a range of famous Renaissance buildings. Having carried out extensive research, everyone in Year 6 created their own sculptures of famous Renaissance buildings and the outcomes were incredible. Well done Year 6!



Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to our Reception pupils, Tuvaughn, Grace and Hashir for showing a positive attitude and making the most of the opportunities available to them. Keep it up!



Key Dates

February						2023
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Reception Police Visit	7 Safer Internet Day	8	9 Reception Fire Service Visit	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Reception Arts & Design Stay & Play Pupils Break up for Half Term	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Pupils Return to School	28					

Next week is the last week before the half-term holiday. We finish at our normal time on Friday 17 February 2023 and then the children return to school as normal on Monday 27 February 2023.

Your sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher