

27 January 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.'
—Maimonides.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will be aware from the media and my newsletter last week, that the National Education Union (NEU) has announced proposed strike days for our area on the following days:

1 February: All schools in England and Wales

1 March: East Midlands, West Midlands and the NEU's eastern region

15 and 16 March: Two-day strike of all schools in England and Wales.

Dr Mary Bousted and Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretaries of the National Education Union, said of the campaign:

"We have continually raised our concerns ... about teacher and support staff pay and its funding in schools and colleges... This is not about a pay rise but correcting historic real-terms pay cuts. Teachers have lost 23% in real terms since 2010, and support staff 27% over the same period. The average 5% pay increase for teachers this year is some 7% behind inflation. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, that is an unsustainable situation. It continues to be the aspiration of the NEU and its membership that this dispute can be resolved without recourse to strike action. We regret having to take strike action, and are willing to enter into negotiations at any time, any place, but this situation cannot go on."

I am writing initially to give you as much notice as possible so that you can make the necessary arrangements should your child's class not be open to them on the proposed strike days.

Teachers are not compelled to inform their headteacher on their plans to strike. However, members of NEU teaching staff in school have informed me of their intentions and, as of today, **there will be no class closures on the first strike day of 1 February 2023**. Please note this may be subject to change, hence it may not be possible to give you much notice of whether the class will have a teacher on a strike day. As such, it is vital that parents have planned alternative childcare arrangements in case they are needed. As always, I will keep you informed should the position of staff on whether to strike changes.

It is important to differentiate between the arrangements in place for school closure/opening during the COVID-19 pandemic and the proposed strike days. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, classes were covered by other teachers or staff if a teacher was absent. For the purpose of a strike day, **there will be no arrangements put in place to cover the class of a teacher who has chosen to strike**, meaning

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

there will be no school for that class on that given day. Schools locally will have varying numbers of NEU members, therefore, the impact of the potential strike will differ from school to school.

Year 4 Fire Safety Workshop

On Tuesday, pupils in Year 4 took part in a 'Sparks' Fire Safety Workshop delivered by West Midlands Fire Service. Pupils learnt the importance of fire safety in the home and what to do in case of emergency. They were also taught 'Stop, Drop and Roll'; a technique to extinguish fire if our clothes were to catch alight. A massive thank you to Royston, Anthony, Jack and Tosh for delivering the workshops. The sessions were very informative and warmly received. As a thank you for their effort and contributions in the workshops, pupils were given a special bookmark which highlights important safety messages.

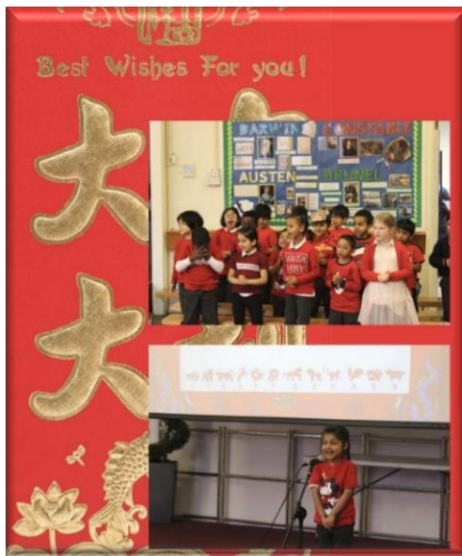


Reception Writing Stay & Play

Today, Reception parents were invited to attend a Maths Stay and Play session. During the session, parents were provided with information about the Maths scheme that is used in school and how we develop children's Maths skills. A variety of strategies were shared, and parents had the opportunity to engage in a variety of maths-based activities with their child.

Chinese New Year

This half-term, Y1.1 and Y2.1 have worked hard to practice for their Chinese New Year assembly. In their assembly, they explained the importance of celebrating this festival and how it is celebrated. They also performed the story of the Zodiac, where they explained how each year was given to a different animal. Finally, a traditional Chinese Dragon dance was performed to mark this special festival.



Pupil Stories

On Tuesday 17 January 2023, Zion in Y3.3 was lucky enough to be a mascot for Wolverhampton Wanderers at their home ground Molineux Stadium against Liverpool in the FA Cup. Not only did he walk out with the players in front of over 30,000 spectators but this was also aired on BBC Match of the Day. What an amazing and unforgettable experience!

We love hearing about our pupils' achievements outside of school and welcome any stories you would like to share.





UNICEF Article of the Week

Safer Internet Day is marked on 7 February every year. We all have a right to feel safe and secure, and that means online as well as in the real world. Safer Internet Day is an annual event that promotes the safe, responsible and positive use of the internet. The internet can be a great place but needs to be used carefully.

