

13 September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"We are all connected in the great circle of life." – James Earl Jones, RIP

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to attend our Welcome Meetings this week. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces alongside those who are new to our community. There was an awful lot of information to take in so please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the school office if there is anything you need to double check.

At the start of each meeting I spoke about the offer you can expect from the school for your child during their time in school. The school takes its name from the tenacious and talented Scottish engineer, William Murdoch, who alongside James Watt and Matthew Boulton, were at the heartbeat of the industrial revolution. We aim to prepare our children so that they too can go on and make their mark in the world. We want our children to be successful, enjoy their time in school and feel safe and secure. Where you have a concern please see the class teacher in the first instance. If this does not resolve the issue then Mr Matthews, Mrs Pannu or myself will be happy to discuss the matter.

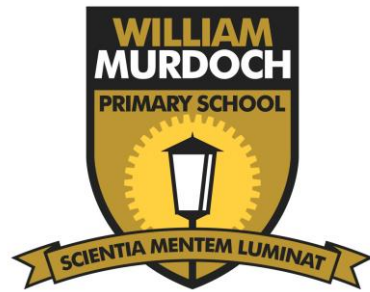
Children across the school have started the year looking super smart - thank you for all your efforts with this. However, children have already misplaced jumpers and cardigans and it is difficult to return them to who they belong to when they do not have their names in. Please add names to everything but especially blazers, jumpers, cardigans, PE hoodies and coats.

Attendance

Attendance has been very good so far this term. Thank you for your help in making sure that your children attend school and arrive on time. Although we continue to maintain a soft start to the day, punctuality is vitally important. All school doors close at 8.50am. Any children arriving after that time will need to enter via the Main Office and will be signed in as late. Children undertake important learning first thing in the morning and it can be unsettling for children who arrive late. If your child is unable to attend school, it is extremely important that you inform the school of this before 9.00am on the day of absence. Please either email the school at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk or leave a message on the absence line, giving your child's name, class and a brief reason for absence. If we are not informed of a reason for an absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please also arrive promptly to collect your child(ren) at the end of the day.

If your child is booked on a club and will not be attending for any reason, it is really important that you, and not your child, speak to a member of the office staff before the club is due to start. This is for safeguarding reasons. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is back up and running and we still have a small number of places available. The cost of this provision is £2.50 per day for the first child, and £1.00 per day for any additional children, and must be paid for in advance on a half-termly basis. If you require any further information, please contact the Main Office at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Healthy Eating reminders

Healthy Snack Policy

Our school policy is that we encourage all children to have fresh fruit or vegetables at morning break time. Sweets, crisps, cheese strings, chocolate, crackers and items such as Fruit Winders are not permitted. Lower School children are provided with a snack but children in Upper School should bring a healthy fruit or vegetable snack to eat at morning break or parents can purchase toast from the canteen via ParentPay.

Birthday Treats

Children are asked not to bring sweets / treats / cakes in to celebrate their birthdays as this leads to peer pressure, does not support our healthy school status and is challenging for pupils with allergies etc. Thank you for your support.

Packed Lunch Policy

Parents and pupils are encouraged to send a healthy packed lunch. No fizzy drinks are permitted. Packed lunches should not contain any products containing nuts (peanut butter, Nutella / nut-based chocolate spreads, nut based cereal bars etc.) as we have a number of children in school with a severe nut allergy.

Nursery and Reception

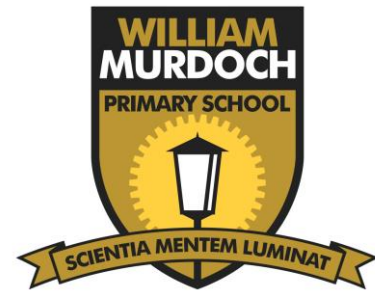
We have welcomed all of our Nursery and Reception children over the past two weeks. In the short time that they have been here, they have already made great strides. Starting school can be a very difficult time for our youngest children but I am taken aback by how quickly they are settling into school routines. In Reception, the children are having fun making new friends and exploring a range of activities in the classroom. The children have been learning to write their name and have been exploring the early years environment. Children in Nursery are also making new friends and interacting well with a range of activities including singing nursery rhymes and action songs. We are incredibly proud of our early years provision and would welcome visits to the school for any parents who may be considering Nursery or Reception places in the future. We will be holding Nursery and Reception open days on:

Monday 18 November 2024 at 9.30am

Monday 2 December 2024 at 9.30am

Thursday 9 January 2025 at 9.30am

Please contact the Main Office if you or someone you know would like to attend.



