

17 February 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*“Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives.” –
Alexander Dumas*

Dear Parents/Carers,

This final week of the half-term has been another busy one with lots of exciting learning happening across the school! Do read on into the newsletter or check out our Twitter feed to find out more about what the children have been up to during the week!

I am pleased to say we are coming towards the tail end of the building works. Over the half-term holiday the builders will be finishing off the remaining items on the snagging list. We have also booked a cleaning company to tidy up the path by the Year 6 classrooms and anticipate being able to open that up shortly. It will still take a few weeks to get the new school office and reception area ready so we do not expect to be able to utilise the new Main Office until after the Easter break. Many thanks for your patience but we know it will be worth the wait and look forward to sharing the new areas with you soon.

Disaster Emergency Committee Appeal

It was great to see so many children in red on Valentine’s Day raising funds for the DEC appeal to support the victims of the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria. Due to your generous donations, and those of staff, we are pleased to confirm that £710 has been raised for the appeal. We will pass all of those monies to the Disaster Emergency Committee. More information on the work of the DEC can be found at <https://www.dec.org.uk/>.





Reception Expressive Arts Stay and Play

Today, Reception parents were invited to attend an Expressive Arts and Design Stay & Play session. During this session parents had the opportunity to learn about the 'Expressive Arts and Design' aspect of the Early Years Curriculum and how we teach it at school. Parents also had the opportunity to engage in a variety of expressive arts activities with their child.

Services for Education Virtual City Music Festival

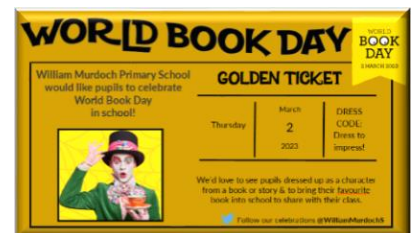
Followers of Twitter will have noticed some tweets this week showing our pupils performing their instruments in their WCIT (Whole Class Instrumental Teaching) classes and music clubs. Services for Education have been running a Virtual City-Wide Music Festival, showcasing musical talent across Birmingham. We were very pleased to take part, and the boys and girls here at William Murdoch made excellent instrumental contributions, with the help of their peripatetic teachers, in support of the venture. All performances can be found at [@WilliamMurdochS](https://twitter.com/WilliamMurdochS) or by logging onto your child's Class Dojo account.



World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 2 March 2023 and we hope you will join us as we come together to encourage every child in school to be a reader and love books. To celebrate World Book Day, we will have plenty of fun activities taking place throughout the day. Children will be able to use their £1 World Book Day book token to get a FREE book!

Getting a free £1 book for your child is easy - simply take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller or supermarket and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book OR get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can help your child choose their £1 book by showing them the exciting 'Look Insides' at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>.



Bookshops and supermarkets are a big part of what makes World Book Day special and thousands will be taking part in World Book Day 2023, with many putting on special events to celebrate World Book Day. Your local bookseller might be on the high street or could be a supermarket. Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco all stock the £1 books. You can find your nearest bookseller at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>. There are also lots of fun reading ideas and resources for you to enjoy with your child at home on the <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/> as well as brilliant book recommendations for all ages.

World Book Day could not happen without the support of parents and carers. Thank you in advance for your support - you make it happen!



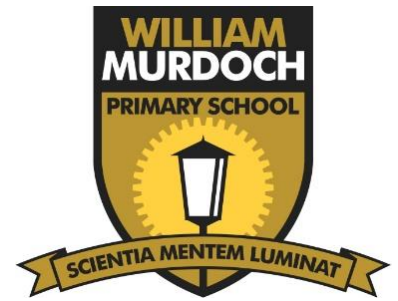
School Football Tournament

Yesterday, Mr Walker and Mr Harris took 9 girls to the Aston Primary Schools Football Tournament at Goals Perry Barr. The girls were exemplary in their behaviour and relentless in their pursuit of victory. They played three games against teams from across Birmingham and won all three. Ella-Rose scored 10 goals and this means they have now qualified for the finals, which will be held during the first week back after half-term. It was an outstanding performance and we are all incredibly proud of the girls! This will be an experience the girls will never forget. We would also like to thank those parents who attended and supported the girls throughout, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The Highway Rat - Reception

This week in Reception, the children read the story of the Highway Rat by Julia Donaldson. The children baked delicious cookies which were stolen by an unexpected visitor to Reception whilst the children were away from the classroom. In attempt to locate the suspect and retrieve their cookies, the children created 'Wanted' posters to find the 'Highway Rat' which they posted all around the school. The 'Wanted' posters proved successful as the cookies were found shortly after and the children were delighted. Some of the work produced by pupils was of an exceptionally high standard as can be seen here.





Bring it on Brum

Bring it on Brum are working in partnership with Handsworth Association of Schools in delivering activities for children and families during the half-term break including a Family Fun Day and a Family Food Festival. For more information, please see leaflets attached or visit <https://www.haos.org.uk/>.



UNICEF Article of the Week

This week pupils across the school have focused on:

Article 3 (Best Interests of the Child): The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children. This week, pupils across the school have focused on the question 'Who makes decisions that affect the lives of children and young people?' This week's activities have explored the article through finding out about who the children's commissioner is in the UK, thinking carefully about making decisions and who in school and at home make decisions for us in our best interest. As article 3 states that children should be protected and cared for to ensure their wellbeing, pupils have thought about how their school ensures they are protected and safe and that wellbeing is supported.



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.

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

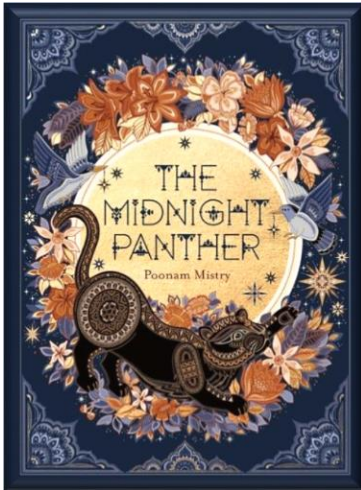
ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT, TEL: 0121 554 0999, FAX: 0121 554 6332

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



The Midnight Panther - Poonam Mistry

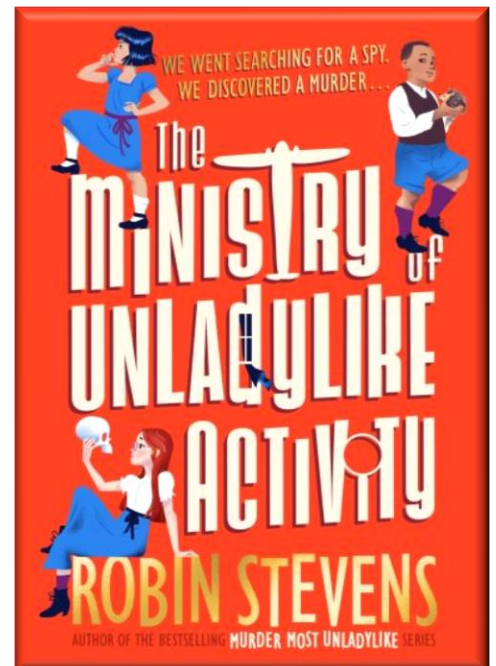
Deep in the forest lives a little black panther. Surrounded by wonder, his life should be idyllic ... except that he's different from the other cats. They all seem so confident: Tiger has bold, fearless stripes, Lion's mane shines like the sun and Leopard's spots are dazzling. When their taunts overwhelm him, Panther sets off on a quest to improve himself. At first, he is intent on imitation, until, at last, the moon helps him to discover his own special beauty. The reader has been able to see this beauty all along, through the intricately detailed illustrations which are influenced by traditional Indian art and textiles. There's no need for lengthy descriptions because these fascinating pictures illuminate the scene but the vivid word choices sparkle nevertheless. The ending, with its message of courage and self-acceptance, is uplifting and reassuring. While the rhythm of the fable may be familiar from folklore, the manner of the telling is original and richly pleasurable. With lyrically expressive

language, gorgeous illustrations and a simple but empowering message, this is a magical book – one of my favourites already for 2023.

