

3 March 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." – Aristotle

Dear Parents/Carers,

It brought great pleasure to see the buzz created by World Book Day this week. World Book Day could not happen without the support of parents and carers - thank you, you make it happen! I am also grateful to Mr Panichi in particular for leading the events to mark the occasion in school. World Book Day dates back to 1995 and was created by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading. Primary children often change reading habits when they get into secondary school with the only books being read related to the subject they are studying e.g. a biology textbook. This week I shared with the children my own experience of making a similar reading journey and how this changed after becoming a teacher over 24 years ago. I now read for pleasure every day and below are some good reasons why we should all develop a reading habit.

Reading for Pleasure

If you can encourage your child to read for pleasure, they will really reap the benefits. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.

Here are some ideas for encouraging your child to read for pleasure:

- **Set aside a special time** – just a few minutes a day is enough to create a reading habit.
- **Get caught reading yourself** – show that reading for pleasure is not just for children.
- **Read to each other** – if your child really doesn't want to read on their own, then read together. You read a page, then they read a page. Or one of you could read any dialogue. Be brave and put on different voices.
- **Value the books they choose to read** – all reading is valuable for a child's development. Some of us prefer non-fiction; some of us prefer comics. One child might like superhero books; another might like a book of football statistics.

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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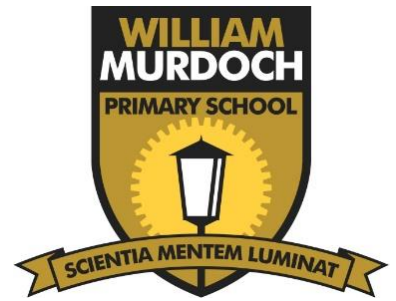
- **Set a challenge** – can they read ten books before they're ten? Can they read a book from six different genres: a comic, an information book, a funny book, a sci-fi book, a classic and an instruction manual?
- **Reading buddies** – reading to a younger sibling can boost your child's self-confidence and communication skills.
- **Audiobooks** – audiobooks allow children to experience a book above their own reading level. It also allows you to share a book together or make the most of those car journeys. Listening to a story over and over again can improve vocabulary and encourage deeper comprehension.
- **Read-a-thon** – join a sponsored reading event to raise money for charity.
- **Stage and screen** – use your child's favourite films or games as a springboard into reading. Knowing the characters and storyline can be a helpful bridge into reading a longer story.
- **Book club** – find out about local book clubs.

World Book Day

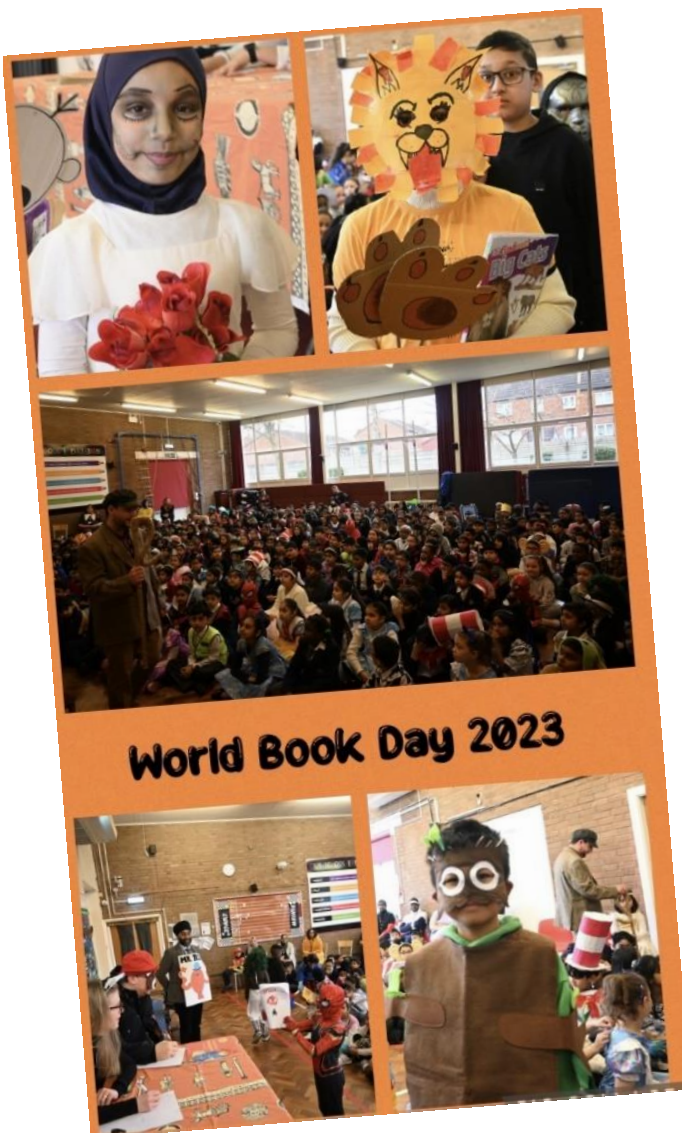
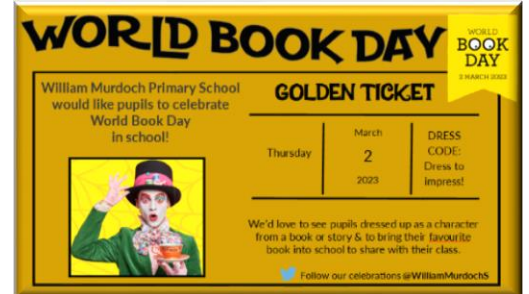
In school we marked World Book Day with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure - and not just for the day, but all-year round. This included a costume parade where book vouchers were awarded to the winners (the winners impressed judges with their originality as many of the costumes were homemade). Teachers also swapped classrooms to read a favourite book to children in another year group.



