

24 March 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"It is easier to believe a lie that has been told a thousand times than to believe a fact that no one has heard before." – **Robert D Ballard**

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week it was a pleasure to receive so many parents on both the Lower School and Upper School Parents' Evenings. Many parents spoke to me about the wonderful progress that their children have made since September. I cannot agree more. The quality of much of the children's work is of a really high standard and it is clear how much effort and pride they put into their books. What is noticeable is that those children who have made the best progress also have the best attendance and miss very little school. We know that if children do not come to school regularly they will fall behind.

William Murdoch Primary School breaks up for Easter next Friday 31 March 2023 at the normal time and I know we will all be looking forward to Spring and lighter evenings. Please do remember to check the school term dates so that you are not booking holidays in term time. These are rarely authorised at William Murdoch Primary School and you may receive a fine if unauthorised leave is taken.

POLITE REMINDERS

A polite reminder with regards to the following:

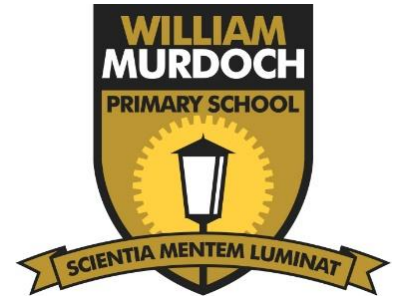
- If you have any changes of circumstances that you feel we should know or change of contact details, please inform the Main Office as soon as possible.
- Only medicines that have been prescribed by a Doctor can be administered in school. A form must also be completed at the Main Office. Please do not send any form of medicine to school in your child's bag.
- We are a 'nut free zone' at school due to severe allergies. Please do not send your child in with any nut products for their snack or lunch (including Nutella).
- We follow the healthy school initiative and ask you to encourage healthy snacks and packed lunches. Please limit the amount of crisps/chocolates in their packed lunches. Consider them a treat and therefore they should not be part of their lunchbox every day. Use fruit and yoghurt as a healthier alternative on some of the days.
- Only water in water bottles please.
- Please refer to our uniform policy on our website - trainers and nail varnish are not part of our school uniform. Hair should be suitable for school with no extreme styles and long hair should be tied back at all times.
- If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, there is a 48-hour exclusion from school after the last bout, to help eliminate cross infection.

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



Year 4 – Multiplication Check Meeting

On Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 3.30pm, we will be holding an information evening for parents of Year 4 children to explain the format for this year's national Multiplication Tables Check. The meeting will take place straight after school in the Lower School hall. If you are unable to attend, a booklet containing all of the information will be sent out after the meeting takes place.

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

Uniform

Spring feels like it is finally here, and it has been lovely to see the sun shining! It has been great to see children get outside more and enjoy our outdoor learning spaces. Please do make sure that your child(s) uniform is named. You will stand a much better chance of being reunited with it should your child misplace any items of uniform!

Parents' Evening

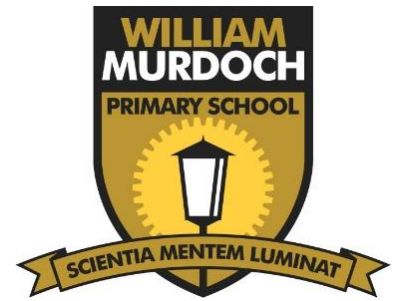
On Monday and Wednesday this week we held our Lower and Upper School Parents' Evenings. Mr Slinn worked extremely hard to put on an excellent art exhibition in the hall, showcasing a lot of the creative and interesting pieces of artwork pupils have completed over the past couple of months- I'm sure that all parents who saw the work were very impressed! I would like to thank all parents who attended their appointments, and for the positive feedback you have given around the work the school is doing. If you were unable to see your child's class teacher this week, please do not hesitate to contact them directly through Class Dojo, or phone the Main Office, to make an appointment for next week.



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 by Sunday 16 April 2023. SchoolGrid (Dolce) will continue to chase any outstanding payments until they have been paid in full.



Easter Egg Rolling Competition

On Thursday 30 March and Friday 31 March 2023, the children will have the chance to enter the William Murdoch Primary School Easter Egg Race. If your child would like to take part all they have to do is bring a **hard-boiled** egg to school next Thursday morning if they are in Year 2, 3 or 5, or next Friday if they are in Reception, Year 1, 4 or 6.



