

12 November 2021

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

***'We reflect upon the darkness that we see today so that over the next year, we can try to challenge that darkness. The world needs light.'* – Manmeet Singh Bhullar**

Dear Parents/Carers,

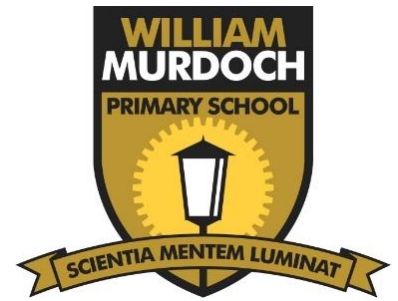
The arrival of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in the Summer term of 2022 presents a unique opportunity for the children and young people in the city to celebrate where they live and engage in its history. In anticipation of the games, and as part of wider city-wide engagement projects, William Murdoch Primary School teaching staff have been selected to design, deliver and promote a whole-school Civic History Curriculum that will both complement the games and be a legacy resource that can be used and developed in years to come.

We really look forward to completing this exciting work with our partners, Holyhead School and Birmingham Education Partnership in the coming months. The children of WMPS will be the first to experience this curriculum and use the resources in the Spring term.

**Year 6 Parents - Diwali Photos/Video Update**

Photos of the Diwali assembly have been uploaded to Class Dojo for Year 6 parents. Unfortunately, the technical issues we experienced last week following the new server install have not been resolved by the local authority technical team. This means there is a delay to the Diwali video being shared to Class Dojo. We continue to push them to resolve the issue and once it has been resolved and uploaded to Class Dojo, we will inform you.





## Children In Need

The school will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal on Friday 19 November 2021. There will be a special assembly for children to learn more about the charity and its activities. It will be non-uniform day and the theme this year is bright colours, so children may dress in something bright and colourful for a £1.00 donation. In addition to this, there will be other fundraising activities (please see the Children in Need letter to parents).

## Anti-Bullying Week

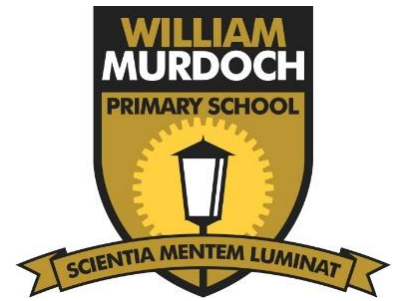
Anti-Bullying Week 2021 is taking place from Monday 15th November 2021 to Friday 19th November 2021. This year's theme is 'One Kind Word'. One kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness.

To begin the celebration of Anti-Bullying Week 2021, our school is taking part in **Odd Socks Day** on Monday 15 November 2021. This is where both adults and children are encouraged to wear odd socks to school in order to raise awareness of bullying. Odd Socks Day symbolises that we are all different and that we should accept ourselves, be accepting of one another and celebrate difference. All we have to do to take part is wear odd socks, it couldn't be simpler!

## Remembrance Assembly

On Thursday of this week at 11.00am, all pupils and staff observed a 2-minute silence to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, which happened on 11 November 1918 and formalised the end of World War I. This was followed by two special assemblies today with pupils learning about the importance of remembrance, and why the poppy symbolises remembering the sacrifice thousands of brave men and women made during the First World War, and in subsequent conflicts across the globe. Poppy Appeal snap bands were on sale in school this week and were quickly snapped up by the pupils. Many thanks for your generous and important donations to the Royal British Legion.





## **PE Kit**

With children coming to school in their PE kit as part of COVID-19 secure procedures and wearing their kit for the whole of the day, it is extremely important their PE kit is washed at the end of the day.

The school PE kit is made up of a navy and gold PE polo shirt, navy and gold PE shorts and trainers (pumps are for indoor use only and children must have a change of footwear). Children can also wear the navy and gold PE hoody and the navy and gold PE track pants. On the day they have PE and in the absence of a school PE hoody, children are permitted to wear their school jumper or blazer during lessons. In the absence of school PE track pants, children are permitted to wear plain navy blue track pants/joggers.

## **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.

## **Christmas at WMPS**

We will still be making every effort to make Christmas a special time for our children, but we will do so with safety in mind. We will make a decision on exchanging Christmas cards closer to the time. Children will also be making a Christmas card in school later in the term to take home. Today children have been given details of a competition to design the official school Christmas card. Entries need to be uploaded to Class Dojo by Monday 22 November 2021.