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Children were also presented with a £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.

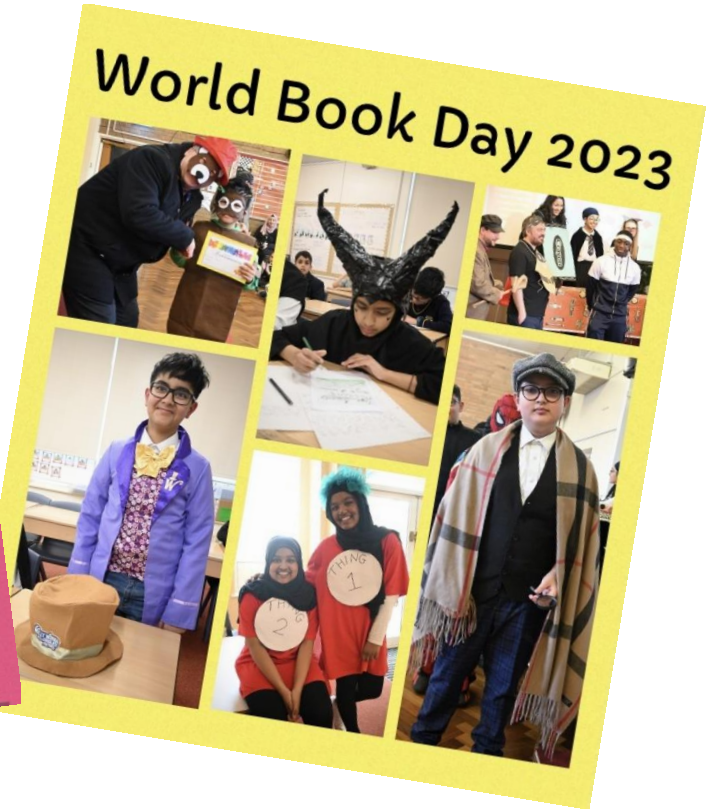
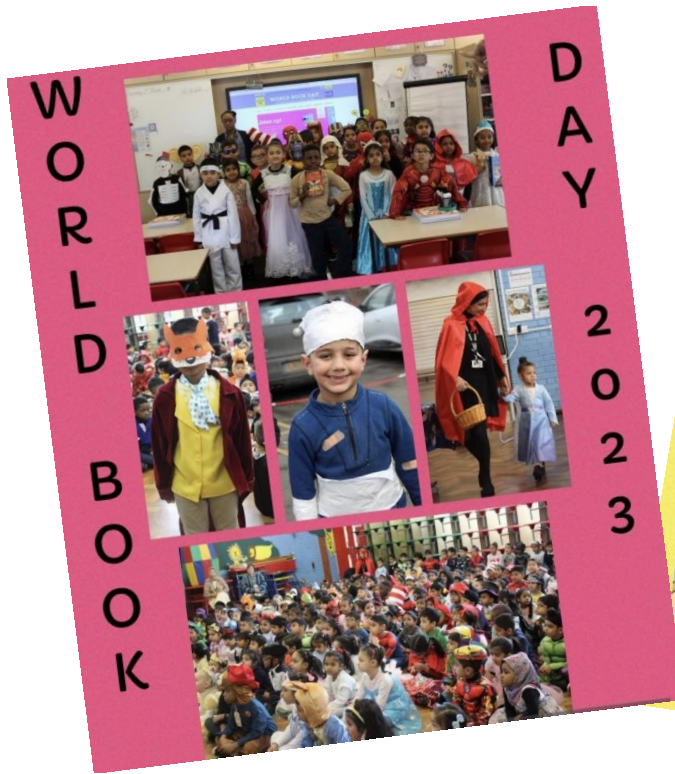


