

14 March 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

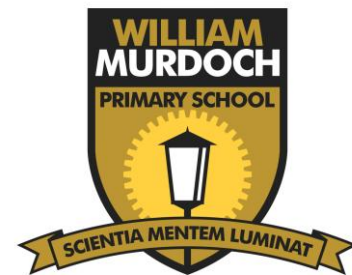
"The sun himself is weak when he first rises; and gathers strength and courage as the day goes on." – Charles Dickens

Dear Parents/Carers

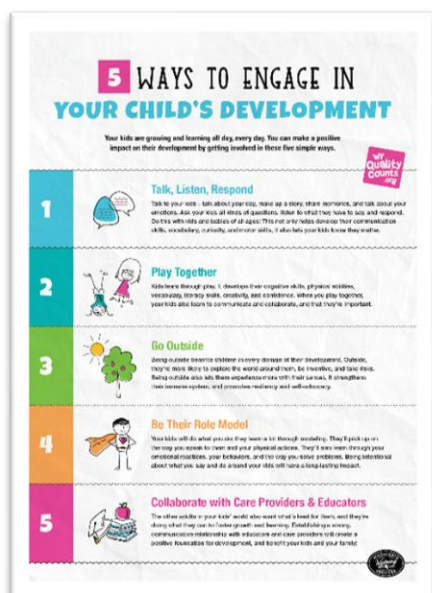
It was wonderful to see so many parents on Monday and Wednesday of this week for Lower School and Upper School Parents' Evening respectively. I would like to pass on my thanks to all parents who completed the questionnaire, which is based on the Ofsted model questions on Parent View. The questionnaires will be analysed over the next few weeks and I will share the results of the survey in due course. I would like to pass on my thanks to all staff who supported the Parents' Evenings, with a special mention to Mr Slinn for organising the art displays and Mr Blackmore for arranging the music performances.



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Parents' Evening highlights the partnership that is required between parents and school in helping children to progress to the very best of their ability. With this in mind, it is important that all adults model to children that learning is a lifelong passion and something that never stops. This can be done in a number of ways. For example:



- Talk to your child about what you are learning about at the moment.
- Read books, newspapers and magazines in front of your child.
- If you can't answer a question that your child asks you (which very often happens to me when my niece asks me about the intricacies of space, i.e. how many stars are there in the sky? How far would you have to dig to get to the centre of the Earth? Or, when can I go to the moon?), research the answer together and show your child that you are curious to find out the answer.
- Model asking questions and then finding out the answers, i.e. as you walk through the park, ask aloud: What do you think that squirrel is eating? In Autumn, why do some leaves turn red, while others turn yellow? Why does my shadow look different to how it did this morning?

Our staff have a number of training days each year and two hours of in-service training each week. As I said, ***learning is a lifelong passion and something that never stops!***

In what can only be described as another eventful week, the school has been a hive of learning and activity, both indoors and outdoors. Children in both Upper School and Lower School have received an array of enrichment activities with specialised instruction from coaches with the Aston Villa Foundation and from Warwickshire Cricket Club, as well as some amazing science workshops as part of Science Week celebrations in school (more on that later in the newsletter).

A special thank you to parents in Year 6 who attended the SATs workshops this week, and to Mr Desai for leading the workshops.

Next week will see the return of Mrs Gill, who this time last year started her maternity leave. She has enjoyed a beautiful journey into motherhood during her maternity leave and baby Ashleen is a joy to behold. I am sure you will give her a warm welcome back to the school community.

Red Nose Day 2025

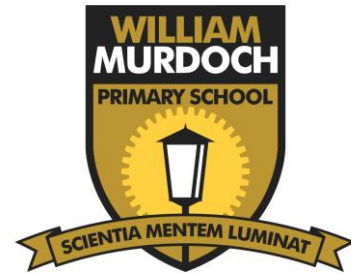
The school is supporting the Comic Relief appeal on Friday 21 March 2025. We are inviting all children to take part in a non-uniform day. Children may dress in something red for a £1.00 donation. There will also be an opportunity for children to purchase Comic Relief merchandise, along with a cake sale. Your child has brought home a letter today with further details of the money raising activities taking place in school.