The school will be supporting the Christmas Jumper Day campaign on Friday 17 December 2021. In the final days of the term, children will be taking part in Christmas festivities, including watching a special showing of a panto that the school has purchased. There will be a special Year 3 Christmas assembly and Nursery Nativity production. Both of which will be recorded and shared with parents through Class Dojo. The children will also receive a free Christmas lunch. We will write to you about these closer to the time.

## **School Meals**

We still have a small number of parents who are not selecting their child's meal on SchoolGrid resulting in them receiving the default meal option of a jacket potato. A polite reminder to ensure school meals are ordered in advance of the week ahead.

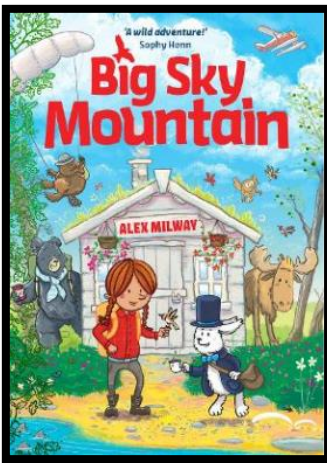
## School Photographs

You can view your child's photograph using their unique QR code at <https://aperture-online.flexschools.co.uk/>. The deadline to order photographs is 18 December 2021.

## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School

#### **Big Sky Mountain – Alex Milway**



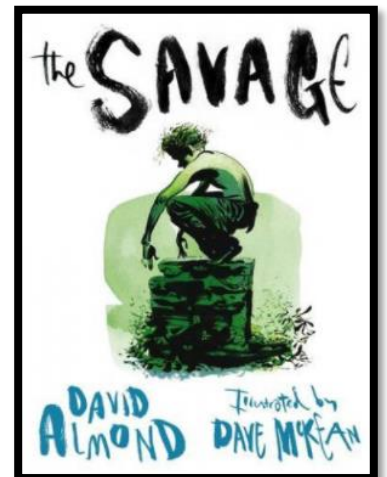
Rosa Wild, the main character in this story swaps the hustle and bustle of city life for her Grandma Nan's remote log cabin in the Big Sky Mountain where the horizon is never ending. Rosa and Nan get up to some exciting adventures alongside many animal friends. My favourite animal friends in this book include Mr Hibberdee, the travelling sales bear who sells Rosa honey and Albert the Moose, whose head is always popping in through the open window.

This book has a great environmental message, it is full of kindness and friendship. This story is interspersed with captivating illustrations and a map at the front of the book so you can look at the different quirky places that Rosa and Nan journey to. This book helps us to consider how great it feels to be free in the wilderness which is a stark contrast to a noisy city that Rosa is used to.

### Upper School

#### **The Savage – David Almond & Dave McKean (illustrator)**

A very striking illustrated story with an interesting structure. The story is narrated by Blue, a boy coping with bullying in addition to recent bereavement. Blue creates the character of 'The Savage' and through telling The Savage's story and the magical way it seems to come true finds a way of coping with his grief. The sequences written by The Savage are in the style of a graphic novel and use unorthodox spelling. The story contains many strong themes including bereavement, bullying, family love and coping with anger. A great and very different read



## Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week

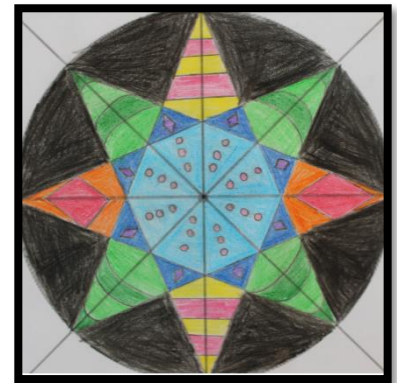


### Y1.3 class work

In Y1.3 the children created some beautiful flowers using ribbon and a selection of other materials. The flowers were made with lots of care and the final outcomes were very impressive. The display of flowers looks excellent on the window looking out onto the playground.

### Y5.2 Humaira

In Year 5 the children have started a unit of work entitled Islamic Art. As a part of this unit the children created a geometric design in a way similar to designs look at in class. Humaira used a selection of colours and shapes very well in her work.



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

### Dates

Odd Socks Day	15 November 2021
Guru Nanak's Birthday Assembly	19 November 2021 (Pupils only)
Children in Need	19 November 2021