Rules of the Competition:

- **One hard-boiled egg only**
- Wrap the egg up in tissue paper carefully so as not to break the shell
- All eggs to be labelled and handed in to the class teacher at the start of the day
- Any child fooling around with their egg or another person's egg will not be allowed to enter the race

The egg will be rolled down a ramp and the winning egg will be the one which has rolled the furthest. Winning eggs in each class will win a small prize. There will be an additional prize for the **best decorated egg** in each class.

We look forward to enjoying a cracking day of eggciting races!

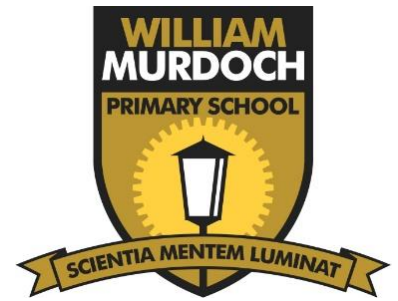
Chess Competition

On Wednesday, Mr Walker took a selected number of Year 6 pupils to participate in a chess tournament at King Edward's School in Edgbaston. They competed against a variety of public and private schools across Birmingham. The pupils demonstrated various strategic game plans throughout the tournament, with Hassan winning with a 3-move checkmate! The staff at King Edward's School also commented on how smart and well-behaved our pupils were. Well done!



Reception Writing Stay & Play

Today Reception parents were invited to attend a Writing Stay and Play session. During this session, parents were provided with information about how we develop children's phonics skills to enable them to apply this to their writing. A variety of strategies were shared, and parents had the opportunity to engage in a range of writing-based activities with their child.



Young People's Parliament (YPP)

Today, Mr Harris took 4 pupils, along with other local schools, to attend the 'Meet your MP Day'. Our YPP representatives had the opportunity to meet and interview two of our local Labour MP's, Shabana Mahmood (Ladywood) and Khalid Mahmood (Perry Barr). Pupils had the opportunity to ask them many questions regarding local issues and plans for our community. The children were exemplary in their behaviour and were a credit to our school. Thank you to Handsworth Association of Schools and Mrs Gill for organising such a wonderful experience.

Bring it on Brum - Easter Holiday Activity Programmes

Over the Easter holidays, 'Bring it on Brum!' will be running free activity programmes aimed at children eligible for Free School Meals. Parents can visit www.bringitonbrum.co.uk to book their children free places in a local club over the holidays, and enjoy the mix of fun, action-packed activities and tasty food provided through the programme. Eligible parents will receive a voucher code next week via email, which will allow them to access this free provision. Please see the flyer below for more details.

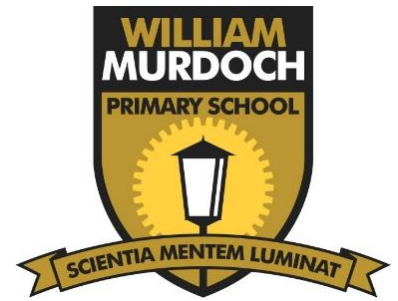


Govilon Residential Visit

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.

Year 6 Secondary School Allocations

If you are the parent/carer of a child in Year 6, you should have received an offer email and letter naming the secondary school your child has been offered for entry in September 2023. You **do not** need to contact Birmingham School Admissions if you intend to accept your child's offer of a school place.



You only need to inform School Admissions if you are **refusing** the school place your child was offered, and this must be done by **Wednesday 29 March 2023**. Details of how to do this was included in your offer letter. If they are not informed by this date that you wish to refuse your offer, the secondary school will update their records to show the offer has been accepted.

We strongly encourage you to accept your offer, this is so your child has a guaranteed school place to attend in September 2023.

By refusing your offer, please be aware that your child's school place may be offered out to another child from that school's waiting list once they are made available. Your child will have **no school** to attend in September as School Admissions only make one school offer to a child. If a family refuses their school offer, they are not required to offer your child a place at an alternative school.

Your child will only be offered a place at another school if a place becomes available on the waiting list for one of your higher preferred schools due to waiting list movement once they are available, or if you appeal against the decision to refuse your child a place at one of your preferred schools and your appeal is subsequently upheld (successful).

