

21 April 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'You are what you do, not what you say you'll do.' – Carl Jung

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school for the Summer Term, albeit the warm summer weather has yet to fully materialise this week. I hope that you had an pleasant break and were able to enjoy some family time and some exciting days out. I am pleased to confirm that children have settled back to school routines quickly and a calm, purposeful atmosphere pertains around the school. Children have been working hard and have enjoyed seeing their friends again. The Summer Term is always busy and we are scheduling a range of events as we return to normality, including marking King Charles III's coronation. Please look out for details of these events in the termly newsletter, a copy of which will be available on Class Dojo. Your child will be given a paper copy of the termly newsletter early next week.

The termly newsletter also provides an overview of key information regarding the learning that will be happening in your child's class this term. I would encourage you to take the time to read these in the coming days to ensure that you have all the necessary information required for the term. This will enable you to better support your child with their learning during the Summer Term. Thank you in advance for taking the time to take a look.

At the start of this new term a reminder of our expectations with regard to school uniform; all of our children are expected to wear regulation school uniform to school every day other than when they have PE. This includes black school shoes; trainers are not permitted. Hair should be a natural colour and tied up if longer than collar length. Any hair accessories should be discreet, not brightly coloured and jewellery should not be worn with the exception of small, studded earrings which should be removed for swimming or covered with a swimming cap.

Although children can wear PE kits to school on their PE day, it is very important that they wear appropriate clothing for PE including footwear. If children do not have their PE kit for lessons, you will receive a phone call first thing asking you to bring it into school that morning. With the days becoming warmer, children in Upper School do not need to wear their school jumper, but the school blazer is a compulsory item of school clothing.

Thank you for your help and support in reinforcing these regulations with your children.

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

I know many of our families will have been celebrating Vaisakhi over the Easter holiday period and are still taking part in celebrations. I would like to send all those who marked the occasion our very best wishes. I would also like to take this opportunity to send on behalf of all staff at William Murdoch Primary School, a message of Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating. I hope you have a wonderful time.



Reception African Workshop

In Reception, the children have been learning all about Africa and took part in an African workshop. During the workshop the children learnt a variety of different African dance moves and performed a class dance. Each child also used their creative skills to decorate their own wooden mask sculpted in the style of the Dan tribe from West Africa using a range of vibrant colours and geometric designs. This was an exciting experience for all the children allowing them to be fully immersed in African Culture.





Mr Parker in the London Marathon

Mr Parker, class teacher and Team Leader in Year 1, is running the London Marathon on Sunday 23 April 2023 and I am sure you will join me in wishing him the very best. Mr Parker is a keen runner and runs for Halesowen A&CC. He is running the London Marathon to raise money for Cruse Bereavement Support.

Cruse Bereavement Support is the UK's leading bereavement charity and has been helping people struggling with grief and bereavement for over 60 years. Cruse Bereavement Support help people through the most painful times in life - with bereavement support, information and campaigning. In 2022, over 100,000 people received support directly from a Cruse volunteer or staff member. Below is a link to the Cruse Bereavement Support website:

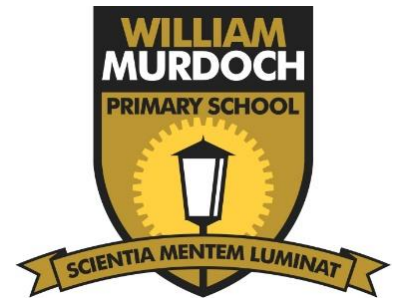
<https://www.cruse.org.uk>.

Nickolas Strikes Gold

We are always over the moon to hear about the exploits of our children, particularly when we hear that they have been representing England in a kick-boxing competition abroad. It first came to light when I received a leave request for Nickolas in Year 4, from his mother and who Nickolas describes as his number 1 fan. I immediately authorised the request on the proviso that plenty of photos are taken and shared with us! It was wonderful to receive an email from Nickolas's mother describing his amazing feats in winning a Gold medal and a Silver medal for England. We are all immensely proud of Nickolas, as is his family and in particular his proud mother, and he will be sharing his kick-boxing adventure with his peers in my Monday morning assembly.

Well done Nickolas. We are delighted to hear of your achievements which are testament to the hard work you put in on a daily basis to your training and fitness. We look forward to reading more about your competitive exploits in the future.





New Site and Catering Arrangements

This week we have been working from the new School Office. Many parents have commented positively on the wonderful, modern reception area and offices spaces. The path that links Antrobus Road to the Top Playground, and runs behind the Year 6 classrooms, has also been reopened. There is a barrier in the car park, with parking limited to staff and visitors only. The Antrobus Road gate now has access controls. The gate will be open during drop off and pick up times. At all other times you will need to press the intercom button to access the school site.

The new catering arrangements have begun, and I am pleased to confirm that our school catering service will continue to offer a toast facility during morning breaktime for our Upper School pupils only.

Payment for toast can only be made through your child's ParentPay account. Toast must be purchased in full for each half-term priced at:

Toast - £6.00 per half-term (20p per day).
Cheese on Toast - £12.00 per half-term (40p per day).

Payment for toast must be made by the first Friday of each half-term.

Easter Improvements

The site management team have been hard at work doing a deep clean and overseeing building works and refurbishments to the school.

