

22 October 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'You must do the things you think you cannot do.' – Eleanor Roosevelt

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have somehow raced to the end of the half-term. It has gone at a blistering pace and autumn is well and truly here, so it is the perfect time to go on a local family walk and enjoy the abundance of wildlife in our local parks during the half-term break. If you would like to stretch further afield, the following link to the National Trust website will provide you with places to visit in the Midlands. All the places shown are open but there may be restrictions in place. Please make sure you check web pages for individual places before you travel for booking details and the most up to date information about visiting.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/half-term-in-the-midlands>

School Meals

I would like to say thank you for all your support and cooperation in the transition of over to SchoolGrid this half-term. The system is now working well and pupils are enjoying the option to select their own meal choice. After the half-term break Dolce will be introducing a Winter menu which will consist of more hot meal choices. Sandwiches will no longer be an option. Parents will receive an email from Dolce shortly asking to select meals from the new menu. There will also be the option to select meals until the end of term.

School Photographs

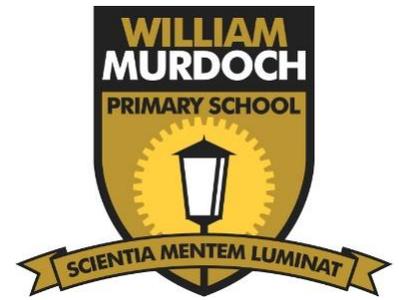
School photographs took place this week. Each pupil has been given their unique QR code which will be required when viewing images and placing orders. To view your child's photograph please visit <https://aperture-online.flexschools.co.uk/>. When placing orders, there will be two delivery options available, free delivery to the school and paid delivery to your home address.

Harvest Donations

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the very generous donations that we have received in school this week and last. We will be in contact with local charities that we support and we will update you once the items have been collected.

Art Booklet

Mr Slinn has created an art booklet for children to practice their sketching skills during the half term break. The booklet is attached and can be printed off or worked on using a tablet. It will also be shared on Class Dojo.



Trick or Treating

We have been asked by the Police to encourage parents and carers not to allow their children to go Trick or Treating unsupervised. This can cause unnecessary stress and can be very frightening to members of the community. Thank you for your support.

Half-Term Holiday

Please note that school will re-open again for pupils on Monday 1 November 2021 from 8.40am.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Birmingham City Council FSM vouchers for the October half-term break are being sent out today via the school enquiry email. The voucher code is to the value of £15, so please keep an eye on your inbox. If you are entitled to a voucher, but have not received the emailed voucher code by the end of the day today, please contact school on enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Parents of Year 6 Pupils

Families with children due to start secondary school in September 2022 (i.e. those children born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011) are now able to apply online for secondary school places. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2021 and places will be offered on 1 March 2022.

All the information families need to make their applications is on the council website:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1

It is particularly important that families carefully consider the school's admission criteria and name at least one school on their application where their child would have been offered a place in previous years. Please be aware of the deadline as parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.

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

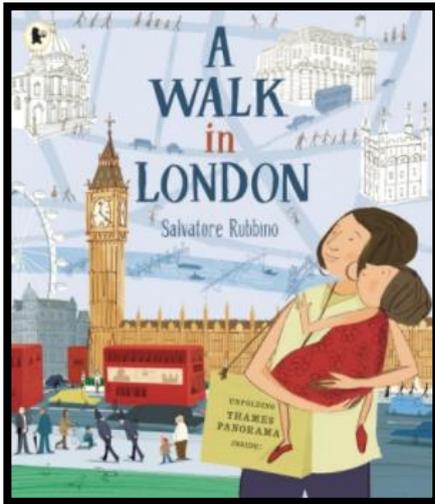
The advice from Public Health England and the NHS is that even if the symptoms are mild, you should:

- 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.

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



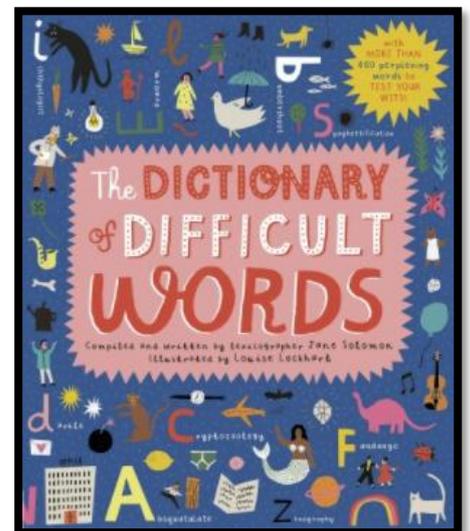
A Walk in London – Salvatore Rubbino

A wonderful book to get your child interested in our capital city, London. A child and her mother explore London, getting off a bus as Big Ben as the clock strikes eleven and ending up back there at six, having visited many of the tourist sights, including Buckingham Palace, St James's Park, Covent Garden Piazza and the Tower of London. The child's commentary is interspersed with interesting information snippets. Central to this guide are the retro style illustrations which serve to emphasise the city's historic past while incorporating the many changes taking place, especially apparent in the unfolding Thames panorama.

Upper School

The Dictionary of Difficult Words – Jane Solomon and Louise Lockhart (Illustrator)

This is a book to create logophiles! It is such a great book and not just a dictionary! Written and compiled by a lexicographer, more than 400 unusual words are defined and this book will certainly expand vocabulary as well as encouraging discussion of wider considerations around language. There is a pronunciation guide for each word and an indication of which part of speech it is. Many of the words are illustrated, often humorously, and some are selected and given a more detailed explanation. Such a rare gem!



Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



Usra Y1.1

In Year 1 the children have learnt about tints and shades as a part of their 'Colour' unit of work. They looked at some images of Claude Monet's paintings and in particular ones that contained water lilies. The children used tints and shades of blue to create a water effect and then added water lilies on top. The work that the children produced was excellent! Usra took lots of care with her work and her work looked great.

Gitanjali Y3.1

In Year 3 as a part of their 'Line' unit of work the children experimented with print. They had to create a printing block and then produce multiple prints in a range of different colours. Gitanjali used a selection of lines effectively in her work and created a very well finished print of a flower.

Have a great half-term break. Many thanks for your continued support.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher



Dates

Pupils return to school	1 November 2021
Diwali Assembly	4 November 2021 (Pupils only)