

13 January 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'When the world says 'Give up', Hope whispers, 'Try it one more time.' - Anon

Dear Parents/Carers,

After a difficult start to the term, there has been a purposeful atmosphere in school. Children have completed their first full week of the Spring term, and before and after school clubs are in full swing. I am grateful to all members of staff who take time out to put on a club as part of our extra-curricular offer. This includes a new Phonics club for children in Year 1 and 2 run by Mr Parker and a new Cooking club run by Mrs Rafiq. I am eagerly waiting for when they make biscuits and cakes and I have already offered my quality assurance sampling services!

Although the building works still haven't quite finished, we are now in a position to invite parents to school assemblies. Your child's assemblies this term are listed in the newsletter that they took home last week. A copy has also been shared on Class Dojo. Entry to assembly will be via the double doors to the Upper School hall. For afternoon assemblies, entrance to the school site is only available from Antrobus Road.

A final reminder to parents of nursery pupils. Applications for the 2023 Reception intake 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.

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

Bouncing Statistics

Through our collaboration with the Handsworth Association of Schools, we have started working with an organisation called 'Bouncing Statistics', whose aims are to:

- Inspire and empower the youth of today
- Develop the next generation of role models in the community
- Lead them on the path towards success.

Over the coming months our dedicated mentor, Joel, will work with a small number of pupils to develop their social skills, communication and confidence. We hope that this work will be of great benefit to the pupils involved.





Reception Stay and Play Phonics Workshop

Today Reception parents were invited to attend a Phonics & Reading Stay and Play session. During this session parents were introduced to the Read Write Inc scheme which is used to teach phonics throughout the school. A variety of strategies to support their child with reading and phonics were shared and parents had the opportunity to engage in a range of phonics-based activities with their child.



Year 5 Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick Visit

On Wednesday of this week, Year 5 had a wonderful visit to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick. This is linked to the topic that they are currently studying in RE. Upon arrival they were taken to the function room upstairs where they were told about the history of the building and the importance of having a designated place for Sikhs to worship locally. They were then reminded about the 5 K's and were shown examples of them. It was at this point that the children were able to ask the guide questions and they took great advantage of this opportunity. Following this, the children were able to witness a small part of an ongoing service and pay their respects if they chose to do so. Towards the end of the visit the children were spoken to about Langar and Sewa and were able to have a Langar taster in the designated Langar Hall. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented our school perfectly. Well done Year 5!

Poetry By Heart

I wrote to you last week about our Poetry By Heart initiative. I have shared the classic poem Jabberwocky below from the Year 3 poem list. Jabberwocky is a nonsensical ballad written by the English poet Lewis Carroll in 1871. In Jabberwocky, Carroll uses nonsensical words within a typical ballad form to **tell a tale of good versus evil**, which culminates in the killing of the fearsome Jabberwock. Have fun performing it with your child! For inspiration, please see the link below to a recital of Jabberwocky by Benedict Cumberbatch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_Um3787fSY

Jabberwocky

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.*

*"Beware the Jabberwock, my son
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"*

*He took his vorpal sword in hand;
Long time the manxome foe he sought—
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.*

*And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!*

*One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.*

*"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.*

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.*

By Lewis Carroll



Year 2 'The Royal Family' Project

This morning, Zakariya in Y2.1 presented his excellent project in Year 2's Good Work assembly. The Year 2 autumn term project was based on 'The Royal Family', and acted as retrieval practice for the

pupils, who studied 'Kings and Queens' in their History lessons when they were in Year 1. There was both a written and creative part to the project, and Zakariya completed both to a very high standard.

