

5 May 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'The time is always right to do what is right.' – Martin Luther King

Dear Parents/Carers,

The month of May is always really busy in school, mainly due to the statutory national tests that will be taking place in Year 2 and Year 6. You will know them as the Key Stage 2 SATs and the Key Stage 1 SATs.

Next week is SATs week for our Year 6 pupils. The children and teachers have all worked extremely hard during the year to help the children prepare for these tests. Year 6 parents, I ask that you help your children by providing them with the right amount of encouragement and asking them not to unduly worry about the tests.

Our mantra in school around the tests has been for children to simply do their best; that is all we can ask. Please also try to make sure that they are well rested, have a good breakfast and arrive on time each morning, as all of this will help their performance on the day. If your child is unwell, please phone the school on the morning as soon as possible after 8.00am and speak to a member of the office staff (rather than leaving a message). I am sure all the children will do really well and make themselves, the school and their parents proud.

During the week commencing 15 May 2023, our Year 2 pupils will also be undertaking a range of assessments planned and delivered by their teachers. These will contribute towards their final Key Stage 1 assessments. Again, please do everything that you can to make sure your children attend school and are punctual each day.

Date	Test Paper
Tuesday 9 May 2023	Spelling Grammar and Punctuation
Wednesday 10 May 2023	English Reading
Thursday 11 May 2023	Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic Test Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning
Friday 12 May 2023	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning

Reception Eid Assembly and Parties

The children in Reception have been learning about Islam and Eid. During their learning journey they created different paintings of mosques and the Kaaba, along with making Eid cards to give to their loved ones. The children practiced really hard for their special Eid assembly which took place yesterday. The children thoroughly enjoyed putting on a performance for their family and friends and it was lovely to see so many parents attend. We would like to thank all the parents that sent in pictures and videos of them celebrating Eid at home with their families, which made the assembly all the more memorable.



Year 4 Educational Visit to Jethavana Buddhist Temple

On Wednesday, pupils in Y4.1 and Y4.2 visited Jethavana Buddhist Temple in Handsworth. It was a very informative visit as it allowed children to gain a better understanding of the Buddhism topic that is currently being studied in R.E. Pupils learnt about the life of the Buddha and what it means to be a Buddhist. Y4.3's visit will take place on Wednesday 17 May 2023.

Year 1 Phonics Workshop

The Phonics Screening Check is just around the corner, and we want to make sure our Year 1 pupils are fully prepared. This check is a vital part of the educational process, designed to assess children's phonics knowledge and fluency. To ensure our pupils are ready, Mrs Pannu hosted an informative phonics parent workshop yesterday, that left them feeling empowered and ready to help their children excel in phonics.

Valuable insights on the upcoming Phonics Screening Check were explained and the measures teachers are taking to ensure that the children build up their confidence and knowledge prior to the check. Mrs Pannu is also encouraging parents to get involved by practicing phonics at home and helping their children to read regularly. Parents were given phonics packs to take home to further support their children's phonics learning. If you missed the workshop but would like a pack, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Pannu or the Main Office.



With everyone working together, we're confident that our pupils will excel in the Phonics Screening Check and continue to make great progress in their learning journey. Let's keep up the good work and support them every step of the way!



King Charles III Coronation

As you may know, King Charles III's coronation is taking place tomorrow, Saturday 6 May 2023. The Coronation Ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London at 11.00am, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Ceremony will see His Majesty King Charles III crowned alongside The Queen Consort.

A coronation is a ceremony in which a monarch is formally crowned. The last time there was a coronation in Britain was the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Charles' mother, 70 years ago, in 1953.

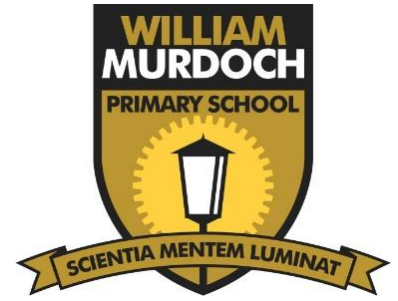
WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



The coronation will mark a major part in British history, therefore I would encourage all children to take part in the event in some way. This could be watching the ceremony on tv or joining in with celebration parties or activities within our communities.

In celebration of King Charles II coronation, there will be a national Bank Holiday taking place on Monday 8 May 2023. **School will be closed for pupils on this day.**



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



New Catering Arrangements

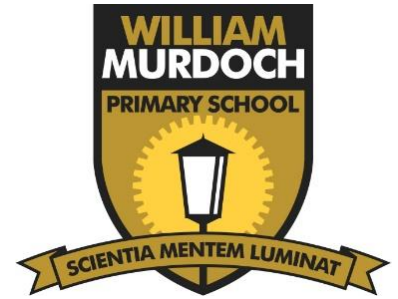
The new catering arrangements have begun, and I am pleased to confirm that our school catering service will continue to offer a toast facility during morning breaktime for our Upper School pupils only. **Payment for toast can only be made through your child's ParentPay account.** Toast must be purchased in full for each half-term priced at:

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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.

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.

UNICEF Article of the Week

This week, pupils across the school have focused on four articles, which are Article 9, Article 20, Article 21 and Article 25. These four articles focus on the needs and rights of children who have difficulties within their immediate family. There are many different reasons why children might not be looked after by their parents.

Article 9 (separation from parents): Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.

Article 20 (children unable to live with their family): If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

Article 21 (adoption): Governments must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country.



Article 25 (review of treatment in care): If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

Book of the Week

Lower School



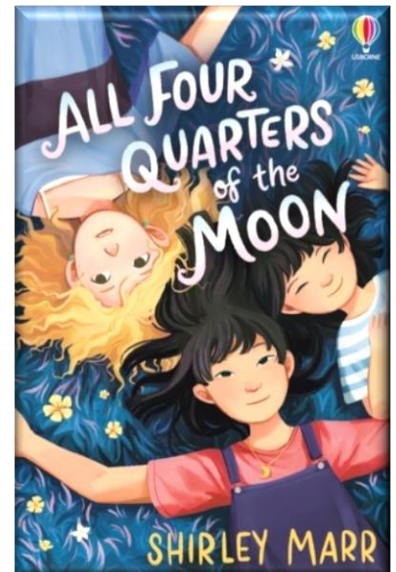
Well Done, Mummy Penguin – Chris Haughton

A Little and Daddy Penguin cheer on Mummy Penguin as she overcomes obstacles and fetches their dinner. Chris Haughton's illustrations are as compelling as always in this book which also brilliantly documents the anxiety of not being able to help someone that you love. This is another great read for any younger children, especially those who struggle with explaining and dealing with their emotions.

Upper School

All Four Quarters of the Moon – Shirley Marr

'All Four Quarters of the Moon' is a story of friendship, family and change, which is experienced by two sisters throughout their move from Singapore to a completely new culture. The story delves into the emotions faced by Peijing as she navigates her coming of age during the time of her family relocating to a new home in Australia. The author tells the story with beautiful honesty, and the reader has a real sense of Peijing's internal worries, as well as her admiration and love for those around her. What is most paramount in the story is the importance of sisterhood and friendship. Although Peijing and her sister Biju have their differences, they continue to look after each other in times of uncertainty and celebrate each other's success. In particular, the author includes small extracts at the end of each chapter where Peijing tells her younger sister traditional stories, which her Ma Ma once told her. Marr creates some important relationships in the story, particularly the friendship Peijing builds with the school outcast, Joanna. Clues begin to unravel throughout the chapters that despite her carefree exterior, things may not be as rosy as they first seem. As well as the development of these relationships, the story also explores the vast differences between the two cultures. Readers will learn about moon cakes, coconut jam baos and fortune sticks, along with traditional fables being retold. As the story unfolds, the girls find their way through language barriers, a disapproving, traditional mother, and making new friendships,



eventually learning to embrace the traditions of both cultures. Any UK KS2 child can relate their own feelings of being an outsider to those within this book. The story is told incredibly gently, yet honestly, about what it is like to move to a new culture. A superb read.

Artist of the Week



Dominic – Nursery

In Nursery, the children have been learning about woodland creatures and creating art work based on this theme. Dominic chose to create work relating to owls. He was very careful when he applied the paint and took his time to produce an accurate image of the animal. Well done Dominic, you are clearly a very talented artist!

Sana – Year 5

In Year 5, the children have been working through a very enjoyable unit of work called 'Chinese Art'. As part of this unit the children were tasked with producing ink sketches inspired by artists that they had studied previously. Everyone had lots of fun creating an image of a cherry blossom. Sana added lots of detail to her work and should be very pleased with the final result.

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

Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh
Headteacher