

18 June 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*'Once you stop expecting life to be easy, life suddenly becomes a lot easier.'* – M. Scott Peck

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure that you will all now be aware of the extension to the current COVID-19 measures announced by the government on Monday. With COVID-19 cases rising in Birmingham, the government has also announced enhanced support for the city, focussed on increasing vaccination take-up, testing and support for those self-isolating. Over the next few weeks there will be surge vaccination in wards with the lowest take-up and highest COVID-19 rates, along with greater walk-in capacity at vaccination sites. **With case rates in Handsworth currently the highest in Birmingham, please continue to wear a mask whilst on the school site. Many parents have stopped doing this and the inevitable impact will be increased transmission in the school community.**

Cllr Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "The rise in cases, linked to the Delta variant of the virus which spreads more easily, means that once again we all have a role to play to keep our families, friends and communities safe." The government has also issued new advice on travel and socialising, including minimising travel into and out of the area and not taking unnecessary journeys.

As a result of the government announcement, and the increase in cases locally, the early Friday closure will remain in place to the end of the academic year and our summer events will have to be curtailed. Although we had to take the decision to cancel the annual Cultural Evening of Entertainment early in the summer term, we are however pleased to be able to still put on some of the events with COVID-19 mitigations.

Year 6 are particularly affected as they would ordinarily have three separate end of year events. However, taking into account COVID-19 mitigations, the Year 6 graduation ceremony will take place outside on Friday 16 July 2021. Their prom will be replaced by a leavers party outside and the leavers assembly will be a recorded affair (we will share a link towards the end of the term). The annual sports day will go ahead but, with reduced numbers taking part, it will be spread over a number of days. The end of year special awards assembly will be held in the classroom instead of the school hall, however the usual awards and certificates will be distributed. Unfortunately for both the Sports Day and Special Awards events parents will not be able to attend. We will provide further details of each of these events closer to the time.

**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



## COVID-19 Champions Update

### NEWS ALERT: BIRMINGHAM LISTED AS ENHANCED RESPONSE AREA

With COVID-19 cases rising in Birmingham, the government has announced enhanced support for the city, focussing on increasing vaccination take-up, testing and support for those self-isolating. Over the next few weeks there will be surge vaccination in 15 wards with the lowest take-up and highest COVID-19 rates, along with greater walk-in capacity at vaccination sites.

Click [here](#) for more information.

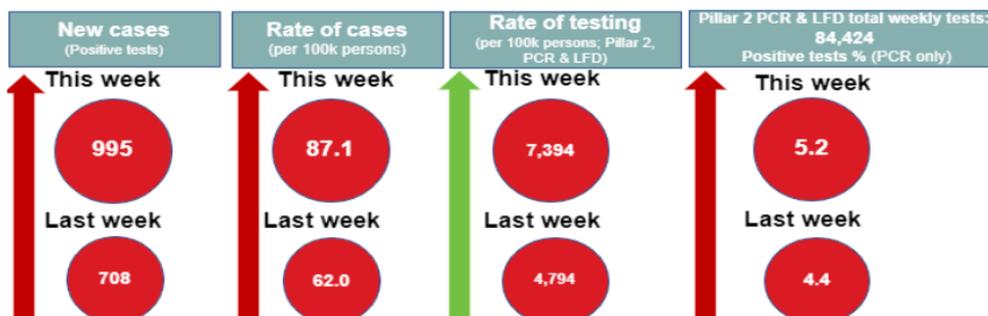
### Birmingham Weekly COVID-19 Statistics

Across Birmingham, the number of COVID-19 cases increased by 287 cases compared with last week (995 cases this week compared to 708 last week). Only Northfield reported no new cases this week.

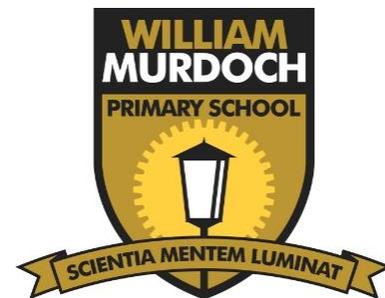
These are the wards with the highest case rates (cases per 100,000 population) this week:

- **Handsworth (173)**
- Heartlands (164)
- Alum Rock (157)
- Lozells (153)
- Aston (149)
- Birchfield (143)
- Moseley (142)
- South Yardley (140)
- Small Heath (137)

Total cases rose in all age groups over the past week except the 80+ group which fell from 5 cases to 4. The largest increases were in the 20-39 age group (67%), followed by the 60-79 year old group (26%), the 40-59 year old group (25%) and the 0-19 age group (24%).



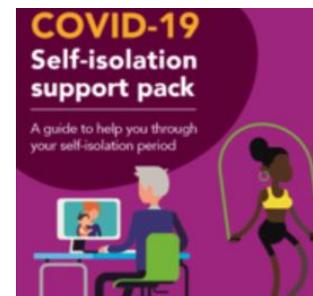
# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



## Learn More About Self-isolation

Have you been told to self-isolate? You must do so to protect others – but it can be tough, so the council and Healthy Brum have put together some practical tips and support to get you through.

To download the support pack, please [click here](#).



## Mobile Vaccination Update

The mobile COVID-19 vaccination unit continues to visit different areas around Birmingham. Eligible residents in the local area can get their COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment, without being registered with a GP and no ID is required. Everybody must always wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidelines when attending the site.

### Finch Road Medical Centre

*Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th June - 9:30am-3:30pm*  
2 Finch Rd, Lozells, B19 1HS

### Saltley Adult Learning Centre

*Friday 18th June & Saturday 19th June - 9:30am-3:30pm*  
80 Anthony Rd, Alum Rock, B8 3AA

### Aston Villa Football Club

*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 20th June from 10:00am-2:00pm*  
Trinity Road, Birmingham, B6 6HE

For more information, please visit the [NHS website](#).

## Wear a Mask to Protect Against COVID-19 and Pollen

In hot weather the pollen count can be high, causing problems for people with asthma and other respiratory conditions. Despite the heat, you are encouraged to wear a face covering in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible, or when you come into contact with people you do not normally meet to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Wearing a mask can also help cut down breathing in pollen. When it's hot, be cautious while wearing face masks. Consider going out when pollen counts are lower or during the day when temperatures are lower.

## Rubella

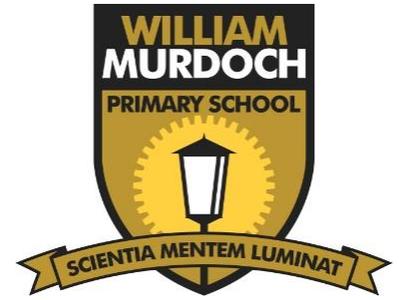
We have had a confirmed case of Rubella in the school. Rubella (german measles) is a viral infection that's now rare in the UK. It's usually a mild condition that gets better without treatment in 7 to 10 days.

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Symptoms of rubella include:

- a red-pink skin rash made up of small spots
- [swollen glands](#) around the head and neck
- a high temperature (fever)
- [cold](#)-like symptoms such as a [cough](#) and runny nose
- aching and painful joints – more common in adults

The symptoms of rubella usually only last a few days, but your glands may be swollen for several weeks. Read more about the [symptoms of rubella](#). Rubella usually only becomes a serious concern if a pregnant woman catches the infection during the first 20 weeks of her pregnancy. You should always contact your GP or the 111 service if you suspect rubella.

### **Enrichment Week**

Next week the timetable will be suspended as the children will engage in a range of exciting curriculum based activities that accentuate music and the arts. Please do ask them about their day and prepare to be surprised!

### **CPR**

Following the distressing scenes over the weekend involving the sudden collapse of Christian Eriksen, it has again highlighted the importance of having early access to defibrillators. William Murdoch Primary School has had a defibrillator on the school site for a long time and a number of our staff are trained by Safe Aid to a high standard in the use of the defibrillator, and in providing timely CPR.

When someone has a cardiac arrest, their chance of survival decreases by 10% for every minute lost without CPR and defibrillation. Sudden cardiac arrest can and does occur to people of all ages, who to all outward signs look fit and healthy. CPR and defibrillation saves lives.

Click on the link below to watch an animation by the Resuscitation Council UK and learn the simple steps that could save a life.

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/resuscounciluk\\_learn-cpr-today-activity-6809556785184157696-lrVF](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/resuscounciluk_learn-cpr-today-activity-6809556785184157696-lrVF)

### **Staff Training Day**

Friday 25 June 2021 and Wednesday 21 July 2021 have been allocated as staff training days. There is a comprehensive programme of continuous professional development for staff on these days. We will also be sharing National Oak remote learning resources via Class Dojo for pupils to engage with during these days.

## **National Book Tokens**

Our school needs you! Help us win £5,000 of National Book Tokens for the school library - and get £100 for yourself! Just enter the competition online, it only takes a minute:

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

Teachers, school staff and parents can all enter – the more nominations our school receives, the higher their chances of winning – so spread the word! [Download banners for social media here.](#)

## **Euro 2020**

Come on England! After England's first ever opening game victory in the Euros, I look forward to cheering on the boys against Scotland this evening. Our children found out the outcome of the WMPS Euro 2020 draw this morning so they may also be supporting a team other than England!

## **Mr Slinn's Artists of the Week**



### **Hamza - Y1.2**

In Year 1 the children have been working through a unit called 'Narrative Art'. The children were made familiar with the story of George and the Dragon. They then had to create a piece of work relating to a scene from the famous story. Hamza was able to use his creative skills very well and produced an excellent interpretation of a part of the story.

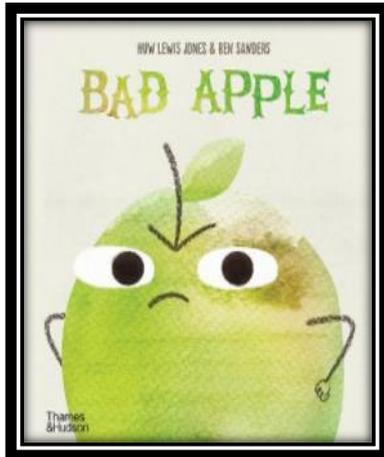
### **Simranpreet - Y3.1**

As part of the Year 3 'Architecture' unit the children learnt about symmetry and line. They were tasked with carving different types of line into a bar of a soap in order to create an image of a fish. Simranpreet used a modelling tool very well and created a superb piece of art work that contained many interesting details.



## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School



#### **Bad Apple – Huw Lewis Jones and Ben Sanders (Illustrator)**

What a great book and way to teach your little ones not to be so horrid. One of the pages genuinely made me laugh out loud. This fun cautionary tale is about anti-social behaviour. A badly-behaved apple is horrid to lots of his acquaintances but gets his comeuppance when he eats the cake baked by a snake.

A series of simple rhymes is transformed into a sequence of events that will have you and your children splitting your sides with laughter. As one silly scenario unfolds after the other, a common piece of fruit shows you what he's really made of by making life miserable for Pear, Pea, Cat, Spud and Spoon, among others. In a very dark twist at the end, he receives his comeuppance. The rhyming really works well and this really does need to be read aloud!

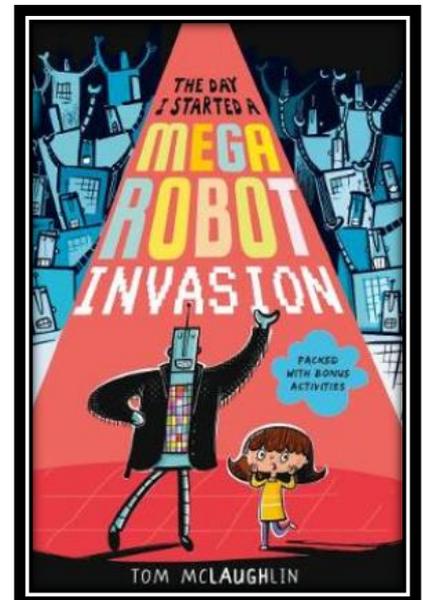
### Upper School

#### **The Day I Started a Mega Robot Invasion – Tom McLaughlin**

Plenty of joyful hilarity with a deftly slotted in message about the perils of fake news. Your child will love the embarrassing parents who leave their daughter at home to do her homework, under the supervision of the nosy neighbour.

No one wants to do their homework, right? So why not build a robot to do it for you? And what if that robot gets ideas of its own and doesn't want to do the homework it was programmed to do, and then the media gets wind of what's happening...

Madcap in the funniest of ways with Tom McLaughlin's trademark humour, this is perfect for newly confident readers to really get their teeth into, and with some challenging ideas and vocabulary at times too!



Pupil of the Week



**Y6.1 – Mtambala**



**Y6.2 – Sarah**



**Y6.3 - Vanessa**

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. Have a wonderful weekend.

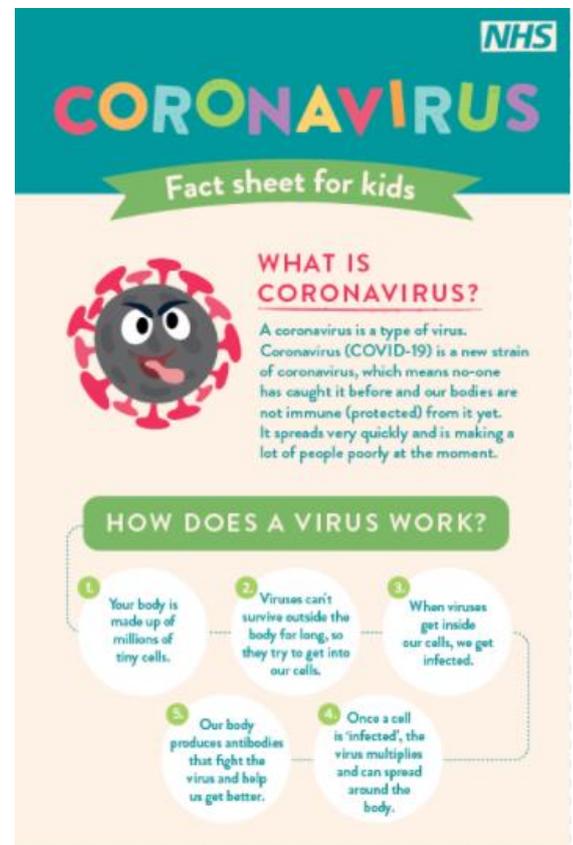
Yours sincerely



Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

**Dates for the diary:**

- |              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 21 June 2021 | Enrichment Week          |
| 25 June 2021 | Staff Training Day       |
| 28 June 2021 | Health Week              |
| 7 July 2021  | Secondary Transition Day |
| 21 July 2021 | Staff Training Day       |



**NHS**  
**CORONAVIRUS**  
Fact sheet for kids

**WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?**  
A coronavirus is a type of virus. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus, which means no-one has caught it before and our bodies are not immune (protected) from it yet. It spreads very quickly and is making a lot of people poorly at the moment.

**HOW DOES A VIRUS WORK?**

- 1 Your body is made up of millions of tiny cells.
- 2 Viruses can't survive outside the body for long, so they try to get into our cells.
- 3 When viruses get inside our cells, we get infected.
- 4 Once a cell is 'infected', the virus multiplies and can spread around the body.
- 5 Our body produces antibodies that fight the virus and help us get better.