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British Science Week

This year the theme is change and adapt, which ties in nicely to how human beings have to change and adapt to how the world works. Change is something that is inevitable; sometimes we welcome it with open arms and other times we shy away from it... but truth be told, good things do come from change! The cold, frosty winters to the bright, long, sunny summers; we all know we enjoy the lighter and brighter skies.

To commemorate British Science Week, we have been treated to class assemblies that have explored adapt and change with living things and their environment.

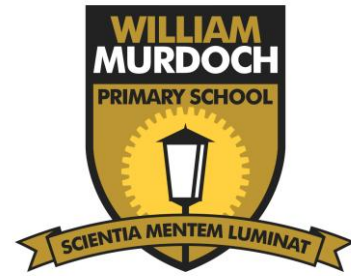
The children have encountered a fun-filled week packed with science activities ranging from music making with bottles, adaptations with animals and their environment, relaxing sea yoga and plenty more! The children roared with laughter in their 'Silly Science' workshop and were enthusiastic about their learning with Professor Nitrate. Our William Murdoch scientists were really in their element and showed a phenomenal understanding with states of matter. It was a delight to see the children engrossed with the discoveries inventors and scientists have made over the years. The future inventors, scientists, astronauts, botanist and engineers are here in the making so watch this space...!

Lastly, to end our Science week Y1.3 delivered a fantastic assembly.

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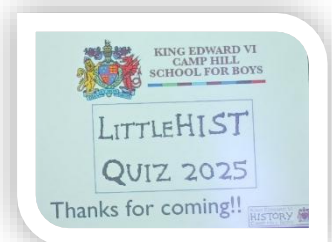
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Little History Quiz

On Wednesday, Mr Harris took four Year 6 children to King Edward Camp Hill to compete in the annual Little History Quiz. This year the competition celebrated its tenth year and was attended by 27 schools from across Birmingham. Our rivals were fierce, but as usual we gave it all we had. Some of the questions were really tough but our children's knowledge was amazing. Well done to the children for their outstanding behaviour and the manners that were shown. We do not know our final standing but keep your eyes peeled for an update over the upcoming weeks.



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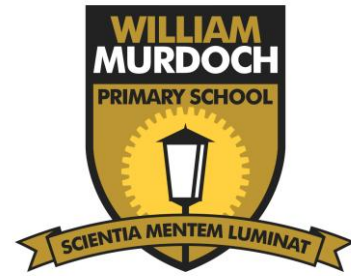


Aboriginal Workshop

The children in Year 5 took part in an VR (virtual reality) workshop that explored Aboriginal culture. The children got to experience many aspects of life within Aboriginal culture in a vivid three-dimensional way. In addition to this, the children had the chance to explore the landscape of Australia and different types of habitats found within the country. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and were able to supplement their general knowledge.



KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Reception Stay and Play – Phonics

On Friday, Reception parents were invited to attend a Phonics & Reading Stay and Play session. During this session, parents were introduced to the Read Write Inc scheme, which is used to teach phonics throughout the school. A variety of strategies to support their child with reading and phonics were shared and parents had the opportunity to engage in a variety of phonics-based activities with their child.



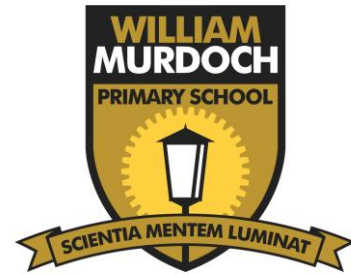
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Aston Primary Premier League Football Competition

On Tuesday, Mr Harris and Mr Walker took 8 children for the final game in the Aston Schools Premier League competition. This week there was only one game, against St Patrick's School. The game was enthralling with both teams creating opportunities to win, but with neither team managing to score. This meant a final score of 0-0; a very rare result in school football. It was a great effort from the boys in what could well be their final opportunity to play football for the school. As usual we were so proud of the effort put in and the attitude shown by everyone.

Smart Watches

We would like to remind parents and carers that smartwatches are not permitted in school, especially those that function as phones, cameras, or can connect to the internet. Thank you for your support in ensuring a focused and safe learning environment for all pupils.