The offer being accepted will not affect your child's waiting list position for any of your higher preference schools, or influence the outcome of any appeal you may submit.

If your child has not been offered a place at any of the schools that you applied for, this will be because the school(s) you applied for have received more applications than there were places available, and other children that better met the admission criteria than your child were offered those places. Details of the school admission criteria that all applicants are considered under are available here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/24941/secondary_schools_admissions_criteria.

UNICEF Article of the Week

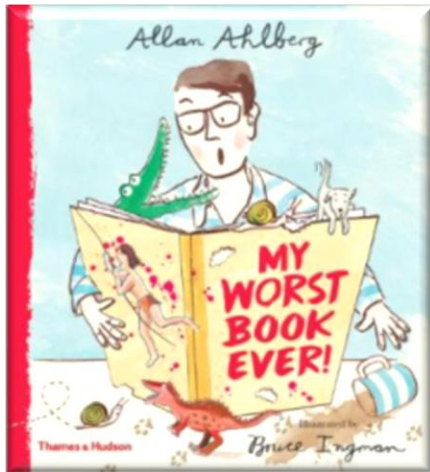
This week's 'Article of the Week' was based on:

Article 35 (abduction, sale and trafficking): Governments must protect children from being abducted, sold or moved illegally to a different place in or outside their country for the purpose of exploitation. Pupils across the school focused on the question 'How do you keep yourself safe at home, at school and in the community?' Staff and pupils discussed that abduction, sale and trafficking of children is rare and how to keep yourself safe and know who to talk to if you think yourself or a friend is at risk.



Book of the Week

Lower School



My Worst Book Ever! – Allan Ahlberg & Bruce Ingman (Illustrator)

Allan Ahlberg describes the journey of a story from the glimmer of an idea in an author's head to a fully-fledged published story in this unique picture book. Children will be fascinated by the inner workings of an author's mind as he shapes his story and delighted by the influences - and chaos! - which affect the final production. Lots of lovely detail and humour is provided by Bruce Ingman's illustrations. A great book to share during bedtime.

Upper School

Villains Academy – Ryan Hammond

Bram, a young werewolf boy, is just starting at Villains Academy but the problem is that, unlike his classmates, Mona the witch, Sheila the ghost, Skele-tony, the Tooth Hairy, and Mr Toad, he's just not all that sure that he's, well....bad enough. Master Mardybum hates him, he will never be named Villain of the Week, and he's the only one in Class Z who can't manage to get detention. All of the other villains think he is too pathetic to even bother being enemies with. But when Bram and the rest of team 'Cereal Killers' must fight their way through the Mystery Maze, they realise that friendship is more important than they had thought, and your own worst enemy can sometimes be yourself. Despite the humour (there is a lot of passing wind) and funny made-up insults such as bumbershins and shubblemegump, at heart Villains Academy is a riff on the classic boarding school tale, with grumpy teachers, conflicting personalities, and moral lessons to be learned. The silly capers, short chapters and highly-illustrated text should make this a hit with its target audience of 7-9 year olds.

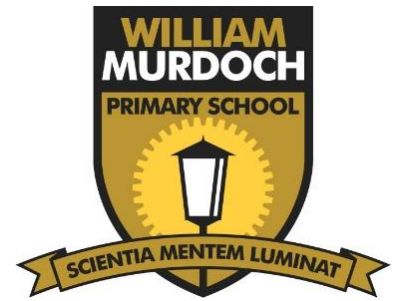


Artist of the Week

This week, the work of many talented children was showcased in the Parents' Evening art exhibitions. There were two separate exhibitions, one for Lower School and one for Upper School, and these were thoroughly enjoyed by many members of our school community. It was very pleasing to see the abundance of ability and talent that the children have in the arts. Furthermore, the exhibitions showed off how incredibly diverse and creative our Art curriculum offering is! As a school, we very much look forward to showcasing more excellent work in the future!



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



I want to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to you for the understanding you have shown in recent weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

March		2023				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3 World Book Day Girls Football Tournament Finals	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	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	28	29	30	31 Y5 Easter Assembly Pupils Break up for Easter		

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