

26 November 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.'* – @THERE'SGOODINSTORE

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would first and foremost like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting us with our fundraising for BBC Children in Need. Thanks to everyone's generosity, at the time of writing, we have already raised an amazing £1022.

A reminder, as we approach the half way point of this half-term, of the importance of us all playing our part to continue to keep everyone in the school community safe, well and COVID-19 free. With the continuing support of everyone in the William Murdoch community we have not yet had to implement any of our contingency planning nor close any of our year group bubbles. I am grateful to you all for your ongoing adherence of the COVID-19 guidance and safety measures that have been put in place to keep each and every one of us safe. A reminder that our school risk assessment, including all our protective measures, can be accessed from the school website. Please also continue to get advice from NHS 111 if you're worried about your child or not sure what to do.

### Nasal Flu Vaccination

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 before the above date.

### Green Bus Journey

The children in Reception went on an exciting bus ride around their local area as part of their *Our Environments* topic this term. This trip gave children the opportunity to identify and learn about key features and landmarks in their local environment. All the children were excited to see familiar routes and places whilst on the bus ride.



## Phonics and Reading Parent Workshop

We hosted our first parent workshop since the start of the pandemic and the turnout was marvellous. Parents were given an insight into how phonics is taught in school, and ways they can support their child to read at home. Top tips were shared on how to make reading more fun and engaging with your child and different ways of interacting with a story. We look forward to hosting more workshops over the course of the year – please keep a look out for what’s on offer!



## 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.

## Year 2 Guru Nanak’s Birthday Assembly

Last Friday, Year 2 put on a special performance to mark the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. The assembly was recorded and has now been posted on Class Dojo for Year 2 parents to access.

## COVID-19 Community Champion Update

This week is Black Friday week – that means one thing, the festive shopping period has begun. While we want you to enjoy your high streets and shopping centres, we also want you to enjoy them safely. You can help to keep yourself and others COVID-19 safe by following these COVID-19 safe behaviours:

- **Wear a face covering** as the shops will be busy
- **Take a test before shopping**
- **Stay at home** if you are unwell
- **Wash your hands** regularly
- **Download and using the NHS COVID-19 App**
- **[Take your vaccine when offered](#)**
- **Meeting outdoors** will be safer

If we all follow these behaviours, it will help us protect one another from COVID-19 and help to return life to normal.

## Walk-in vaccinations

Walk-in appointments are taking place at locations across Birmingham and Solihull. These appointments are for first and second doses (second dose appointments must be at least eight weeks after the first appointment).

You can also attend a walk-in appointment or mobile vaccination van for your COVID-19 booster (this should be six months after your second dose). The Pfizer vaccine is available to anyone over 18. It is also available to 16- and 17-year olds in some locations. The AstraZeneca vaccine is available to anyone over the age of 40.



You must always wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidelines when attending the sites. If you would prefer to book ahead of time, please call 119 or visit [the NHS website](#). We are happy to announce that walk-ins are available at locations across Birmingham and Solihull for 12-15 year olds. If you would like to find your [nearest walk in site click here](#). No appointment is needed, and they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. These walk-ins are for Birmingham and Solihull residents only. If you would like to [find out more about the vaccine, please click here](#).

## Lateral flow test pick-up points

Around **1 in 3** people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others.

### Sites where you can pick up a lateral flow test kit:

**Asda Queslett Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7HA**  
22-28 November - Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 6:30pm.  
Saturday - 9:00am - 5:30pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm

### **New Street Station**

**New Street Station, Station Street, Birmingham B2 4QA**  
22-28 November - Monday to Friday: 8:15am to 6:30pm  
Saturday: 8:15am to 5:30pm, Sunday: 9am to 5pm.



### 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**

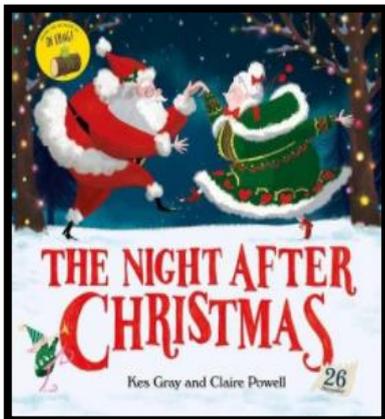
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any staff member 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.

## **Mr Panichi's Book of the Week**

### **Lower School**



### ***The Night After Christmas - Kes Gray and Claire Powell***

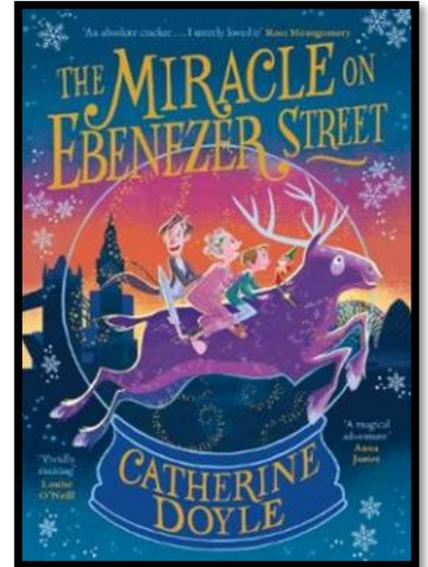
Have you ever wondered what Father Christmas does after Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are over? Well now that all the presents have been safely delivered, Santa and his elves enjoy their own festivities on Boxing Day. The Owls deliver a giant cracker filled with fun things, which everyone pulls, Mrs Klaus switches on the Northern Lights to brighten the party sky, the reindeer show off their dance moves and everyone makes merry, before starting the 364 day countdown until the next Christmas Eve. A rich, rhyming text, accompanied by bright vibrant illustrations full of humour, make this a picture book perfect for reading aloud to KS1 children.

## Upper School

### **The Miracle on Ebenezer Street - Catherine Doyle**

Three years ago George's mum died in a car accident on Christmas Eve. Since then his dad Hugo has cancelled Christmas entirely, much to George and his Nana Flo's sadness. Then one day George stumbles upon Marley's Curiosity Shop and in it he finds a mysterious snow globe that seems to show a scene from a past Christmas, a time when he and his family were happy and celebrating. What he doesn't know is that "Old Marley's magic leaked out" and that night he and his Dad and intrepid Nana Flo are swept away on an adventure, visiting a past, present and future Christmas, along with Randolph the purple reindeer and Trixie the miniature elf who somehow always manages to cause chaos!

This is a heart-warming, modern re-imagining of A Christmas Carol and I you'll LOVE it. It has a wonderful cast of characters, is full of magic and humour, but also deals very sensitively with the issues of grief. There is something almost 'Narniaesque'. There are 26 chapters and it would be the perfect book to read a daily chapter, to your little ones, during this Christmas period.



## Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week



Eesha Y2.1

In Year 2 the children have been studying a unit of work based on Colour, Shape and Texture. They learnt about the life and work of Henri Matisse and produced colour collages in the style of the artist's work. Eesha cut out a number of shapes very carefully and collaged them well.

## Rehandip Y5.2

In Year 5 the children have been producing very detailed pencil drawings of the Taj Mahal as a part of their Islamic Art unit of work. Rehandip produced a fantastic drawing made up of many geometric shapes.



## Pupil of the Week

**Y5.1 - Taemar**



**Y5.2 - Fariha**



**Y5.3 – Tawhid**



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation. Stay safe. Stay well.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

### Dates

Flu immunisation	1 December 2021
Year 2 trip to West Midlands Safari Park	2 December 2021
Reception trip to Hatton Adventure Park	9 December 2021
Year 5 trip to Bosworth Battlefield	10 December 2021



**BIRMINGHAM'S YOUTH COVID CHAMPIONS**

## WE NEED YOU!

- If you are between 11 and 18 years old and live/work in Birmingham, join our Youth COVID Champions Programme.
- You'll be invited to exclusive Public Health webinars and Q&As
- Receive the latest COVID advice and guidance directly from Birmingham City Council Public Health
- Be empowered to share this reliable information with people in your network - family, friends and community to keep our city safe

Want to become a Youth COVID Champion? Simply, send us an email:  
✉ [Juliet.C.Faulkner@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Juliet.C.Faulkner@birmingham.gov.uk)