Year 6 Secondary School Allocations

If you are the parent/carers of a child in Year 6, you should have received an offer email and letter naming the secondary school your child has been offered for entry in September 2025. You **do not** need to contact Birmingham School Admissions if you intend to accept your child's offer of a school place.

You only need to inform School Admissions if you are **refusing** the school place your child was offered, and this must be done by **Friday 21 March 2025**. Details of how to do this was included in your offer letter. If they are not informed by this date that you wish to refuse your offer, the secondary school will update their records to show the offer has been accepted.

We strongly encourage you to accept your offer, this is so your child has a guaranteed school place to attend in September 2025.

By refusing your offer, please be aware that your child's school place may be offered out to another child from that school's waiting list once they are made available. Your child will have **no school** to attend in September as School Admissions only make one school offer to a child. If a family refuses their school offer, they are not required to offer your child a place at an alternative school. Your child will only be offered a place at another school if a place becomes available on the waiting list for one of your higher preferred schools due to waiting list movement, or if you appeal against the decision to refuse your child a place at one of your preferred schools and your appeal is subsequently upheld (successful).

The offer being accepted will not affect your child's waiting list position for any of your higher preference schools, or influence the outcome of any appeal you may submit.

If your child has not been offered a place at any of the schools that you applied for, this will be because the school(s) you applied for have received more applications than there were places available, and other children that better met the admission criteria were offered those places. Details of the school admission criteria that all applicants are considered under are available here: [Secondary Schools Admission Arrangements 2025](#)

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Unicef Article of the Week

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on 8th March. It is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

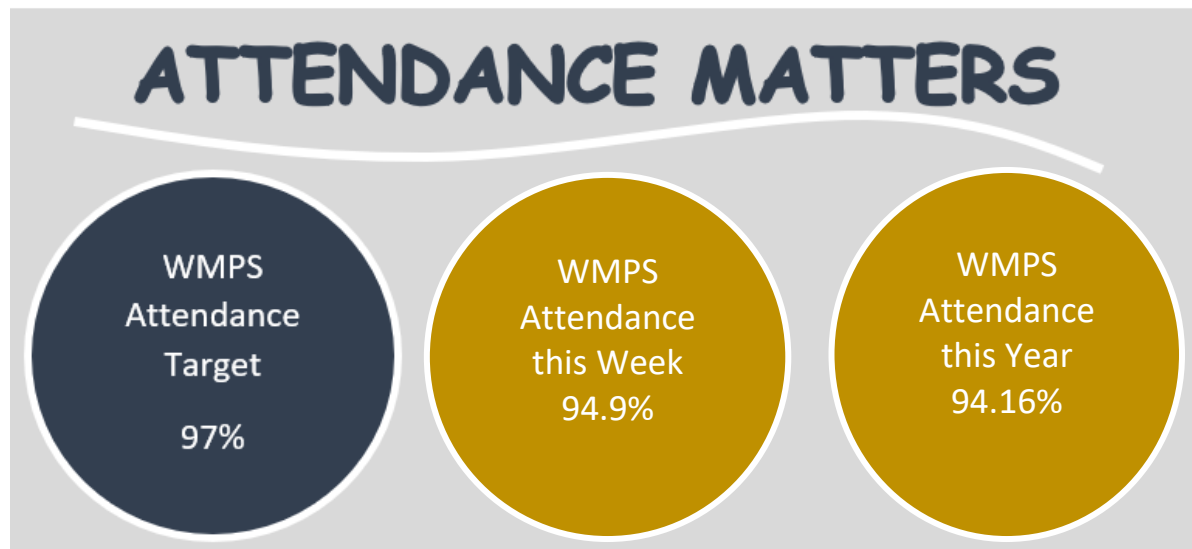
This week the article is linked to Article 2-Non-discrimination. The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Pupils across the school focused on the question 'Why do you think it is important to have a special day to celebrate women?'

Staff and pupils discussed the different jobs that people do. It helped to strengthen the discussions around gender equality and stereotypes.

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.



