

31 March 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way." – Napoleon Hill

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy term that has simply flown by. The Spring term is the engine room of the academic year, where the children have settled in and tend to make the most progress. The Spring term has also seen so many wonderful events take place, including showcasing the children's fabulous artwork during the Parents' Evenings, and more recently the Services For Education Music Ensemble which saw our talented musicians perform at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. There have also been numerous sporting events taking place where William Murdoch Primary School pupils have shown great teamwork and sportsmanship.

Year groups have also enjoyed some delightful educational trips and visits this Spring term, with Year 4 visiting Warwick Castle and Year 1 going to Tutbury Castle. The children also experienced a range of workshops as the school has marked World Book Day, Safer Internet Day and Science Week this term. We have also had an Ancient Greeks workshop in Year 3, a Dinosaur workshop in Nursery and a Fire Safety workshop for pupils in Year 4.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the team here at William Murdoch who regularly go the extra mile for the children. Their hard work on a day-to-day basis really is crucial to the delivery of the school curriculum. I would also like to express my appreciation to the team for all that they do around the enrichment activities they plan and deliver.

Next term brings with it statutory assessments for many year groups across the school, be they to do with phonics, times tables or SATs. We are aware that many children feel anxious at the thought of these and would encourage you to let your children relax over the holidays and not just focus on preparation. Please share a good book and enjoy plenty of fresh air and family time together. The children will reap the rewards when they return fully recharged and ready to go on Monday 17 April 2023.

I hope you enjoy a healthy, happy holiday together and hopefully enjoy some good weather. My very best wishes for a peaceful Ramadan, Easter and Passover to those families marking these occasions over the holiday.

New Site Arrangements – Office Move

This week, I had a number of meetings with the architects and building contractors, and I am delighted to confirm that the new Main Office will be operational for when we return after the Easter break on Monday 17 April 2023. This also means the path that links Antrobus Road to the Top Playground, and runs behind the Year 6 classrooms, will be reopened.

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 would like to pass on my thanks for your patience and support during the period of the building works. We very much look forward to welcoming you into these spaces and I hope you are as pleased with the new facilities as we are.

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

Year 1 Visit to Tutbury Castle

On Wednesday 29 March 2023, the children in Year 1 visited Tutbury Castle, as part of their Kings and Queens topic this term. Tutbury Castle is a largely ruined medieval castle, owned by the Duchy of Lancaster. In the morning, the children walked to St Mary's Priory Church, where they met Queen Elizabeth I. Pupils learnt the rich history of Tutbury Castle and had the opportunity to display their knowledge and ask questions. In the afternoon, children were given a guided tour of the grounds, which was enjoyed by all. Behaviour throughout was exemplary - children were a credit to the school. They should be very proud of themselves, as we are of them.



Little History Quiz

On Wednesday 29 March 2023, Mr Hallam took four pupils from Year 6 (Hassan, JB, Taemar and Rayyan) to King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys for their annual Little History quiz. Over 9 challenging rounds, the team answered questions about kings and queens, inventors, famous faces and ancient adventures. They competed against 27 teams from other schools in the Birmingham area and finished in a fantastic 4th position. It was great to see the pupils showing off their impressive History knowledge, and it really is a wonderful achievement to finish so high on the leaderboard!

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

Easter Egg Rolling Competition

Easter is a time when many Christians celebrate Jesus's resurrection from the dead after three days. It is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. This year, Easter Sunday is on 9 April 2023.

An egg is a symbol of new life. For Christians, Easter eggs are used as a symbol for the resurrection of Jesus. Christians believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and sin. This offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings.

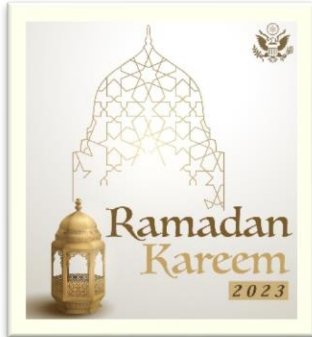
Each year, as part of our Easter celebrations, pupils have the opportunity to take part in Mr Blackmore's Easter Egg Rolling Competition. This year again was a huge success, and everyone involved had lots of fun. What a great end to the term!



Easter Assembly

The children in Year 5 impressed the school community with their excellent Easter Assembly! Throughout the assembly, the Easter story was shared through both song and dialogue, and was done very effectively. It was so pleasing to see so many children singing beautifully and getting involved in lots of acting. The assembly was thoroughly enjoyed, and everyone involved in it should be very proud of themselves. Despite the technical difficulties, Year 5 persevered and put on a fabulous show! Congratulations to the whole Year 5 team!





Ramadan Kareem

We are aware that many of you will be starting Ramadan over the Easter holidays. Some of our older children (Year 5 & 6) may also wish to fast when they return to school on Monday 17 April 2023. If your child intends to fast, please refer to the fasting letter that was sent to parents of Year 5 and Year 6 children earlier, and ensure that the permission form is signed and returned to school.

Ensemble Gala Concert

On Tuesday 28 March 2023, the Brass, Sitar and Tabla ensembles performed at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire of music in Central Birmingham. Many weeks of concentrated, intensive practice on the part of the pupils has taken place over the course of this term in preparation for the big event. The result of all our pupils' hard work is that they did not disappoint, and their skill level was clearly evident to the audience.

The Sitar and Tabla ensemble played a selection of cultural pieces arranged by their tutor Mr Dharni. Their musical input was truly unique, bringing an air of exotic flair to the overall ambiance of the occasion.

The Brass ensemble took to the stage with Mr Sandham as conductor. The improvement in the musicality of our players is a true wonder to behold. The audience were captivated by the tuneful resonance radiating from the stage. Overall, it was a wonderful experience for everyone involved, and a special privilege to see the musical endeavours of children from across our city. We eagerly anticipate our next musical outing in July.

Termly Report Cards

Your child will be bringing home their termly report card today. We ask that you do spend time reading through this. Last term, you would have received a letter explaining the content of the report along with a copy of the home reader book band chart. If you need another copy of this, please contact the Main Office.





Comic Relief

On Friday 17 March 2023, the school took part in the Comic Relief Red Nose Day Appeal. The total amount raised was £838.00, which is a fantastic achievement. Each year our parents and children continually amaze me with their support and generosity.

Projects

Pupils have been bringing in their People in History projects this week, and we are delighted with the standard of what has been brought into school. In Year 4, Piya created this stunning Lewis Hamilton project, featuring a Formula 1 circuit and lots of information about Lewis himself. I'm sure Piya will be cheering him on at this weekend's Australian Grand Prix! Well done to all pupils who completed a project over the past few months. Your child will come home today with information about our summer term project, which is all about inventions. We look forward to seeing what they come up with later in July!



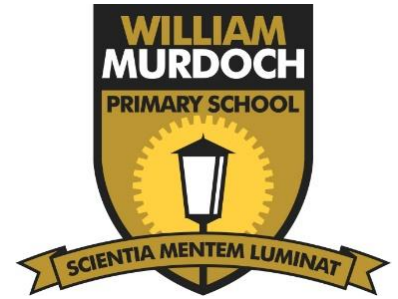
Change in Circumstances

May we request, if there are any changes to your circumstances over the holiday, such as address, telephone number, email address etc, that you inform the Main Office via email at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk. If there have been any changes to your personal circumstances which you feel may have an impact on your child, please let their teacher know as soon as possible.

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.





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.

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's article of the week has focused on World Water Day, which takes place every year on 22 March. Pupils have learnt that World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance which started in 1993 and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe, clean water and good sanitation. This was Sustainable Development Goal 6.

But there is still much work to be done with over 2 billion people drinking unsafe water. An important aim of World Water Day is to inspire everyone to act and make the necessary changes so that the right to clean water can be achieved by 2030 for everyone.

This week's activities were linked to the following articles:

Article 24 (Health Services): 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.

Article 27 (Adequate Standard of Living): Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.



Book of the Week

Lower School



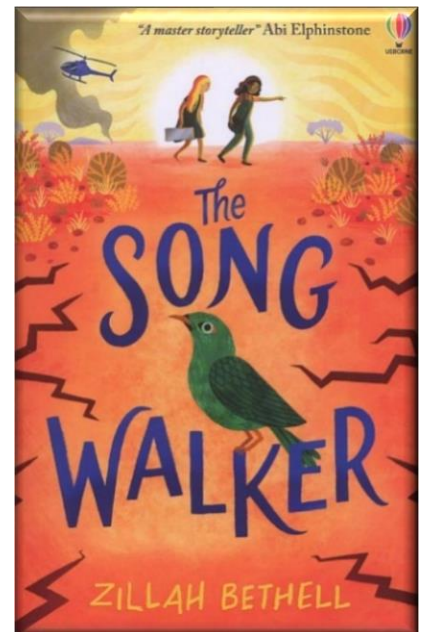
Rapunzel – Bethan Woollvin

A pared back and twisted take on the traditional tale told with humour to be gleaned from reading the pictures. It begins with Rapunzel, here portrayed as a child, already encased in the tower without the back story explaining how she came to be there and reaches a conclusion in which she makes a joyful escape without the aid of a prince. As in her previous book Little Red, Bethan Woollvin uses a colour palette which incorporates only one standout colour amongst black, white and grey – in this case a golden yellow used to highlight Rapunzel's hair. A really great storybook that will help young children to see things differently.

Upper School

The Song Walker – Zillah Bethell

The Song Walker is a soulful story that beautifully serenades the reader with themes of freedom, identity, music and heritage. Zillah Bethell's writing always takes readers to new horizons. The Song Walker is a new standalone adventure that shares a similar intensity of setting and an interweaving of gentle existentialist musings with relatable themes of making friendships and searching for identity in the face of cultural and familial expectations. This time, the setting is the Australian Outback and the reader feels the blazing heat and dryness of the red, flat landscape that spans underneath a limitless sky. The main character, who is nameless at the start of the story, appears to have no idea how she got there or who she is. She carries a mysterious case and finds herself on a search for answers accompanied by her new friend, Tarni. Journeying deeper into the desert landscape, the girl has to dig deep into her inner self to find answers about who she is and who she wants to be. The story is philosophical and at times dream-like, with a melodic quality to the writing. The book is perfect for mature readers in upper Key Stage 2 who enjoy an immersive reading experience and a thought-provoking narrative with the potential to stir some very profound discussion questions.



Artist of the Week



Christina Y5.2

In Year 5, the children have been working through a unit of work entitled 'Chinese Art'. Amongst other things, they have learnt about how ink can be used effectively to create a piece of work. As part of the unit, the children discovered that bamboo is a common plant in China, and everyone investigated ways of drawing bamboo effectively. Christina produced a fantastic interpretation of a piece of bamboo and took great care when adding the intricate details.

Maidah Y1.3

In Year 1, the children had lots of fun using paints to recreate parts of 'Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh. The aim of the activity was to use a style of painting similar to the one Van Gogh so famously used. Maidah worked brilliantly on the work and the outcome was very impressive! The colours in the artwork were added with lots of thought and care!

Have a restful Easter break and many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

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 Y6 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 Y3 Easter Assembly Pupils Break up for Easter		