

6 September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*“Success lies in relentless execution of the basics.” – Leonardo da Vinci*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful first week back in school. Our children have returned with smiles and have made a great start in their new year groups. It is truly wonderful to see the school community again. We are so proud of the way the children have got back in to school routines and the great learning behaviours they have displayed following the work on our behaviour curriculum. There has been a calm, focused and determined start to the academic year and they all look extremely smart in their new uniforms.

The summer holiday period is a busy time of the year for the school caretakers and the cleaning team. I would like to pay tribute to all the members of our support staff who worked diligently to get the site ready for the start of the academic year. It has again been a busy summer period with work to the early years play area well under way. I look forward to sharing further details when it is finished.

Your children are the most important part of our school and working in partnership with families to support their learning will make their time at school both happy and successful. If you have any concerns or questions, please do come and speak with your child’s class teacher in the first instance as they are best placed to help. If your query has not been answered to your satisfaction, myself and my two deputies, Mrs Pannu and Mr Matthews, are always available outside on the school playground at the beginning and end of the day should you wish to meet with us.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss S Majid, teacher for Class Y1.2 in Lower School, to Mr C Bentley who is the class teacher in Y4.3 and Miss T Bharth who is the class teacher for Y5.3. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the William Murdoch Primary School family to all our new children and their parents. Our new Nursery and Reception children have joined us this week and have made such an amazing start. We very much hope that they have enjoyed their first week. It was lovely to see them starting to get to know each other and becoming more confident in their new surroundings during the short time that they have been in.

School Timings

The Department for Education (DfE) announced earlier in the year that all mainstream schools must offer a minimum of 32.5 hours of teaching time each week from September 2024. Therefore, to ensure we meet this criterion, we have had to extend the timings of the school day. The new school timings are as follows:

Year Group	School Times
Reception & Group A (Years 1, 3 & 5)	8.40am to 3.20pm
Group B (Years 2, 4 & 6)	8.40am to 3.25pm

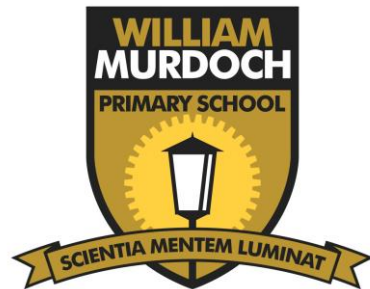
We would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

**WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: 0121 554 0999 FAX: 0121 554 6332

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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



## School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 12 September 2024 to photograph the children in the Upper School. Family photos will be taken at 8.35am in the Upper School hall. Throughout the day, individual, class and sibling photos will be taken. On Friday 13 September 2024, the photographer will be in school to photograph the children in the Lower School. We will arrange for brothers and sisters in the Upper School and Lower School to be photographed together on either of these days. **Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform. If your child has PE and is due to have their photograph taken, they must wear their full school uniform to school and bring their PE kit to school in their bag to change in to.**

School photographs for all Nursery pupils will take place on Monday 23 September 2024.

## 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 (UIFSM) 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.

## Termly Newsletters

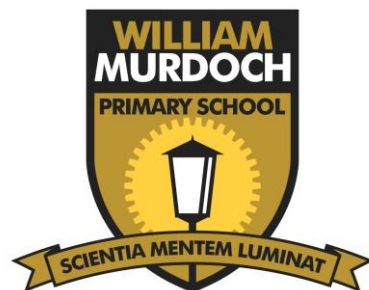
Your child has been given a physical copy of the termly newsletter which details the topics your child will be covering in each subject this term. It is good practice for children to do some background reading on topics that they will be studying.

Your child will also bring home a credit card-sized card with all the term dates for your convenience.

## 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 Group	Dates & Times
Year 1	Thursday 19 September 2024 at 3.30pm
Year 2	Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 3.30pm
Year 3	Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 3.30pm
Year 4	Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 3.30pm
Year 5	Thursday 12 September 2024 at 3.30pm
Year 6	Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 3.30pm

## Book Bag Sale

The school has now received the new delivery of book bags. Lower School book bags, Upper School rucksacks, as well as drawstring PE bags will be available to purchase after school at **3.30pm on Monday 9 September 2024** from the **Lower School hall**. If you are unable to make the above time, all bags will be available to purchase from the school office before and after school. The bags are being sold at cost price as follows:

**Lower School book bags: £8.00**  
**Upper School rucksacks: £10.00**  
**PE Bags: £5.00**

We understand with it being the beginning of the new academic year, not all parents will have set up their child's online payment account, therefore, on this occasion we will be accepting cash payments.