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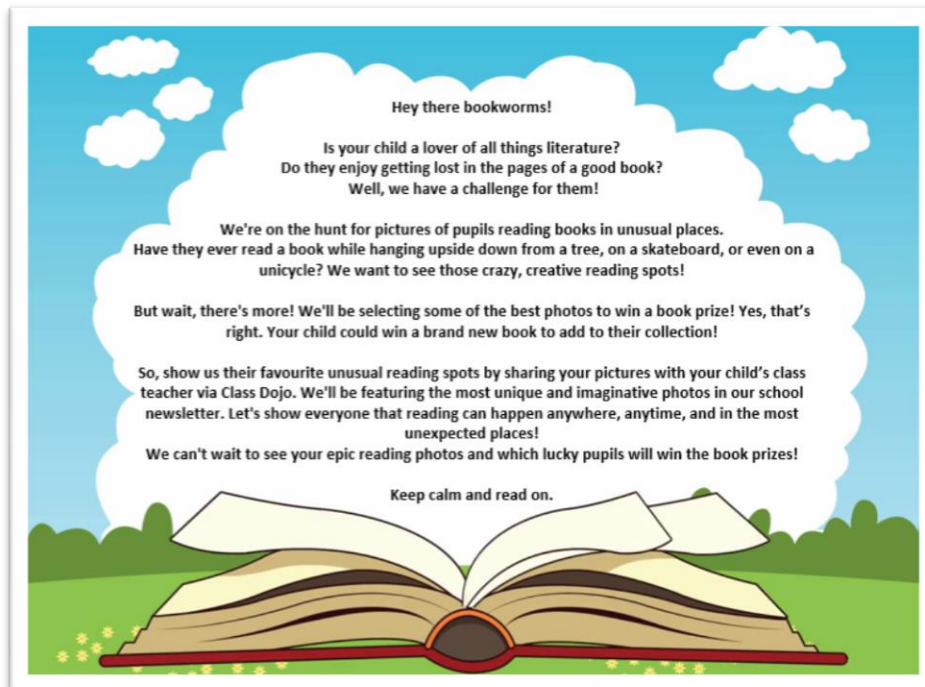
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World Book Day Competition



Hey there bookworms!

Is your child a lover of all things literature?
Do they enjoy getting lost in the pages of a good book?
Well, we have a challenge for them!

We're on the hunt for pictures of pupils reading books in unusual places.
Have they ever read a book while hanging upside down from a tree, on a skateboard, or even on a unicycle? We want to see those crazy, creative reading spots!

But wait, there's more! We'll be selecting some of the best photos to win a book prize! Yes, that's right. Your child could win a brand new book to add to their collection!

So, show us their favourite unusual reading spots by sharing your pictures with your child's class teacher via Class Dojo. We'll be featuring the most unique and imaginative photos in our school newsletter. Let's show everyone that reading can happen anywhere, anytime, and in the most unexpected places!

We can't wait to see your epic reading photos and which lucky pupils will win the book prizes!

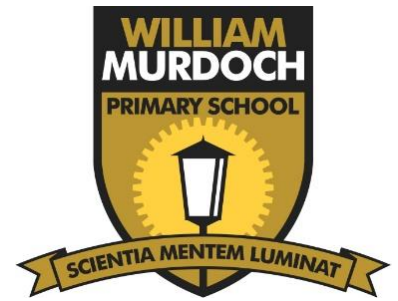
Keep calm and read on.

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International Women's Day

Wednesday 8 March 2023 is International Women's Day. At William Murdoch Primary School we will be marking the day by celebrating the achievements of women around the world and will be talking to children in lessons about this year's theme 'Embrace Equality'. Please do celebrate the women in your own families by telling their stories and talking to your children about what they have achieved and do achieve every day.



Parents' Evening

Please note the spring term parents' evening is scheduled for the week commencing 20 March 2023. The Lower School parents' evening will take place on Monday 20 March 2023 with the Upper School parents' evening being held on Wednesday 22 March 2023. Parents' evening will be held in the traditional way, with a five-minute appointment slot and an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books. A parents' evening appointment letter will be shared with you shortly.



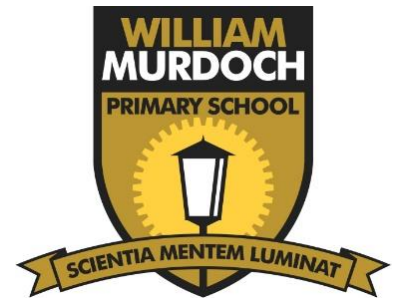
Govilon Residential Visit

The Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Govilon Activity Centre is fast-approaching. If your child has secured a place on the visit, please ensure all monies are paid by the deadline of Friday 28 April 2023 to ensure they can attend what will be a memorable weekend.

School Football Tournament Finals

Yesterday, ten girls from Year 5 and 6, along with Mr Harris and Mrs Pemberton, went to Goals to take part in the all Birmingham Girls' 5 a-side football finals tournament. Our girls represented the school wonderfully well and despite the results not going our way they never lost the smile from their faces. We would like to pass on our thanks to the staff and the parents who came along to support us. This year may not have been our year, but we have now got the foundations for years to come. Well done girls from everyone at William Murdoch Primary School; we are so proud of you.





UNICEF Article of the Week

This week's article has been based around World Book Day, which was celebrated on 2 March 2023. It was created by UNESCO on 23 April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is celebrated all over the world on 23 April but in the UK it always runs on the first Thursday in March. It is celebrated in over 100 countries. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories can make a crucial difference to your child's future success and is fun for all involved. That's why World Book Day continues to encourage children and young people to read for pleasure through its work with authors, illustrators, publishers, bookshops and libraries. This week's activities link to the following articles:



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 29 (goals of education): Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture): Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

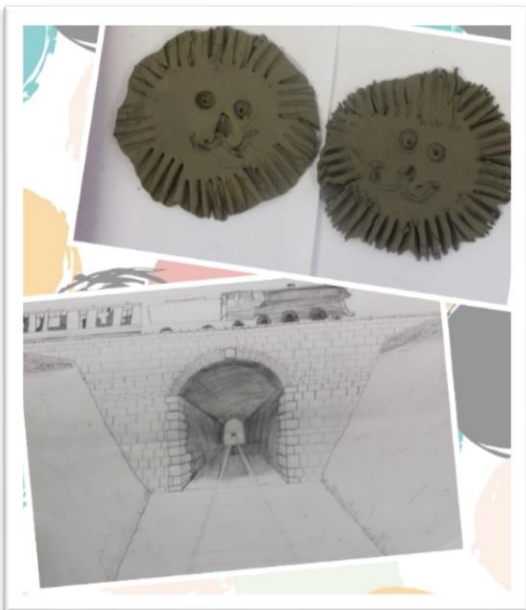
Artist of the Week

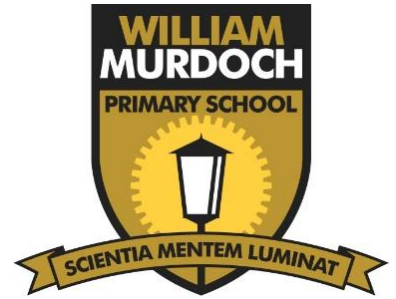
Aliyah and Hana R.3

In Reception, the children have been reading *The Lion and the Mouse*. A lot of time was spent having a discussion about the story and the characters within it. Using clay and appropriate tools, the children had the chance to create a portrait of the lion from the story. So much care was taken when adding the intricate details and the children created work of a superb standard. In the picture, Hana's work can be seen on the left and Aliyah's work can be seen on the right.

Kawsar Y6.1

In Year, 6 the children have spent some time learning about perspective with a particular focus on 1-point perspective. The children had lots of fun creating pictures of a tunnel using their knowledge of 1-point perspective. Kawsar took lots of care when drawing her work and created 1-point perspective very effectively.





Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to our Year 5 pupils, Ghena, Arika and Laiba for their hard work and cooperation this week. Keep it up!



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Your sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Key Dates

March							2023
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
		1	2	3 World Book Day	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10 6th Football Tournament Finals	11	12	
13	14	15 Y4 visit to Warwick Castle	16	17 Y4 Mother's Day Assembly	18	19	
20 Lower School Parents' Evening	21	22 Upper School Parents' Evening	23	24	25	26	
27 African Workshop for Reception	28	29	30	31 Y5 Easter Assembly Pupils Break up for Easter			