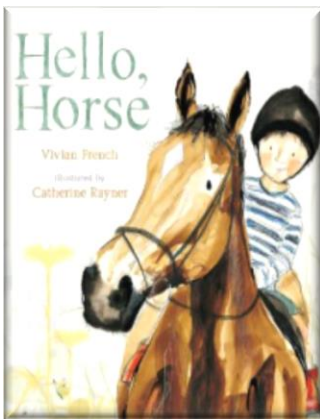
In the written part of his project, Zakariya wrote about King Charles III, as well as Queen Elizabeth II, who sadly passed away a few months ago. He wrote in detail about her life, including her childhood. In the creative part of his project, Zakariya designed his own version of 'The Sovereign's Orb', which you can see in the picture. The Orb is a representation of the sovereign's power. It symbolises the Christian world with its cross mounted on a globe; and the bands of jewels dividing it up into three sections represent the three continents known in medieval times. To make his version, Zakariya first blew up a balloon before popping it to create the internal structure. He then glued all around the outside and stuck paper to it. He painted that paper gold before sticking on the jewels. To make the

cross at the top, Zakariya got two lolly sticks, painted them gold and then glued them to the top, before sticking more gems onto it.

Well done Zakariya for completing an outstanding project!

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



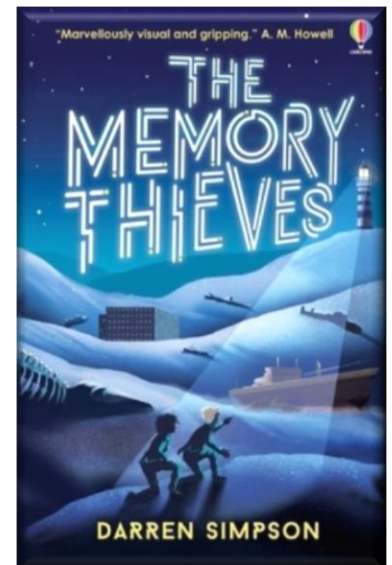
Hello Horse - Catherine Rayner

Hello Horse is a perceptive introduction to horses. Catherine Rayner's illustrations perfectly complement the text, from the relative size of the child and the horse to portraying changing facial expressions of both. The book has both factual and fictional streams - the factual information is included in small print on the same pages as the larger fictional story. The combination of these two streams means that the reader is gripped, and absorbs the information almost incidentally.

Upper School

The Memory Thieves - Darren Simpson

This gripping science-fiction mystery follows Cyan, a resident of the faintly sinister Elsewhere Sanctuary, on his quest to discover what the words etched into the bones of a marooned whale skeleton really mean. Stranded in a world of sand dunes, long since abandoned by the sea, Cyan and his friends spend their days exploring wrecks of ancient cruise ships, with little regard to why they are there or what the pills they imbibe are doing to them. They only know that they all came here to forget something traumatic from their past. As new resident Jonquil begins to resist her treatment and then disappears altogether, Cyan suspects that something isn't quite right. This is a thrilling and thought-provoking adventure story from Darren Simpson, an intriguing storyteller for older readers – his debut novel, *Scavengers*, was also an excellent mystery and coming-of-age book.



Artist of the Week



R.2

In Reception the children have been creating artwork about different types of transport. Everyone had lots of fun with the paint when creating their images. It was a great opportunity for the children to learn about the different types of transport that people use in day to day life.

Helen Y4.2

Over the last few weeks in Year 4 the children have been developing their skills relating to adding light and shade to a piece of work. Everyone had the chance to draw a selection of different objects and then add colour in such a way that created areas of contrasting colour. Helen worked very hard on her work and should be very impressed with the outcome.

Pupil of the Week



Well done to our Year 2 pupils, Taranveer, Usra and Amez and to our Year 3 pupils, for becoming this week's 'Pupil of the Week'.

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

Your sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

January							2023
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
						1	
2	3	4 Pupils return to School	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11 Y5 Guru Nanak Gurdwara Visit	12	13	14	15 Deadline for Reception intake	
16	17	18 Reception & Y6 Height & Weight	19 Nursery Dinosaur Workshop	20	21	22	
23	24 Y4 Fire Safety Workshop	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						