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Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



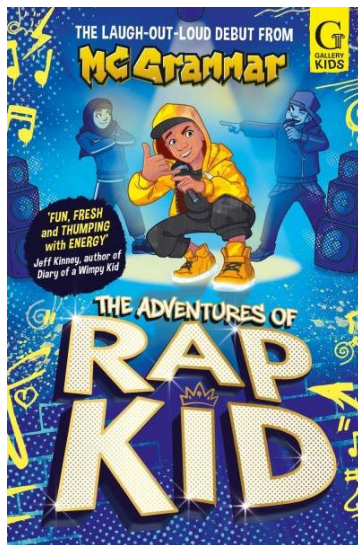
Rainbow Village - Emmi Smid

In a world where individuals keep to themselves, an unforeseen visitor compels them to form new relationships and recognise the significance of learning from one another.

Emmi Smid crafts an enchanting realm filled with quirky and delightful characters, guaranteed to bring joy to readers. The vivid, dynamic illustrations breathe life into this world, masterfully depicting the transformative power of human connection through the expressive use of colour.

This is a book that, despite being less frequently highlighted over the years, remains an underrated treasure. It serves as a fantastic resource for exploring themes of diversity, inclusion, and the importance of acceptance, particularly for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1.

Upper School



The Adventures of Rap Kid - MC Grammar

Z—short for Zero, as he never speaks at school—is often bullied and left out. His love for rapping makes everyday conversation tricky since he tends to speak in rhyme, sometimes landing him in trouble. But when Mr. G, a teacher who seems to understand him, introduces him to a new student, Esfef—short for SFX—things start to change. Like Z, she prefers not to talk, instead communicating through phrases displayed on her decorative jacket badges. The two quickly form a bond, especially when Mr. G encourages them to audition as a duo for the upcoming Rap Rumble competition. However, standing in their way is Z's biggest adversary—Bully Boy.

The book follows a simple storyline, with much of the narrative consisting of Z directly addressing the reader, whom he calls 'my G.' It includes plenty of humour aimed at younger readers, such as nose-picking antics and some toilet humour.

Themes of friendship, acceptance and bullying run throughout the story. The book features a main character who wears a hijab, explores different family dynamics (including separated parents), and positively acknowledges diverse family structures.

This is best suited for independent reading. When reading aloud, an adult would need a strong grasp of rap and street slang—such as sick, bro/bruh, garms, and barz—to do the story justice. One of the later chapters encourages reading, emphasising that aspiring rappers need a rich vocabulary to craft rhymes about their interests. Additionally, the book includes interactive sections where readers can

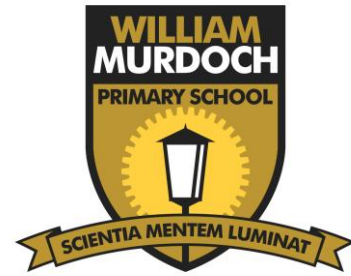
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create their own rap lyrics, along with tips and guidance on writing raps. This is a really charming book that you children won't want to put down!

Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

Art Display at Parents' Evening

During both Parents' Evenings this week there was an art display in the Upper School hall. The exhibition showcased some of the extraordinary pieces of art work that the children across the school have been producing. On display were paintings, architectural models, drawings and masks to name but a few. At William Murdoch Primary School, we give the children the chance to learn about many of the artists and art movements throughout history, and help the children to use these learning opportunities to further enhance their own artistic practices. It is clear that we have an abundance of creative artists at our school and it was so pleasing to see many of their achievements being celebrated during the week.



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Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 4 pupils, for becoming this week's 'Pupil of the Week'.
(Respect)



Adam Y4.1



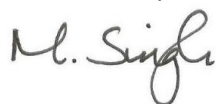
Costel-Raul Y4.2



Dawood – Y4.3

Many thanks for your continued support, cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

21 March 2025	Red Nose Day (non-uniform day)
21 March 2025	Y2.3 Science Week Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
21 March 2025	Reception Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm
27 March 2025	Reception African Workshop (Dance Mask Making)
28 March 2025	Mother's Day Assembly, 9.00am-9.45am