

18 September 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realise this and you will find strength.' – Marcus Aurelius



Dear Parents/Carers,

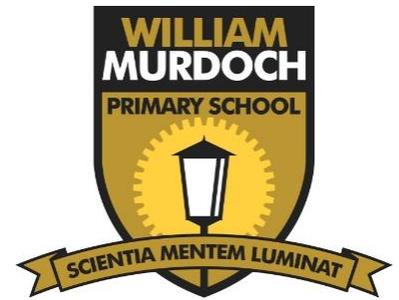
As you will be aware from the news, effective from Tuesday of this week there has been an increase in lockdown restrictions in Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull. If you would like to read the guidance, you will find a link to that here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/birmingham-sandwell-and-solihull-local-restrictions>. On Wednesday, Cllr Ian Ward and the Leaders of Sandwell and Solihull councils wrote to the Secretary of State Matt Hancock to ask for variations in the current local restriction guidelines in relation to childcare. The letter is attached here and requests that the childcare guidelines in areas with household visiting restrictions should be urgently updated.

Covid symptoms: Is it a cold, flu or coronavirus?

Colds, flu and Covid-19 are caused by different viruses but can have similar symptoms, making it hard to judge which one you may have. Most people who feel ill with coronavirus **will have at least one of the key symptoms:**

- a high temperature (37.8C or above)
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

If you have any of these symptoms you should arrange a test using NHS 111 <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>.



Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
Fever	Common	Common	Rare
Cough	Common	Common	Mild
Loss of taste and smell	Sudden	Rare	Sometimes
Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare

Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
Runny/stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	No	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
Diarrhoea	Sometimes for children	Sometimes, especially for children	No

Source: WHO, CDC



Outstanding Library Books

I am pleased to confirm the school library service will recommence on Monday. Children will only change library books every fortnight to ensure books are adequately quarantined and cleaned in line with COVID-19 secure procedures. Despite a recent reminder there are still a significant number of children in each class who are yet to return their library books. Please ensure these are returned to school on Monday 21 September 2020 so that children have the full complement of books to choose from. **A charge will be made for any books not returned** so that a replacement can be purchased.

Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer

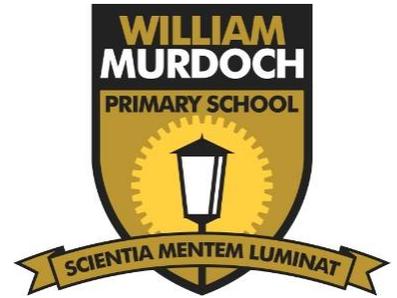
Earlier this week I wrote to parents to share details of the application process and to share a link to a very helpful video by Mr Desai on how to complete the application process. It can be viewed using the following link <https://youtu.be/09Fn7g9PVQU>.

As local restrictions have now been introduced in Birmingham, Public Health Birmingham have indicated that it is not currently advisable for schools to hold open sessions in person for prospective families. We are aware that many schools had already put arrangements in place to hold virtual open sessions before the local restrictions were introduced.

Term Cards

Your child has been given a term card today. I know many of you find these useful and a handy way of viewing term dates. Please note the cards were printed well in advance of the change to the school timings following the full return of pupils in September and does not include the training days. For details of the training days please refer to the termly newsletter.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



For pupils in Reception to Year 6 school drop off is between 8.35am and 8.50am and the end of the school day is 3.30pm, except on Friday where for a temporary period it will be 12.30pm.

It has been a difficult week tempered by the enthusiastic faces of our children who always have a spring in their step. Children enjoy school immensely and we continue to work diligently to maximise learning opportunities whilst keeping everyone as safe as possible. Many thanks for your efforts and resilience in supporting the school.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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