School Meals - ParentPay

From Reception to the end of Year 2, children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. From Year 3 upwards the cost of school lunches will be £2.30 per day. Families in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). If you think you might be eligible and have not yet applied, please contact the school office in confidence, or visit <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> for eligibility details and to apply online. Even if your child does not take the free meals up, or is currently having free meals because of their age, his/her entitlement to FSM will attract additional funding to the school. Please do apply if you think you might be eligible.



For children going up to Year 3 from September 2024, please remember that Universal Infant Free School Meals (UFSM) stop at the end of Year 2. The cost of school meals for Year 3 upwards will be £2.30 per day.

We ask that parents settle all Parent Pay outstanding balances by Friday 27 September 2024. We will continue to chase any outstanding payments until they have been paid in full. The school operates a No Debt Policy with regard to school meals, however families are well informed and supported through the process.

Litter

Recently we have noticed an increased amount of litter around the school grounds and outside the school gate. Please ensure any rubbish is disposed of using the bins provided and encourage your children to do the same.



Welcome Meetings

Over the coming weeks, we will be holding Welcome Meetings for parents so that you can become familiar with the team that is supporting your child, the curriculum being taught, school policies and procedures, and other information that will provide you with a broad insight into what you can expect your child to learn this year. The meetings will take place in the Upper School hall as follows:

Year 1 – Thursday 19 September 2024 at 3.30pm

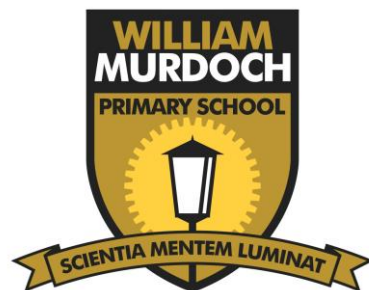
Year 3 – Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 3.30pm

Year 4 – Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 3.30pm

Class Dojo

At William Murdoch Primary School, we use Class Dojo as our remote learning platform. Class Dojo provides a way for children to complete learning online and submit work to their class teacher. As parents, you can see the work set by the class teacher and the completed homework submitted by your child. On the 'Class Story', you will be able to see the latest information and updates. There is also a messaging feature for you to contact your child's class teacher; however, this should not be used for sensitive issues, nor for reporting absences. All messages will be responded to within two working days.





If you experience any technical issues, then please contact the Main Office for further assistance.

Nursery/Reception Places for September 2024

There remain a limited number of Nursery and Reception places for this academic year. If you have a child (or know of a friend or family member who has a child) who is born between 1/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 (Nursery) or 1/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 (Reception), we strongly encourage you to apply as spaces are strictly limited. Please register your interest by either telephoning the Main Office on 0121 554 0999 or via email on enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk. We are more than happy to help with completing the application process.

Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer Meeting

You will be aware that your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2025. The school has shared an information letter from the Local Authority for parents/carers on how to apply online. To support parents and pupils, answer your questions and explain the process as clearly as possible, a Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting has been arranged on **Thursday 3 October 2024** at **9.00am** in the Upper School hall and again at **3.30pm** in the Upper School hall.

Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. Your application must be submitted by **Thursday 31 October 2024**.

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.

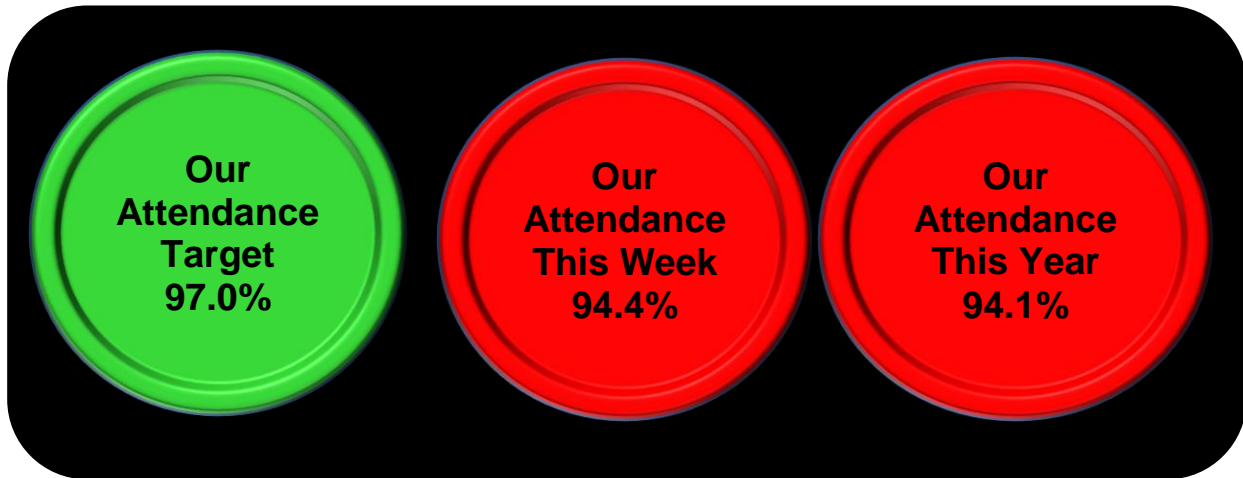
After-School Clubs

The school continues to provide an outstanding before and after school club offer. Places will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Pupils who have shown an interest in joining a club will be given a letter for their parents to complete and sign. It should be returned to their class teacher as soon as possible.



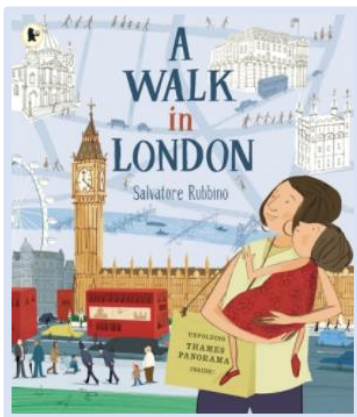
WMPS Attendance Stats

Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days, which equates to 380 sessions. Registration takes place at 8.50am in the morning and after lunch in the afternoon. Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session including registration.



Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



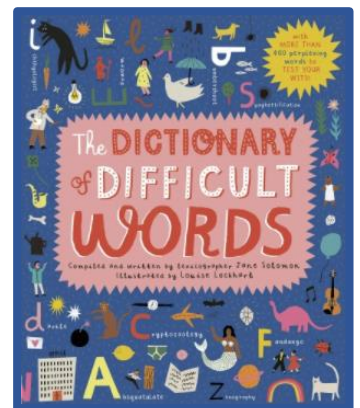
A Walk in London – Salvatore Rubbino

A wonderful book to get your child interested in our capital city, London. A child and her mother explore London, getting off a bus as Big Ben as the clock strikes eleven and ending up back there at six, having visited many of the tourist sights, including Buckingham Palace, St James's Park, Covent Garden Piazza and the Tower of London. The child's commentary is interspersed with interesting information snippets. Central to this guide are the retro style illustrations which serve to emphasise the city's historic past while incorporating the many changes taking place, especially apparent in the unfolding Thames panorama.

Upper School

The Dictionary of Difficult Words – Jane Solomon and Louise Lockhart (Illustrator)

This is a book to create logophiles! It is such a great book and not just a dictionary! Written and compiled by a lexicographer, more than 400 unusual words are defined and this book will certainly expand vocabulary as well as encouraging discussion of wider considerations around language. There is a pronunciation guide for each word and an indication of which part of speech it is. Many of the words are illustrated, often humorously, and some are selected and given a more



Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week



Mohammed Rayyan – Y5.3

In Year 5 the children have been learning that the word 'style' refers to how a piece of art looks. Year 5 explored how art pieces showcase different styles. Lots of discussion was had relating to similarities and differences between various works. The children had the opportunity to draw a pear in a realistic style using colourful pieces of chalk. Mohammed Rayyan produced a piece of work with lots of attention to detail. He seems to be a true artist in the making!

Leo – Y1.1

In Year 1 the children have been using primary colours to create pieces of art work. The children looked at paintings by Mondrian and discussed how he used primary colours and shapes in his work. Having spent some time researching the artist's work the children had a go at creating their own art work in a similar style. Leo worked well with the primary colours and applied the paint very carefully to produce a vivid and exciting piece of art!

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

17 September 2024	Year 4 Welcome Meeting
18 September 2024	Year 3 Welcome Meeting
19 September 2024	Year 1 Welcome Meeting
23 September 2024	Nursery School Photographs