## Class Dojo

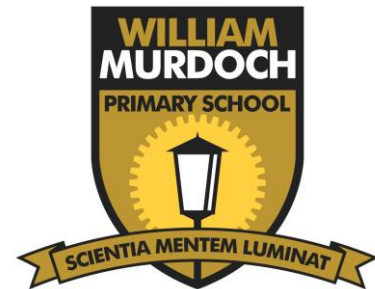
At William Murdoch Primary School, we use Class Dojo as our remote learning platform. Class Dojo provides a way for children to complete learning online and submit work to their class teacher. As parents, you can see the work set by the class teacher and the completed homework submitted by your child. 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](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk). We are more than happy to help with completing the application process.



## Parents' Evening

Please note the Autumn Term parents' evenings are scheduled for the week commencing 7 October 2024. The Lower School parents' evening will take place on Monday 7 October 2024 with the Upper School parents' evening being held on Wednesday 9 October 2024. Parents' evening will be held in the traditional way, with a five-minute appointment slot and an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books. A parents' evening appointment letter will be shared with you closer to the time.

## 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 this week 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](mailto: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.

## Projects

Today, pupils were set an Autumn Term project, which should be handed in on Monday 16 December 2024. Pupils should work on their projects during their weekends, and submit a photo of their progress on Class Dojo every two weeks. Their class teacher will remind them to do this. The titles of the projects which have been set for each year group are as follows:

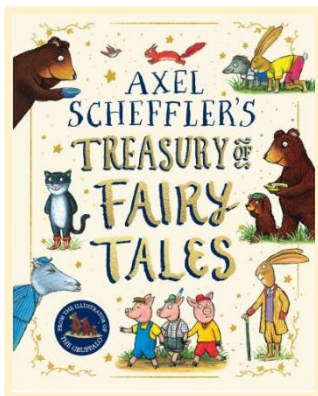
- Reception: Look at Me
- Year 1: People That Help Us
- Year 2: The Royal Family
- Year 3: The Tudors
- Year 4: Ancient Egypt
- Year 5: Ancient Rome
- Year 6: The Victorians



Your child has been sent home today with a project letter with further details, which can also be found on Class Dojo. Projects have been a long-standing tradition of the school and provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their research, analysing, organisation and presentation skills. It also provides a chance for parents to get involved by helping their child complete their project.

## Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

### Lower School



#### **Axel Scheffler's Treasury of Fairy Tales – Axel Scheffler**

A collection of beloved fairy tales, illustrated by the iconic Axel Scheffler, known to many young readers through Julia Donaldson's books like *The Gruffalo*.

This treasury features timeless stories that form the backbone of children's literature, including classics like *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *Puss in Boots*. Additionally, it contains several illustrated nursery rhymes, making it perfect for Nursery children.

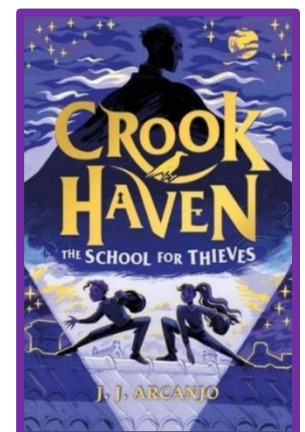
Scheffler's illustrations are rich with subtle details that celebrate the role of storytelling, rhyme, and music in our culture. For instance, one of the three little pigs is depicted with headphones, while another enjoys a book. Elsewhere, a hare in a Willy Wonka-style outfit appears, and a woodland scene familiar to Scheffler's fans comes to life. The tales are narrated in simple language with enough repetition and predictability to allow young children to quickly become familiar with them. This book is an essential addition to any home library.

### Upper School

#### **Crook Haven – J.J Arcanjo**

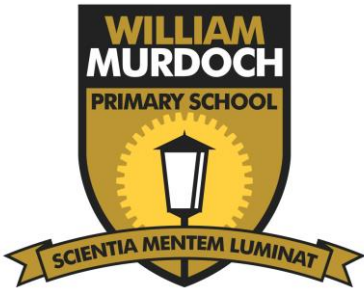
Gabriel, an adept pickpocket, receives an invitation to Crook Haven, an academy for aspiring thieves. Here, he will master various criminal skills, with the understanding that he must use these talents for the greater good.

JJ Arcanjo's debut novel captivates with its meticulous attention to detail, mirroring the elaborate heists within its pages. Gabriel is a compelling protagonist—complex, fair, and resilient—backed by a vibrant and diverse cast. The novel's core concept, "We teach you to do wrong, so you can one day make things right," brilliantly showcases a range of skills such as hacking, deception, physical agility, and infiltration.





# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



The novel excels in world-building, richly describing the history of Crook Haven, its distinguished alumni, and the difference between Merits and Legacies. This book is perfect for Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2) readers.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working alongside you this academic year.

Your sincerely,

Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

Dates	
9 September 2024	Book Bag Sale
10 September 2024	Year 6 Welcome Meeting
11 September 2024	Year 2 Welcome Meeting
12 September 2024	Year 5 Welcome Meeting
12 September 2024	Upper School Photographs & Family Photographs
13 September 2024	Lower School Photographs
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