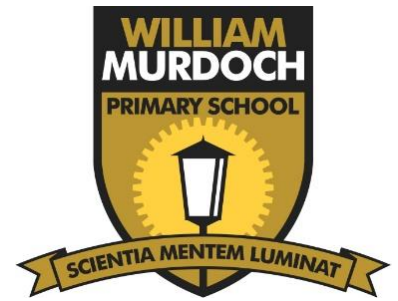
Landscaping contractors were in school to plant extensively in the newly developed areas. The plants are not yet mature and will be cared for by our site team. Please ensure you and your children stay on the paths so that the plants have the best possible chance of maturing successfully. We look forward to seeing them when they are fully developed.

School Playground Equipment

As the weather begins to pick up, I would like to remind parents that everyone should be off site at the end of the school day by 3.40pm. This is so that our after-school clubs can use the playgrounds and play equipment. **Please note the gates will close automatically at 3.40pm due to the new access controls.**

We know many parents like to allow their children on the equipment at the end of the school day, but the children **MUST** be adequately supervised by their parents or carers.





Do you have a child who is four or will turn four before 31st August 2023?

If so, you should have already applied online for them to start school in September. Normal applications have now closed so if you have not applied you should contact admissions at Birmingham City Council immediately to make a late application. You must tell them if you already have a child at William Murdoch Primary School (who will still be attending in September 2023). You do get priority but only if you have actually applied and told them about the sibling connection!



SchoolGrid Account

If your child's SchoolGrid account is still showing 'in credit' by Monday 17 April 2023, parents are to contact SchoolGrid directly on [01506 300310](tel:01506300310) or via support@schoolgrid.co.uk who will be able to arrange a refund for you.

We ask that parents settle all SchoolGrid outstanding balances as soon as possible. SchoolGrid (Dolce) will continue to chase any outstanding payments until they have been paid in full.

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.



UNICEF Article of the Week

This week pupils across the school have focused on Article 5 and Article 18 which are all about the job of parents and carers in the upbringing of children and young people.

Article 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities): Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognises the child's increasing capacity to make their own choices.

Article 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance): Both parents (or legal guardians) share responsibility for bringing up their child and parents and carers should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents and legal carers by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

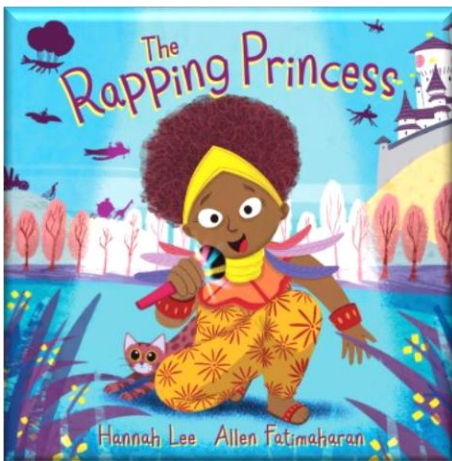
Pupils across the school focused on the question 'What are some of the important things that carers and parents do for children?' Staff and pupils discussed the different ways that parents and carers



consider what is best for their children in order to keep them safe, happy, healthy and provide the support they need to prepare them for adult life.

Book of the Week

Lower School



Rapping Princess – Hannah Lee & Allen Fatimaharan (Illustrator)

Shiloh wants to be able to sing but as this modern take on a fairy tale goes on she realises that her voice was designed for something else.

The rhythm of this book encourages you to try your own rapping voice and the connection with fairy tales and more contemporary talent offers lots to talk about. Children of all ages, particularly your younger ones will really enjoy this.

Upper School

Secret Beast Club: The Unicorns of Silver Street – Robin Birch & Jobe Anderson

Secret Beast Club will make a fantastic addition to your home library with an appeal to fans of Beast Quest, Rainbow Magic and The Boy Who Grew Dragons. It will definitely be a popular reading-for-pleasure choice and even better as it's the start of a series to collect. Aisha and Jayden are polar opposites but best friends. One thing they can always agree on is that it's best to stay inside their inner city flat. That is until Aisha's tablet is taken and they race after the culprit to the canal. The thief turns out to be a gargoyle and the canal boat is the headquarters of the Secret Beast Club – an ancient Society dedicated to protecting magical creatures! As well as the unicorn rescue mission, this is a story about friendship and also highlights the beauty and value of the natural spaces that can be found in the city. The pair of friends learn much about themselves and the power that lies in their unique differences and they discover that there is magic everywhere, especially when you look outside. This is a great illustrated early chapter book that will engage children with the pacy, modern storyline and magical elements.



Artist of the Week



Ankit Y4.1

In Year, 4 the children have been learning about the Byzantine Empire and some of the artwork that was made at this time. They discovered that mosaic was a common art form from this period in history. Everyone had loads of fun creating self-portraits in a mosaic style. Ankit produced a very creative piece of work and took great care when placing the paper squares.

Aviraj Nursery

Nursery children have been creating work related to their families. Each child put lots of thought into how the members of their family help them and it became clear that the children were very grateful for all that they have. The pupils enjoyed drawing the members of their family and verbally explaining how different family members help them in various different ways. Aviraj created a splendid piece of work with lots of attention to detail. It was great to see so talent on show!

Have a wonderful weekend and many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher