

15 November 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

***'Truth is the highest virtue, but higher still is truthful living.'* – Guru Nanak Dev Ji**

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of everyone at William Murdoch Primary School I would like to extend our congratulations to Mrs J Khera who this week gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. Both mum and baby are doing well. I am sure you will want to join me extending our best wishes to Mrs Khera and her family.

We look forward on Monday to opening the doors of school to prospective parents for children starting school in September 2025. If you know of anyone looking for a school place next September for their child, we have a number of open mornings scheduled this term, which they are very welcome to join us for.

Educational visits are a hugely important part of our curriculum and add to the 'wider offer' at our school. It has also been wonderful to see some of our children participate in competitive school sports and team events over the last few weeks. Well done to the children who took part in the mini football tournaments recently. Everyone did their very best and some great games were played.

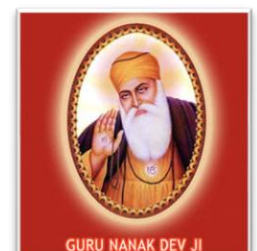
We would like to politely remind parents and carers that the supervision of non-pupils and toddlers is the responsibility of the adult who has brought them onto the school grounds. Please also note that children in Group A who are waiting between 3.20pm to 3.25pm for Group B siblings to finish remain the responsibility of the adult who has collected them. For those using the Albert Road gates, please follow the in and out system. Play equipment is not to be used before or after school. We thank you for your help in keeping our school safe.

Many families in our school community will be celebrating the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. On behalf of all the staff and governors at school, I would like to send my warmest wishes to all those marking the occasion a very Happy Gurburab.

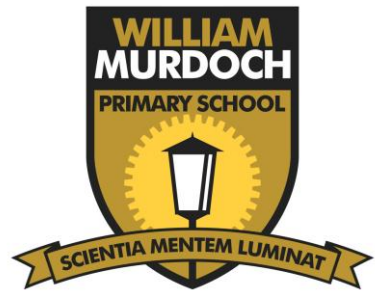
Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Assembly

Today, we were treated to a special assembly by Year 2 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Guru Nanak Dev Ji was the first Guru and is regarded as the founder of Sikhism.

The children shared stories of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life and performed Duni Chand and The Needle of Heaven. The children sang beautifully and recited the Mool Mantar off by heart, which is a very special prayer taken from the Guru Granth Sahib. An insightful video was shared to show what takes



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place in the Gurdwara, which the Year 2 staff and children took great pleasure in creating. The children shared Guru Nanak's message of working hard for a living, leading a truthful life, sharing and caring for those who are less fortunate. In the afternoon, the children enjoyed a special party to celebrate this joyous occasion.

We would like to take this opportunity to pass on our best wishes to all those in our school community who are marking the auspicious occasion of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



The school community has been supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal this week. It was great to see so many children marking the day by wearing bright spots. Children in Need merchandise and the biscuit sale was a complete sell-out.

All funds raised will go directly to Children in Need. Many thanks for your kind donations to this worthwhile cause. I will write to you in due course to confirm the amount of funds raised.

Anti-Bullying Week

Children celebrated Anti-Bullying Week this week by coming into school wearing odd socks on Tuesday 12 November 2024. Celebrating what makes us all unique was a great way to start the week. Throughout the week, pupils completed various activities related to this year's 'Choosing Respect' theme.



The Anti-Bullying Alliance aim to empower children and young people not to resort to bullying, even when they disagree and, want to remind adults to lead by example, both online and offline. Children had the opportunity to consider how our school deals with bullying and have strengthened their understanding of what to do if they ever find themselves in a bullying type situation.





Remembrance Day

On Monday, Mr Matthews and Mrs Pannu delivered assemblies based on Remembrance. The main message of the assemblies was around service and being thankful to those people who show courage and selflessness in their line of work. These people range from doctors and nurses, to firefighters, to those who work in the armed forces. The assemblies concluded with a minute's silence to remember those who fought so bravely during The Great War, and in conflicts since.

Year 4 Fire Service Visit

On Monday, Year 4 were visited by firefighters from Handsworth Fire Station. They came to tell us about home fire safety and what to do in the event of a fire (Sparks Programme). We had a great time learning and working together. We learned about how to make a call in an emergency and what things we should tell the operator. We were also told that if our clothes catch fire we should, Stop, Drop and Roll! It was very informative and everyone enjoyed the activities.



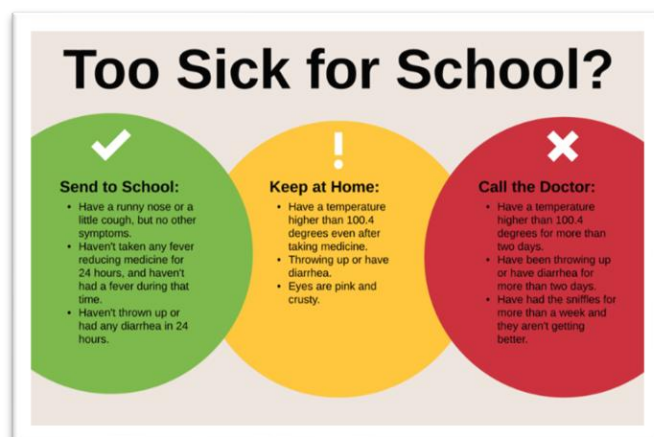
Sickness & Absence

From time to time children are sick (vomit) either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore it is essential that the same rule of exclusion applies in all cases of vomiting or diarrhoea.