Upper School

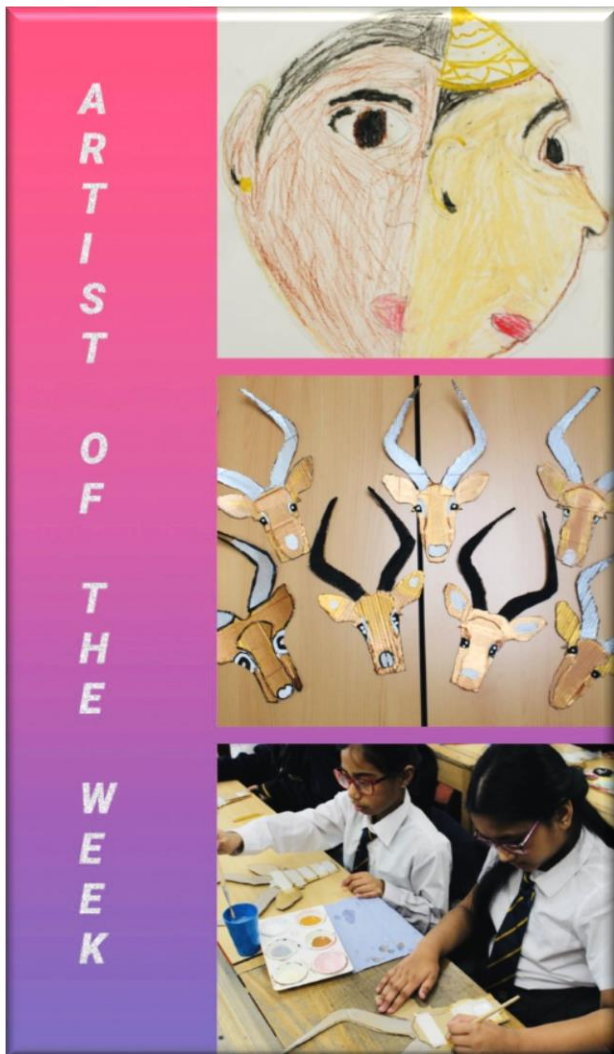
The Ministry of Unladylike Activity - Robin Stevens

The Ministry of Unladylike Activity' is the first in a new follow-on series from Robin Stevens' superb 'Murder Most Unladylike' series and, from the evidence of this first adventure, it is going to give you a thrilling, page-turning and well-loved a ride. While the protagonists from Murder Most Unladylike, Daisy and Hazel, make some lovely cameo appearances, we have moved on in time to 1940 and Hazel's youngest sister, May Wong, has come to the fore – and is the focus of just as much mystery, mischievousness and mayhem. At the start of our story, May has been packed off to Deepdean School from Hong Kong due to the war, but this young firebrand won't settle for safety – she wants to become a spy, fight the Nazis and find a bit of excitement. Pretty soon she has absconded from school, made a new friend, Eric, masqueraded as an evacuee, and been sent to Elysium Hall, from where someone is sending information to Berlin.... Soon the scene is set for a classic country house mystery, with a vicious murder and a cast of possible suspects. Why does the maid have a bundle of stolen trinkets? Is dead Uncle Leonard's ghost really haunting the house? What has happened to Uncle Hugh's missing 'important papers'?



And, of course, who is the spy? Robin Stevens is possibly the only children's author working today who can keep all of these plates spinning so expertly with the lightest of touches. The rollicking adventure plot, the large cast and the multiple storylines and red herrings never overshadow each other. There is a very satisfying denouement, a perfect 'ah ha!' moment, with just the right amount of clues along the way, and all of the secondary plot lines are also tied up satisfyingly. In summary, *The Ministry of Unladylike Activity* is about as perfect a page-turner as a reader could ever hope for.

Artist of the Week



Y2.2 Liyana

In Year 2, the children have been learning about Cubism. Having studied the work of many cubist artists they had a go at creating portraits in a Cubist style. The work allowed the children to express themselves very creatively and the final results were very pleasing. Liyana made an outstanding piece of work.

Y5.2

In Year 5, the children have been learning about African Art and the significance of masks in relation to different occasions. The children had the opportunity to create and paint antelope masks this half-term and thoroughly enjoyed the process. Mr Slinn was very impressed with the maturity shown by the children as artists and the very professional appearance of the final pieces.

Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to our Year 4 pupils, Ammarah, Anayah and Tanmeet for displaying 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 half-term holiday. On behalf of staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a wonderful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all at the normal time on Monday 27 February 2023.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher