

4 October 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Be a little kinder than you have to." – E. Bennett

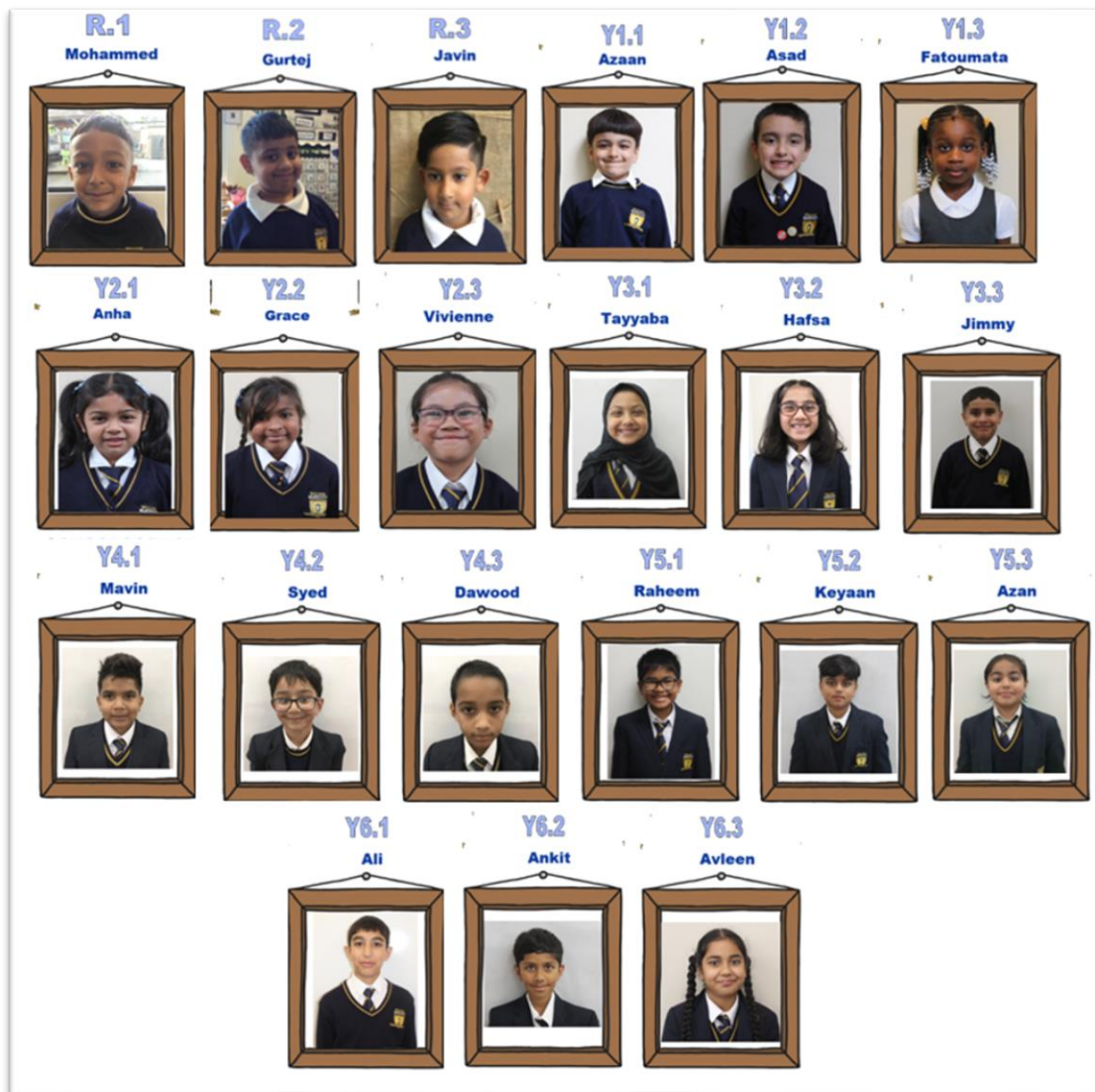
Dear Parents/Carers,

It is starting to feel like Autumn now, with some misty mornings and tinge of amber and brown being visible on the leaves of the trees. Autumn Term 1 is now very much in full swing, with educational visits and outdoor Forest School sessions taking place weekly for Reception, Year 3 and Year 5 children, ably led by Mr Blackmore. In Forest School sessions, children have the opportunity to experience the local habitat, to be creative and to problem-solve together as a team. We will continue all of our approaches to skills development, in classrooms and in the outdoor areas this term, to ensure that we provide the very best experiences for our children. We hope that your child is able to attend at least one of our clubs, and has the opportunity to extend their existing skills and learn some valuable new ones.

At William Murdoch Primary School, the impact of our curriculum is centred on ensuring that pupils know more, remember more, and are well-prepared for the next stage of their education. This is achieved through a rich and challenging curriculum, a range of assessment tools such as pupil voice, learning walks and coaching activities which all contribute to our continuous improvement cycle. We assess pupils using low-stakes quizzes, retrieval practice and formal tests, ensuring interventions where needed to close learning gaps. Regular feedback supports understanding, while wide reading and strong mathematical proficiency underpin key curriculum areas. Special Educational Needs pupils and disadvantaged pupils are prioritised to achieve accelerated progress and successful outcomes.

School Council

The School Council at William Murdoch Primary School is an elected body which meets regularly to discuss matters of direct concern to pupils and school. It consists of a pupil member from each class who has been democratically decided upon to represent the children in their class. These members have already taken part in their first School Council meeting of the academic year where various topics were discussed. It was found that pupils feel happy at school and have settled into their new classes well. The new behaviour curriculum was also discussed and children believe that it is working well in school. The School Council body will continue to meet every half-term where they will discuss issues that arise within school and the UNICEF Articles.



School Photographs

You will have received your child's proof of school photographs. The photographs can only be ordered online. On the proof you will see the website address: www.starvisionphotography.co.uk and a personal access code which is to be entered when ordering the photographs.



Harvest Donations

With food poverty an increasing issue for many families up and down the country, the annual WMPS harvest donation to local food banks and charities is more important than ever. We are asking all children to bring in some non-perishable food items such as: tins, packets, pasta, cereal, biscuits, etc. Please do not send in any perishable items as their life span is not long enough for how the food is distributed. The food donations are to be brought into school during the weeks commencing 7 and 14 October 2024. Many thanks in advance for supporting this initiative.

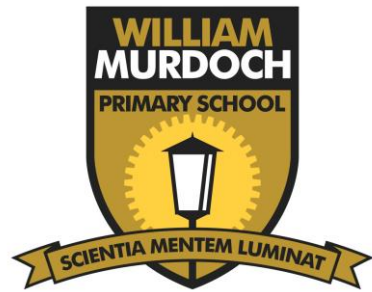


Year 6 visit to Ironbridge Gorge Museum

The Year 6 children went back in time today as they visited the Victorian town of Blists Hill, which forms part of the Ironbridge Museums.

They visited various shops from the 1900's and saw the inside workings of a foundry. They went on a train and saw an animation of underground clay mining. There was even a horse drawn cart working inside the town. The highlight however has to be the Victorian lesson. The children dressed as Victorians, and experienced a strict Victorian English and Maths lesson, using chalk and slate. They were able to appreciate life many years ago and the advances since.





Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will be held next week where you can find out from your child's teacher(s) how they have settled into their new class and year group.

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. Appointments for parents' evening are for 5 minutes. If you have a particular concern that may take longer than this to discuss, please see your child's class teacher and arrange an appointment at another time.

Parents' Evening - Y1.1

I regret to inform you of the postponement of Parents' Evening for Y1.1 that was due to take place on Monday 7 October 2024. This will be rescheduled for a later date and we will notify you of that date in due course.

Homework

Homework is a staple of school life, and of home life. After all, almost every one of us will have done homework ourselves as a child and most of us will be drafted in to help with it at some point as a parent, carer or grandparent. Although schools are not *obliged* to set homework, and some don't, at WMPS we set daily homework and expect children to do it.

The only homework that will be marked regularly in school is spellings, knowledge organiser quizzes and Maths. We also encourage daily reading (at least 20 minutes a day).

World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10 October 2024 it was World Mental Health Day. In 2024, the theme for World Mental Health Day is '**Workplace Mental Health.**' World Mental Health Day is a chance for us all to talk about mental health in general, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to talk about things and get help if you are struggling.

Below are links to more information about Mental Health Day and ideas of things you can do with your children to help them feel good.

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

<https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1822/poster-pupils-wmhd.pdf>



National Poetry Day

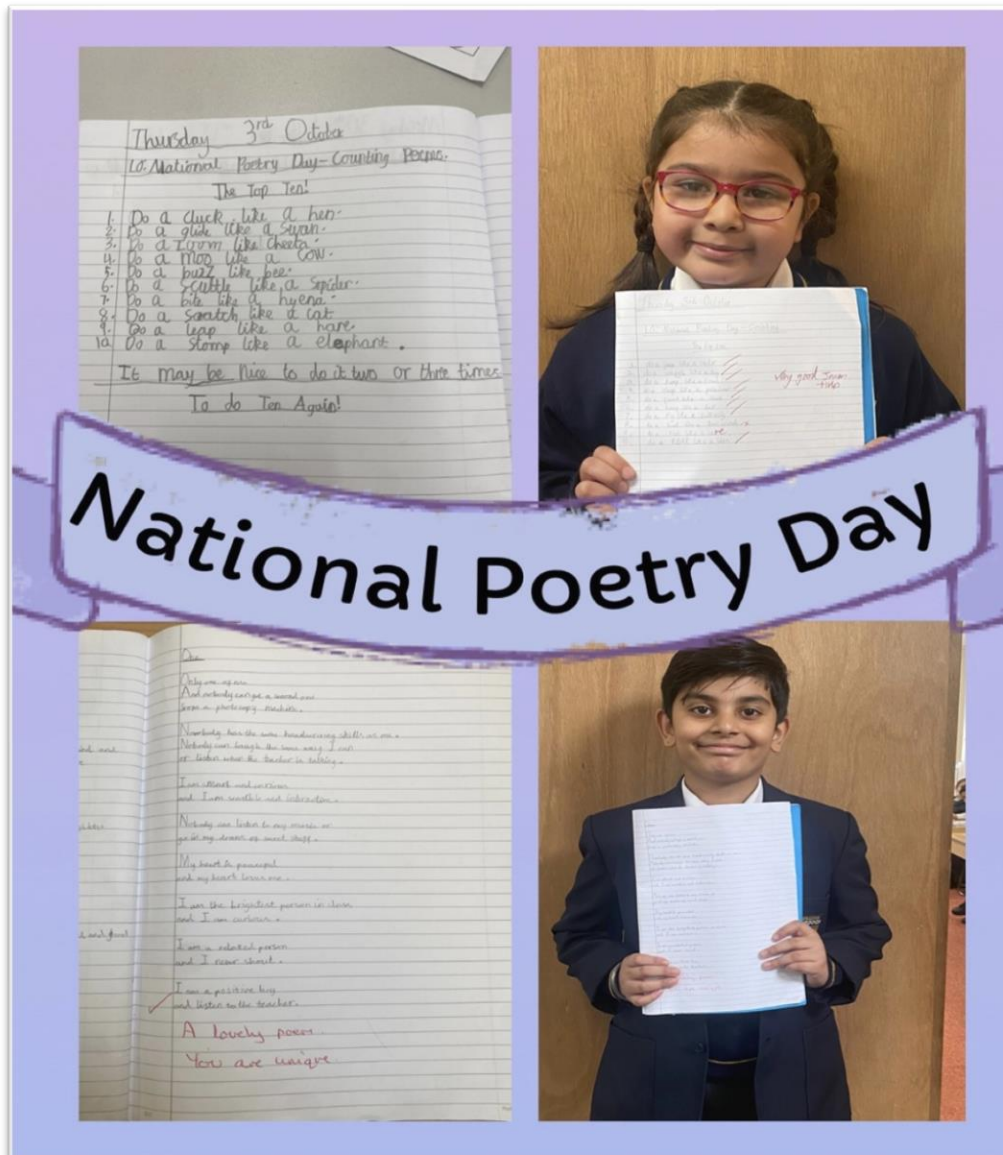
Pupils this week got to engage in a variety of creative and fun poetry as National Poetry Day 2024 was marked on Thursday 3 October 2024. National Poetry Day is a UK-wide celebration of poetry which aims to encourage everyone to enjoy, discover and share poetry.

Each year group looked at different poetic genres such as rhyming couplets, haikus, rhyming songs, free verse poems as well as many others.

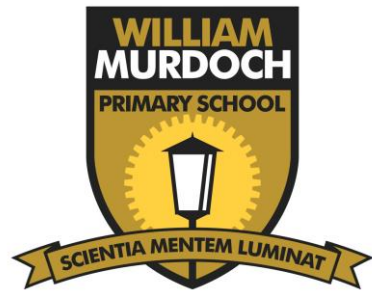
This year's National Poetry Day was based around the theme of counting. Year 3 started learning the poem 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat' by Edward Lear, whilst Year 1 started learning



the poem 'Are You Curious?' by Gwen Jones. It was a day filled with creativity, inspiration, and the magic of words. Here is some of the lovely work created on the day by Maidah (Y3.2) , Imaan-Fatima (Y3.1) and Taranveer (Y4.1).



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



WMPS Gardening Club

What a great sight to see! The best giant sunflowers that William Murdoch has grown to date. The children have been so excited at seeing them grow and it has been lovely to hear the parent's comments. Well done to Mrs Jacobs and Mr Harris for planting them. Let's hope we can do even better with the gardening club in the summer.



Children's Oral Health

Colgate® cares about the future of Children's Oral Health which is why our Bright Smiles, Bright Futures programme will reach approximately 3.2 million children in the UK this year, ensuring that every young person has equal access to fundamental Oral Health products'.

To help facilitate outstanding oral hygiene we are inviting parents/carers to access our digital pack via the following link: <https://bsbf-getinvolved.uk/parents/>

By completing the short form you'll:

- Have access to educational materials to help guide your child
- Receive a coupon for Oral Care products (redeemable one per person)
- Boost your child's confidence

UNICEF Article of the Week



This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

Article 38 (Protection in War)

Article 39 (Recovery and Reintegration)

This week's article of the week has focused on International Day of Peace. Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace. Peace, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are all closely connected because building a peaceful world needs all people everywhere to have their rights protected and respected, to have the resources they need and to live and thrive in a clean, safe environment. For this to happen, we need stable, caring governments making decisions and working together to ensure the safety of people and the planet.

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

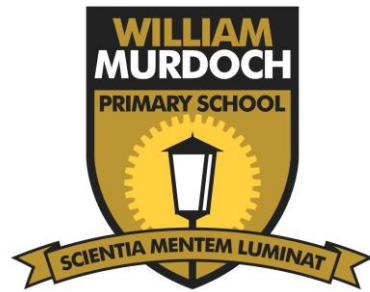
ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: 0121 554 0999 FAX: 0121 554 6332
EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk
HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Pupils across the school have looked at **article 38** which is war and armed conflicts and focuses on how 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 conflict.

Article 39 which is recovery from trauma and reintegration and focuses on children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.



Nursery and Reception Open Days

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.

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.

Parents of Year 6 Pupils

Families with children due to start secondary school in September 2025 are now able to apply online for secondary school places. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2024 and places will be offered on 3 March 2025.

All the information families need to make their applications is on the council website:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1

It is particularly important that families carefully consider the school's admission criteria and name at least one school on their application where their child would have been offered a place in previous years. Please be aware of the deadline as parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.



Year 6 Pupils with SEND

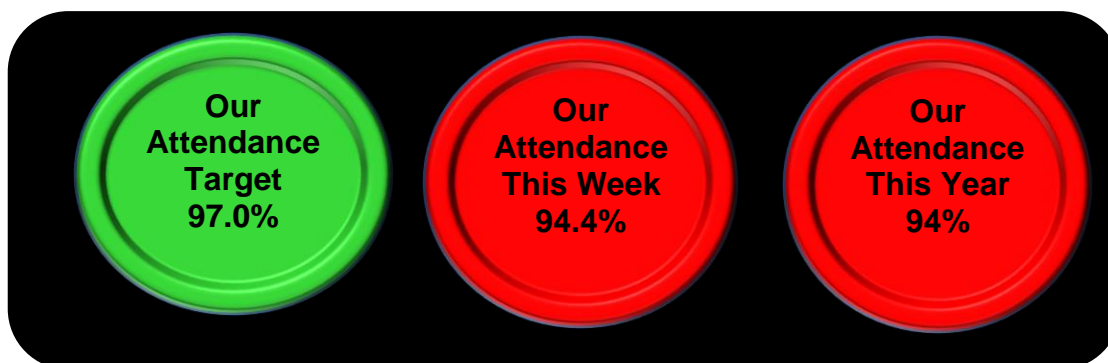
This QR code (for parents of Year 6 pupils with SEND) is great for families who are attending open days/evenings for secondary school transition. It gives suggestions of what questions to ask the SEND department <https://www.senschoolsguide.com/post/what-to-ask-a-senco>

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.

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

Bea's Bad Day – Tom Percival

The story follows Bea, who is filled with anticipation about celebrating her birthday with her entire extended family. Everything is set to be perfect! However, a light snowfall prevents the postman from delivering her presents, and soon, even heavier snow makes it impossible for her family to attend the party. As her hopes crumble, jagged lines in the illustrations vividly represent how her joy has been fractured by disappointment. The remainder of the book

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND

depicts Bea, with the support of her loving family, learning to navigate her feelings and discover that there's more than one way to experience a perfect day.

This book is both heart-warming and hopeful - enjoyable on its own, but also a wonderful tool for talking with young children about difficult emotions. It reassures readers that intense sadness and frustration are natural responses to disappointment (beautifully conveyed through Bea's expressions rather than words). At the same time, the story offers a gentle reminder to look for small joys, ensuring that one setback doesn't ruin an entire day.

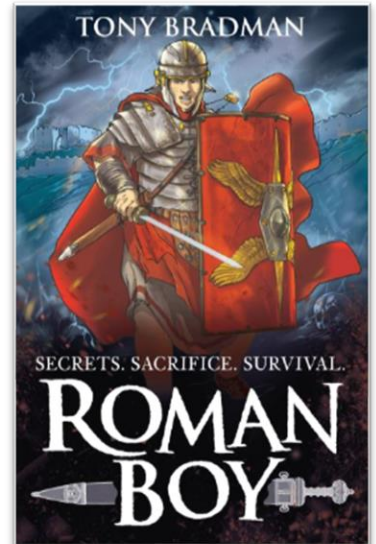
Upper School

Roman Boy – Tom Bradman

Tony Bradman's latest work of historical fiction offers all the hallmarks of a classic adventure set in the Roman era, complete with a brave and determined protagonist on a quest to prove his worth. The hero is adept in the art of sword fighting and must navigate the challenges of the Roman world.

The story follows Lucius, who is eager to be accepted by his new stepfather and begin his life in Rome. However, his plans take a sharp turn when he's sent to Londinium, only to discover a relentless assassin pursuing him. In a bid to survive, Lucius joins the Roman army under a false identity. His courage and loyalty quickly earn him the admiration of his commanders, but with each success, his desire to reclaim his true identity grows. As conflict brews on the northern frontier, Lucius's precarious position is threatened, and secrets from his past risk unraveling all he has achieved.

Though not overly intricate, the story is fast-paced and well-executed, featuring clever chapter titles reminiscent of newspaper headlines. It would serve as an excellent reading for pleasure recommendation for any child studying Roman Britain in Key Stage 2.



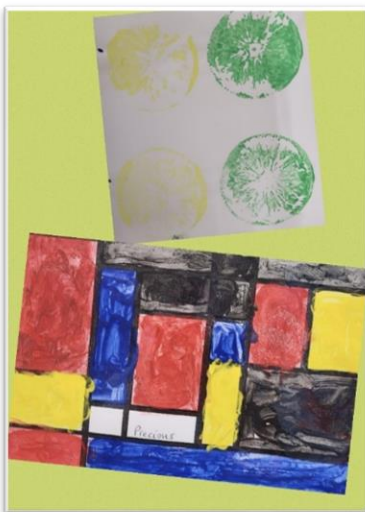
Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

Precious – R3

In Reception the children have been learning about the primary colours and how artists use these colours within their work. They spent time looking at the abstract art work created by Mondrian and had a go at producing work of a similar style. Precious created a fantastic piece of geometrical work and applied primary colours with lots of consideration.

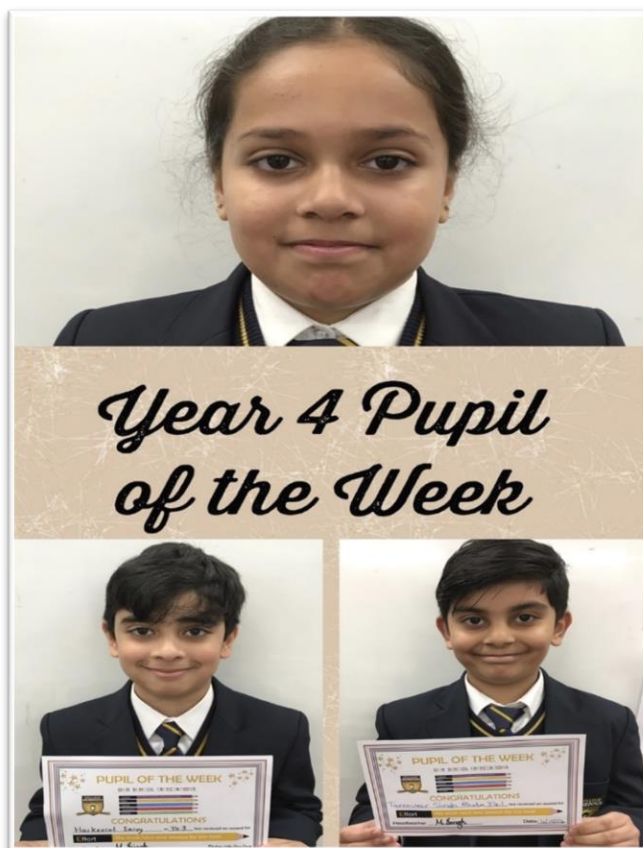
Fatiha – Y6.2

In Year 6 the children have been learning about different types of printmaking and how many artists work within this discipline. Year 6 created monoprints of the inside of an orange and worked in a variety of different colours. The children tried very hard to improve their printing technique and many of the outcomes were excellent. Fatiha produced a selection of vibrant prints and took lots of care when carrying out the printing process.



Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 4 pupils, Taranveer, Gurisha and Harkeerat for showing their hard work and effort this week. Keep it up!



Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

7 to 18 October 2024
7 October 2024
8 & 9 October 2024
9 October 2024
9 & 16 October 2024
14 & 16 October 2024

Harvest Donations
Lower School Parents' Evening
Year 4 visit to the Buddhist Temple
Upper School Parents' Evening
Year 5 visit Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurdwara
Year 3 visit to Birmingham City Centre