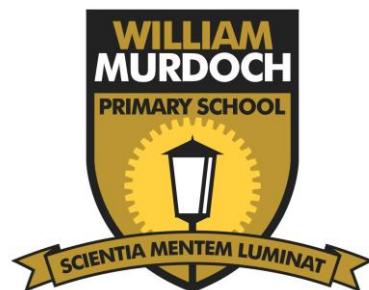
In the Health Protection Agency document, "Guidelines for the Control of Infection and Communicable Disease in School and Early Years Settings", the guidance is:

Diarrhoea and Vomiting exclusion

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and staff and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (by unwashed hands), especially in children. In general, it is recommended that any staff member or child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school or early years setting until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.



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If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school. As an example, if your child is sick at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunch on Thursday, provided there have not been any further episodes of vomiting.

Thank you for your understanding with this.

Christmas Card Competition

We will be making every effort to make Christmas a special time for our children. Children will be making a Christmas card in school later in the term to take home. To celebrate Christmas, we would like pupils to help us to create our official school Christmas Card.

This card will be sent to William Murdoch Primary School friends and supporters. As such it must show both the originality and skill for which the school's pupils are justifiably known. The children have been provided with a template and they can use any non-computer-based resource they wish to use to create their design, e.g. pencil, crayon, felt-tip pens etc. Please avoid using chalk as it does not print well. The printers have asked for a physical copy and these should be handed into the class teacher. The deadline for all entries is now **Monday 25 November 2024**.



The school will be supporting the Christmas Jumper Day campaign on Friday 20 December 2024. In the final days of the term, children will be taking part in Christmas festivities, including watching a special showing of a panto that the school has purchased and a staff panto production. There will be a special Year 3 Christmas assembly and Nursery/Reception Nativity production, both of which parents will be invited to attend. The children will also receive a free Christmas lunch. We will write to you about all these closer to the time.



UNICEF Article of the Week

This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

Article 38: Protection in War

Remembrance unites people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds in honouring those who defend our democratic freedom and way of life. The UK has a long tradition of marking Armistice Day, calling to mind the moment when fighting ceased at the end of the First World War, at 11.00am on the 11th November 1918.



This is linked to article 38 which is protection in war. Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.

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Pupils across the school focused on the question, 'Why is it important to remember and commemorate those who have fought in wars?' Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of remembering and acknowledging those who have fought to keep children safe. Also, we thought about how we can achieve a more peaceful future by considering ways to avoid war to resolve conflict. Remembrance unites people of all faiths cultures and backgrounds.

Parents of Nursery Pupils

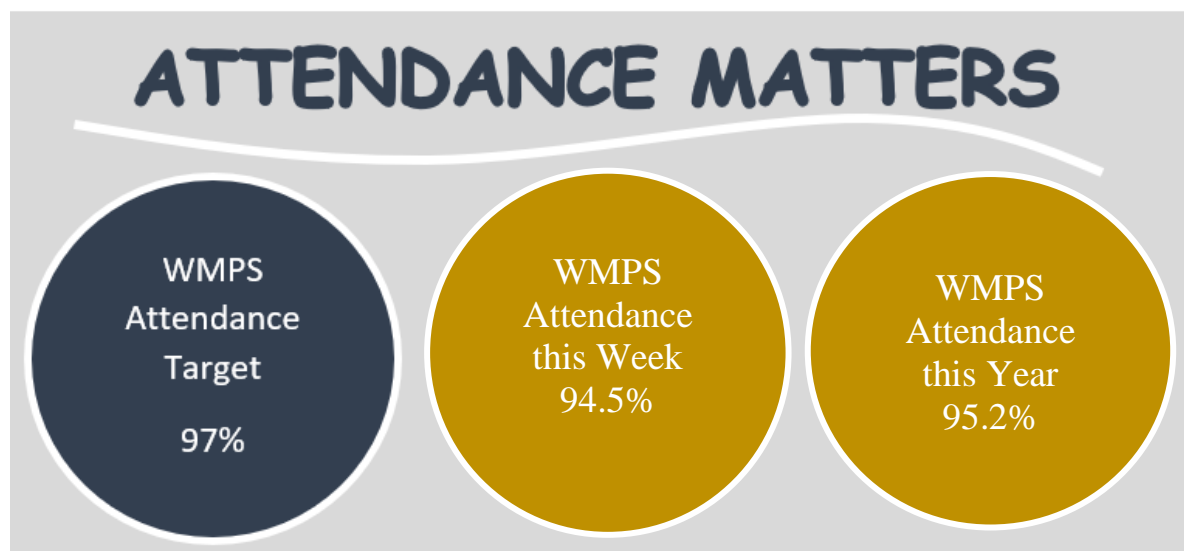


Applications are now open for the 2025 Reception intake. The application must be made directly with the local authority and **must** be submitted by **Sunday 15 January 2025**. Please refer to the website

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. If you need any help or support in completing the application for your child, please speak to Mrs Kullar in the first instance or contact the Main Office.

WMPS Attendance Stats

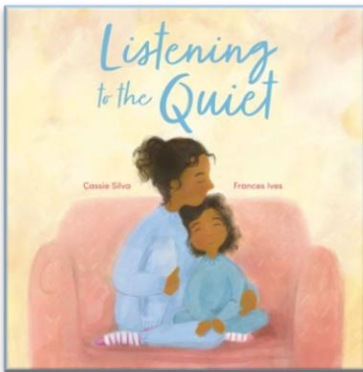
Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days, which equates to 380 sessions. Registration takes place at 8.50am in the morning and after lunch in the afternoon. Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session including registration.



Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School

Listening to the Quiet - Cassie Silva & Frances Ives (Illustrator)



Hearing loss may bring a sense of sadness, yet this heart-warming tale of a child named Jacki and her Mama shines with optimism. It celebrates a bond that is characterised not by disability but by love. As Jacki learns to embrace the quiet that is gradually surrounding her Mama, she becomes more sensitive to the nuances of rhythm, mood, and scent. The connection between mother and daughter deepens, allowing them to attune to each other in unique ways.

This narrative demonstrates that deafness need not lead to isolation. Rather, it can enrich one's sense of wonder, foster mutual respect, and enhance life in surprising ways.

The Author's Note offers additional insights and invites readers to explore sign language, paving the way for new methods of communication and understanding. The book features a clear font and large, vibrant illustrations, making it accessible for all. Whether used to honour diversity or impart lessons on acceptance, this story provides significant insights. While not every child may have experienced hearing impairment, all can gain from this fresh perspective. It also delivers essential representation for those who navigate life with hearing challenges.

Upper School

Starspill - Catherine Fisher

In the enchanting, fog-laden town of Starspill, where cats have the ability to speak, unfolds a captivating story filled with intrigue and wonder. The narrative introduces us to falling stars, a complex labyrinthine map, and a formidable Wolf that once devoured the Sun—save for three embers, which a clever cat scattered across the world. This act granted cats the unique ability to enter every home in Starspill.

Despite the 140 years that have passed since the Sun was swallowed, Zac finds himself at the centre of a feline conspiracy in the dim, mist-enshrouded town. Zac, who dreams of cozy warmth, enchanting stories, and diligently learning the craft of a starsmith from his brother Gryff, faces an unexpected challenge. Gryff operates a shop that sells lamps powered by star energy, and occasionally embarks on 'Star Gathers'—perilous missions to collect fallen stars, which keep the story's suspense alive.



The cats in Starspill, however, have different plans for Zac. They demand he steals one of the legendary Embers of the Sun from the town museum, holding his prized, magical map hostage to

ensure his cooperation. To accomplish this daring heist, Zac teams up with his best friend Alys. However, breaking into the museum is merely the beginning of their thrilling quest. Joined by Alys, the enigmatic bookseller Aurelian, and the clever black kitten Jinx, Zac embarks on a journey full of excitement and mystery. What awaits them at the journey's end—could it be the fearsome Wolf himself?

Starspill stands out as a remarkable fantasy tale—imaginative and distinct from other stories for this age group. It offers a delightful reading experience, highly recommended for readers in Year 4 and above.

Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week



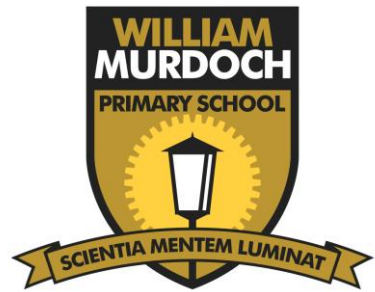
Avnoor & Ravnoor - Y3.3

In Year 3 the children have been learning about Andy Warhol and the Pop Art that he created. They discovered that Warhol used bright colours and cartoon like images in his work. The children attempted to create their own versions of Warhol's art work and the final results were of a very high standard. Avnoor and Ravnoor applied oil pastels in such a way that created the cartoon-like aesthetic that Warhol so famously mastered in his art work.

Samiha, Ahanu & Fatima - R.2

Over the week, the children in all year groups have been learning about Remembrance Day and the reasons why the day carries a great deal of significance. Reception thought about how poppies are used as a symbol of remembrance. Everyone in the year group had the opportunity to create paintings of poppy fields and the outcomes were excellent. Samiha, Ahanu and Fatima produced very detailed pieces of work and used a wide range of different painting techniques.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation. Have a relaxing weekend.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

18 November 2024	EYFS Open Day
21 November 2024	Reception Bus Trip
25 November 2024	WMPS Christmas Card Competition Deadline
29 November 2024	Reception- 'Boromi' Stay and Play

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