

28 April 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.'

– Martin Luther King

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday, myself and the two deputy headteachers, Mr Matthews and Mrs Pannu, had the privilege of attending the launch of the Walkthrus programme coordinated by Birmingham Education Partnership, the body responsible for school improvement in Birmingham schools. Supporting teacher development to ensure we have the most effective practitioners has always been a school focus. The Walkthrus techniques use an evidence-informed approach to develop teachers' understanding of how children learn and how to use the most effective teaching strategies. Our upcoming teacher training days will focus on Walkthrus and we couldn't be more excited to be involved. We believe Walkthrus will be a key cog in our continuous school improvement journey and help us further improve pupil outcomes.

Dylan William, emeritus professor of Educational Assessment at the Institute of Education, University of London has this to say on Walkthrus:

It is a beautifully illustrated tour of the most important things to be thinking about in teaching, and in the leadership of teaching. Teaching is such a complex endeavour that the idea of a complete guide to teaching excellence is surely impossible, but this comes closer than anything I have seen to date.

Industrial Action on Tuesday 2 May 2023

I am writing to inform you about the next day of industrial action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. **This will take place on Tuesday 2 May 2023.**

To determine whether William Murdoch Primary School can remain fully or partially open, a detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

Due to the implications of industrial action, various activities of the school are being changed and amended, including classes being closed. As head teacher, in discussion with senior leaders, and based on the information I have at hand, it has been decided to **close Class Y3.3. No other classes will be closed.**

If there are any changes regarding which classes are in school, you will be notified on Class Dojo and by text.

If your child is affected by these changes and is entitled to Free School Meals (not Universal Free School Meals), please contact the Main Office if you would like to order and collect a packed lunch.

Orders should be made by 9.15am on Tuesday at the latest. For those children who are in school, lunchtimes will run as usual.

I would like to again express my appreciation of your cooperation and understanding at this time.

Nursery Play & Stay Session

This week the Nursery parents were invited to attend a 'Singing and Rhyme Time' Stay and Play session with their children. During the session, parents had the opportunity to learn about the importance of singing and rhyme in the Early Years and how it supports many aspects of children's early development. Parents were then able to experience their child take part in a 'Sound Tots' singing session and were given ideas to engage in rhyme at home.



Eid Assembly and Parties

I hope families celebrating Eid had a great time marking the occasion. A special Eid assembly will be held on Thursday 5 May 2023 at 9.00am in the Upper School hall by the children and staff in Reception. We would like to invite parents of children in Reception to watch the assembly. All children will have the opportunity to take part in Eid parties next Thursday afternoon. Please look out for the Eid letter where we will provide further details.

Please note, for assemblies taking place in the Upper School hall, access to the assembly will be via the Upper School hall doors only.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently 92.8% which is well below the national average 93.6% and school target of 97%. It is also well below William Murdoch Primary School's pre-covid 19 attendance figures. We fully understand that children can become unwell but we do ask that you please send your child in if you think they are able to cope with the school day. Please avoid taking holidays during term time. We have 35 children who are yet to miss any time from school this year. We have 137 children who fall into the persistently absent category as set by the government. Children who are referred to as persistently absent are children with attendance which falls below 90%. Across a year that would mean a child misses 4 weeks of school. If absence is persistent or holidays are taken, you could be fined under section 444 of the 1996 Education Act.

Community News

As you are aware, from time to time we send home leaflets for a variety of things including notices from the wider community. Can we reiterate this is **not an endorsement** from the school for any of the products, events or services, and we must emphasise that you must carry out your own checks

to validate any of the information. If you are interested in something advertised through the school, please contact the relevant parties for further information. The exception to the above is any after school clubs or holiday clubs that take place on the school premises. The school ensures that these providers adhere to the school's safeguarding procedures.

Wellbeing Tip of the Week - Don't let exam stress get to you

Exam time can be scary and stressful. Some stress can be a good thing because it motivates us to try hard and do well, but too much stress can be overwhelming. Here are some tips to keep those stress levels under control:

- Keep it in perspective - you can only do your best, exams don't mean everything and they don't define who you are
- Choose good habits - try to get organised with a revision timetable and find the revision technique that suits you
- Avoid bad habits - don't set yourself unachievable goals or cut out things that you enjoy doing
- Seek support: lean on friends and family for support or ask your teacher or mentor
- Get in your 'me time' - take breaks and keep doing things that you enjoy
- Stay healthy - eating well, getting enough sleep and being active are all great ways to de-stress and keep your mind focused.

Mr Parker in the London Marathon

On Sunday 23 April 2023, Mr Parker took part in the London Marathon. A marathon is 26.2 miles which is roughly the distance from Handsworth to Warwick. Mr Parker completed the marathon in 2 hours 41 minutes, averaging 6.05 minutes per mile and finishing 728th out of 49,000+ finishers. Mr Parker was raising money for Cruse Bereavement, the UK's leading bereavement charity. Thanks to the support of so many, he raised over £1200. A massive well done from all at William Murdoch Primary School.

New Catering Arrangements

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:

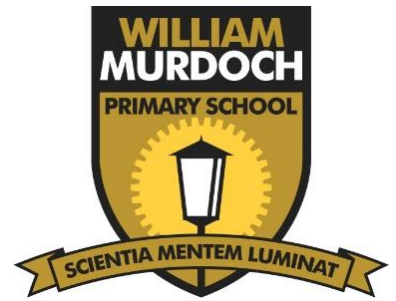
Toast - £6.00 per half-term (20p per day).

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.



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



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 31 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' as of 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, the deadline to pay any remaining monies is today, Friday 28 April 2023. If you have not yet paid the remaining balance, please do so by Tuesday 2 May 2023.

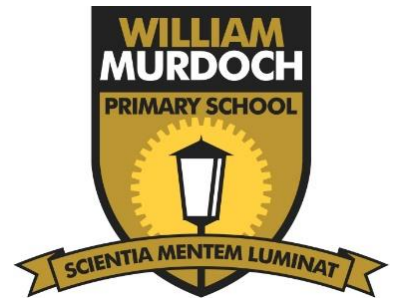


WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk, WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



UNICEF Article of the Week

This week's article of the week has focused on Earth Day. Earth Day takes place every year on 22 April to show support for the protection of the environment and our planet. It was first held on 22 April 1970, in the United States of America. Earth Day has brought together people, governments and companies from around the world, supporting them to do something positive for the environment. It promotes the fact that 'change starts with action' and we can all take action and encourage others to take action that positively impacts on the world around us.

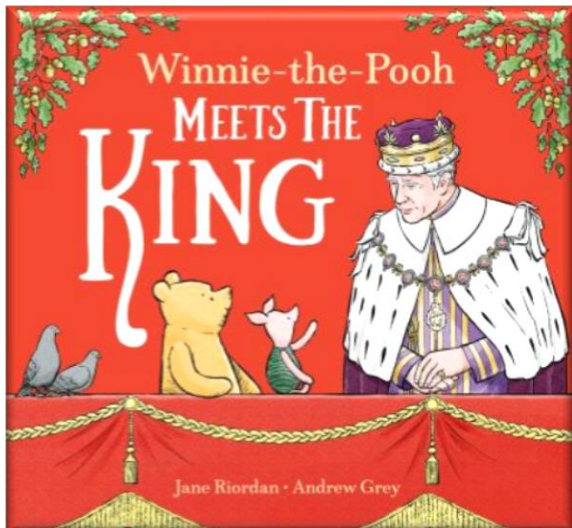


Pupils across the school have looked at article 6 (**life, survival and development**) - Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article 24 (**Health, Water, Food and Environment**)- Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this

Book of the Week

Lower School



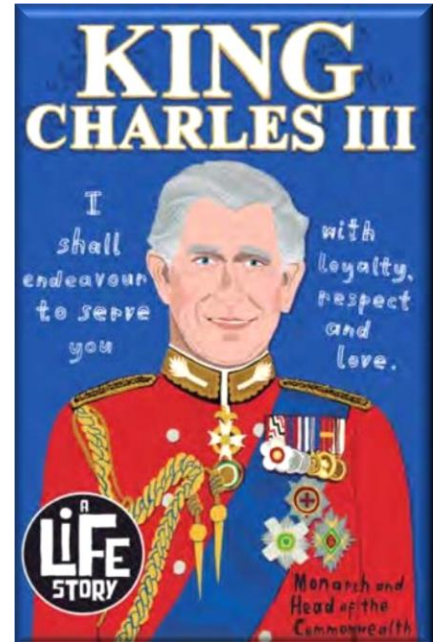
Winnie-the-Pooh Meets the King – Jane Riordan & Andrew Grey

'Kings and crowns and whatnot? It sounds like something out of a dream or a fairy tale,' said Eeyore. When Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends go on an expedition to a Royal London Park they don't expect to find themselves in the middle of a royal adventure. This charming story takes place at a very special Royal Coronation. When Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet lose Eeyore in the crowd, they come up with a plan to find their friend. Along the way they meet a Very Important Person and learn about the importance of kindness, helping others and new beginnings. This classic character children's book will make a wonderful keepsake to honour the historic coronation of King Charles III.

Upper School

A Life Story: King Charles III – Sally Morgan & Sarah Papworth

King Charles III: environmental activist, monarch and head of the Commonwealth. Read all about the life of King Charles III, from his early days at boarding school and watching his mother become queen to his dedicated work as an environmental activist and becoming king himself, this book will take you on a royal tour through King Charles III's life. Celebrate the king's coronation and the beginning of his reign with this book that shines a light on the wonderful achievements that form King Charles III's legacy. Did you know that Charles has a frog named after him? Or that he's a qualified pilot and diver? How about that Charles is an accomplished artist? Find out everything there is to know about Great Britain's newest king with this remarkable history book.



Artist of the Week



Nursery- Azaan

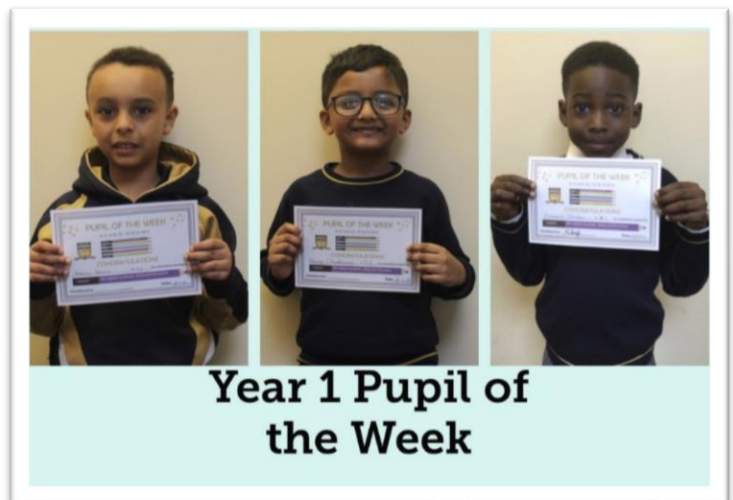
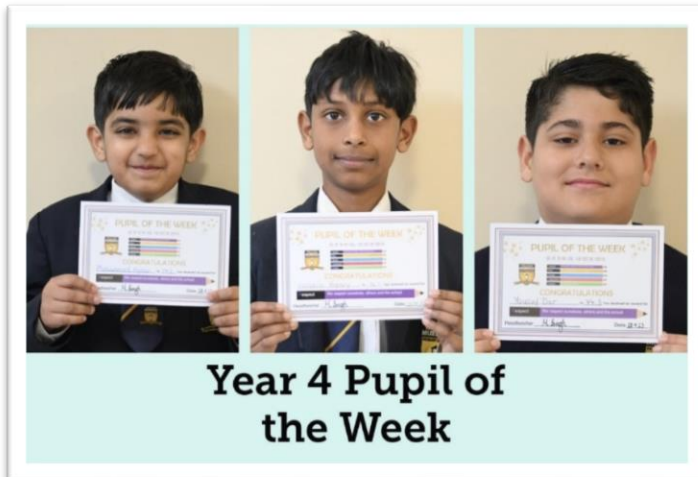
In Nursery, the children have been learning about the season of Spring and about the flowers that grow at this time. After plenty of discussion it was time to get creative. Azaan really enjoyed creating a picture of some beautiful flowers using a range of materials. The work is very colourful and immediately grabs the attention in a great way!

The children of Y3.2

In Year 3, during the Mythological Paintings unit, the children spent time studying the work of Picasso and in particular a piece of work entitled 'Minotaur'. Taking inspiration from this piece of work, the children had the opportunity to create their own drawings based on the Minotaur. Y3.2 produced lots of exceptional work and there were loads of excellent outcomes.

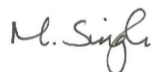
Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to our Year 4 Pupils, Ebrahim, Mohammed and Yousuf and our Year 1 pupils, Inioluwa, Abdulalim and Miraj for showing respect to both staff and pupils this week. Keep it up!



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

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher