

19 November 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Truth is the highest virtue, but higher still is truthful living.' – Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Dear Parents/Carers,

There continue to be lots of things going on at school and I am really pleased that we have begun to undertake educational visits again this term. Last week, Year 6 visited the Black Country Museum, and later this term Year 5 will visit Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, Reception will visit Hatton Adventure World and Year 2 will go to West Midlands Safari Park. Educational visits are a hugely important part of our curriculum and add to the 'wider offer' at our school. It has also been wonderful to see some of our children return to competitive school sports and team events over the last few weeks. Well done to the children who took part in the mini football tournament last week. Everyone had an enjoyable day and some great games were played.



There has been lots of fundraising going on this week for Children In Need. Many thanks to you all for supporting this cause so generously.



Year 2 Guru Nanak's Birthday Assembly

Today, Year 2 put on a special performance to mark the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. This was followed by parties for all children in the afternoon. The children really excelled in their singing and performances. The assembly has been recorded for Year 2 parents and will be posted on Class Dojo next week. We will send you a short message once it has been posted.

On behalf of all the staff and governors at school, I would like to send my warmest wishes to all those celebrating the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Reception – Gruffalo Story

This week the children in Reception were in for a surprise when they entered their classrooms one morning to find an unknown creature had caused chaos in the reading corner.

The children spent the week using their detective skills to find out who the footprints belonged to and what had been taken. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to develop their communication and language skills working together as a team to find the culprit.



Aston Villa Education Activation

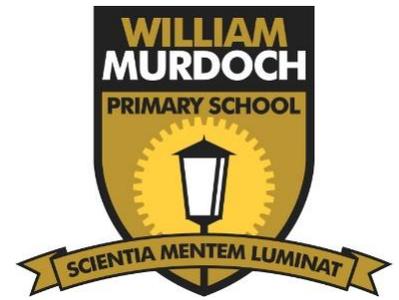
This year the school is working closely with Aston Villa Football Club as part of our PE provision in school. The partnership includes opportunities for some of our pupils to visit Villa Park and take part in their 'Education Activation' days. Their first session this year took place on Tuesday 16 November 2021 and we were fortunate to secure 5 places for some of our Year 5 and 6 school council members, who travelled by minibus to Villa Park. The workshop was based on the topic of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Aston Villa's Premier League Primary Stars Team explored that topic through the Premier League campaigns of 'No Room For Racism' and 'Rainbow Laces'. The pupils who attended thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and will now be Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors in school.

Christmas Card Competition

A reminder that children need to submit their entry for the annual school Christmas card competition through Class Dojo by **Monday 22 November 2021**. You have to be in it to win it!

Nasal Flu Forms

The nasal flu vaccination will take place in school on Wednesday 1 December 2021. If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please complete the nasal flu form in full and return it to school by Wednesday 24 November 2021.



COVID-19

If your child is exhibiting any of the presently recognised COVID-19 symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more of these coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

The advice from Public Health England and the NHS is that even if the symptoms are mild, you should:

- Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible
- Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result

Please continue to let us know if you have ordered a PCR test and the subsequent result when available.

Sickness & Absence

From time to time children are sick (vomit) either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or diarrhoea.

In the Health Protection Agency document, “Guidelines for the Control of Infection and Communicable Disease in School and Early Years Settings”, the guidance is:

Diarrhoea and Vomiting exclusion

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any staff member or child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school or early years setting until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the ‘48 hour rule’) and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.

If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school. As an example, if your child is sick at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunch on Thursday, provided there have not been any further episodes of vomiting.

Thank you for your understanding with this.

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

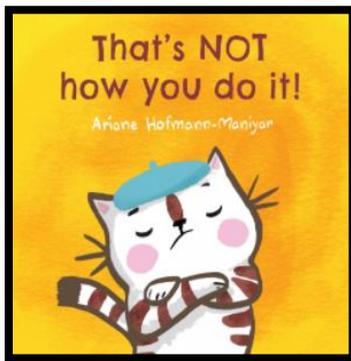
applications will receive an immediate email confirmation when the application is submitted. If you experience any problems completing the form or require support please see Mrs Kullar.

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.

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

That's NOT how you do it! – Ariane Hofmann-Maniyar

Lucy knows how to do everything and has no hesitation in showing others how to do things her way. Then Toshi arrives and he has his own way of doing things which Lucy finds maddening. A well-constructed story with the first half depicting Lucy's methods, the arrival of Toshi halfway through, followed by the demonstration of his alternative ways, and a dénouement that shows the importance of being open minded.

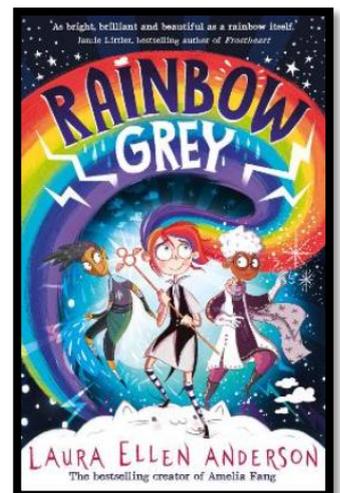
Upper School

Rainbow Grey – Laura Ellen Anderson

Ray Grey's world is about to change forever in this fun adventure story based in Celestia, a city in the sky in the magical 'Weatherlands'. Ray lives with the other weatherlings who have magical powers. Ray doesn't mind that she doesn't have weather powers and has always wanted to be an earth explorer just like her hero La Blaze Delight.

Ray gets up to many exciting adventures alongside her cloud cat Nim and her two best friends Droplett and Snowden. This magical climate change themed story is all about friendship, not giving up and saving the world!

This book has great vivid colours on the cover to catch your attention and the map and amazing illustrations throughout really absorb you into the wonder of this story.



Mr Slinn's Artists of 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



Vivienne (Nursery)

This half term the children have been studying the topic 'Journeys'. The children have been looking at all the different types of transport that can be used on a journey. Vivienne used materials very well to create her piece of work. She used colour paper very effectively to make windows.

Oscar Y6.2

Last week the children in the school reflected upon the significance of Remembrance Day. Oscar in Year 6 created a very impressive piece of work relating to Remembrance Day.



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

Xmas Card Competition Closes
Reception parents – Reading and Phonics workshop
Flu immunisation

22 November 2021
24 November 2021 at 9.15am
1 December 2021