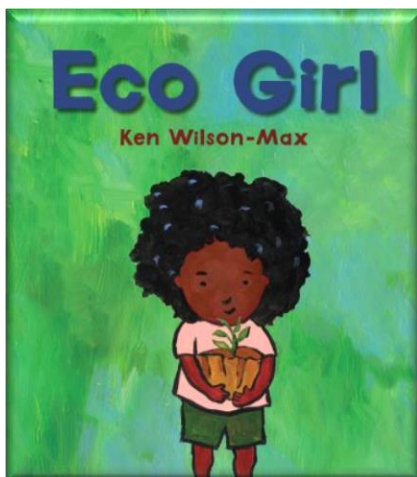
Article 17: (Access to information from the media): Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 19: (Protection from violence, abuse and neglect): Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 34 (Sexual exploitation): Governments must protect children from forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



Eco Girl - Ken Wilson-Max

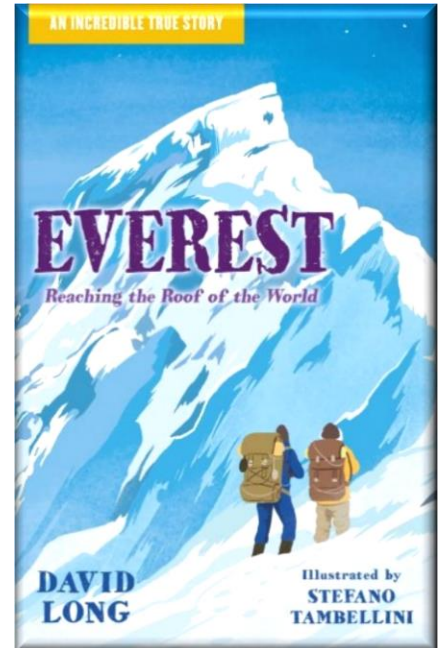
Inspired by his father's passion for trees, Ken Wilson-Max's picture book is a delightful introduction to conservation and care for the natural environment. Eve is lively and thoughtful, living at the edge of a big, old forest. She loves everything about it, the trees most of all, especially the Baobab, the African "tree of life". On her birthday, Eve and her parents visit Grandma, deep in the forest, where she gets a magical surprise. Unwrapping the bark from around a parcel that Grandma has carried to a special place, she finds a Baobab seedling to plant and take care of. Following family tradition, it will grow next to the trees that her father, grandma and great-grandma nurtured, connecting her forever with the forest she loves. The bold, rich colours used to illustrate the book joyfully conjure the heat, the vibrant flowers and the many shades of green to be found in the forest. This is

perfect to share with your younger ones to help them understand that everyone can play their part in preserving the natural world. Facts about trees are included at the end, providing a good starting point for finding out more.

Upper School

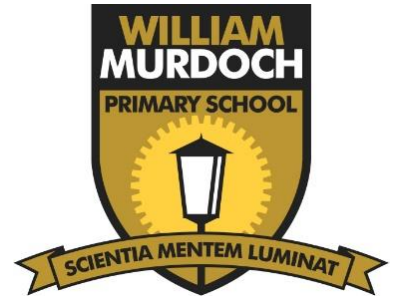
Everest: Reaching the Roof of the World - David Long & Stefano Tambellini (Illustrator)

Nearly everyone has heard of Mount Everest. Towering over the Himalayas, it is probably the most famous mountain in the world. Equally, Edmund Hillary and the Sherpa, Tenzing Norgay became household names when they became the first climbers to reach the top and descend safely again in May 1953. But what of all the climbers who tried and failed? What are the challenges and obstacles facing a team trying to reach the 8,849 metre-high summit of the 'Peak of Heaven'? This fascinating book by the award-winning David Long looks at the history of the race to reach the top. It is packed full of fascinating information about the challenges climbers face on the mountain, about the differences between modern climbing equipment and that used in the past, as well as the personal stories behind some of the attempts. The illustrations by Stefano Tambellini not only help to set the scene but also provide extra information. The picture comparing Mount Everest to other well-known mountains, for example, is simple yet effective. The book ends on a thought-provoking note – apparently, Everest is now littered with rubbish. At such a high altitude doing a litter pick is dangerous, yet there are teams of intrepid people trying to safeguard Everest's natural beauty. Even at these high altitudes, humans are still managing to leave their mark, and not always in a good way.



Artist of the Week





Liyana and Yaaminur in Nursery

In Nursery the children have been learning about Chinese New Year. As 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit some children created art pieces based around this animal. Meanwhile, other children produced work based on other animals that have been represented in years gone by. The work produced was of a very high quality and the children should be very proud of themselves. Liyana and Yaaminur took lots of pride in their work and this definitely shows through.

The children in Y5.3

In Year 5 the children have been learning about the process of filming and the use of different camera angles. They were then tasked with creating models out of clay to use as part of a short film. The figures produced were excellent and packed with amazing details. Some very good examples can be seen in the picture.

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

Your sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

January						2023
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 V4 Fire Safety Workshop	25	26	27 Reception Maths Stay & Play Session	28	29
30	31 Y3 Ancient Greeks Workshop					