

28 February 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." –  
Aristotle*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school following the half-term break. I hope you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. It was lovely to see all of our children bouncing into school and looking very smart in their uniforms during assembly on Monday morning.

In previous newsletters I have written about our engagement with Poetry By Heart, a national poetry speaking competition for schools and colleges in England. Over the half-term break, we asked the children to learn a poem that has been set by the teachers of their year group. School staff will then select pupils based on their performances in rehearsals to enter the national round, and their entries will be submitted by video. Please encourage your children to practise the performance of their poem and you never know they may make it to the final at the prestigious Globe Theatre in London, just like Maya in Y5.1 last year.

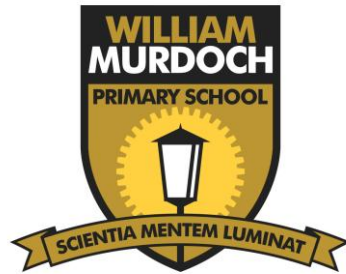
Another thrilling development in this space is that the school has been asked to take part in Poetry By Heart, The Movie. The director will be in school in the coming weeks to record some of our rehearsals, so children in Upper School who are eligible to take part and will be performing their poems may find themselves being part of the documentary. We will write with further details to all children participating in due course. Exciting times!

Our school website is full of lots of useful information about school and is an excellent way for parents and carers to find out more about William Murdoch Primary School. To view our website please visit: <https://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk/>

On our website you will find key information about William Murdoch Primary School, lots of detail on the curriculum we deliver to our children, the wider opportunities offered to our children, and lots of useful documents and school policies that you are able to download and read in your own time.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office and we will get back to you. If you ever have any queries, I can be found outside the top playground by the Albert Road entrance most days in the morning and at the end of the day, and your child's teacher will also be on the playground at the end of each day. For discussions of a more private nature, you can make an appointment to see the class teacher in the first instance or with me via the school office. In my absence, Mrs Pannu or Mr Matthews would be more than happy to talk to you. Please do not hesitate to speak to us should you need to. Thank you for your continued support.

# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



## Parents' Evening

Please note the Spring Term Parents' Evenings are scheduled for the week commencing 10 March 2025. The Lower School Parents' Evening will take place on Monday 10 March 2024 with the Upper School Parents' Evening being held on Wednesday 12 March 2025. 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 sent home early next week.

## Soccer Stars Football Competition

On Wednesday, Mr Harris took children from Years 5 and 6 to play in the Smile Education Inter-school football competition at West Bromwich Albion's indoor dome. The children played schools from across the West Midlands. We played a total of 6 games winning four and drawing two without conceding a goal. This was an outstanding achievement, which was rewarded by the school winning the league. The children had a magical day and coming home with the cup and a medal was the icing on the cake. The children were impeccably behaved and were a credit to our school. Well done to all the children who represented the school on the day!



## Residential Visit

The Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Govilon Activity Centre is fast approaching. If your child has secured a place on the visit, please ensure all monies are paid by the deadline of Friday 11 April 2025 to ensure they can attend what will be a memorable weekend.

## World Book Day 2025

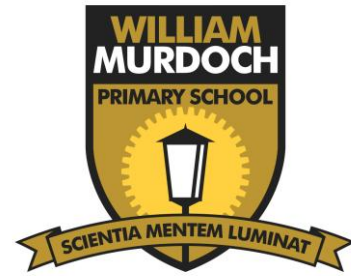
World Book Day takes place on Thursday 6 March and we hope you'll join us to celebrate across the school. We are celebrating World Book Day this year in school because we support the charity's mission to change lives through a love of books and reading. Dressing up or bringing books into school is a big part of World Book Day celebrations, and is something that children and families particularly enjoy. We are inviting children to dress up this World Book Day as it's an exciting way for children to get book recommendations from each other. This year, in a slight twist, children can come



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HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

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dressed as their favourite book character OR come dressed as a specific word, which you will be able to select from our vocabulary list.

We are aware that the cost-of-living crisis might make this difficult for some families, so we encourage you to use things you already have at home to make a creative costume. Can't make a full-blown costume? Don't panic. Even just a prop will be sufficient. We just want the children to be excited about reading.

Getting a free £1 book for your child is easy – simply take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller/supermarket and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book. You can help your child choose their £1 book by showing this year's exciting new range at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books>. No book that catches their eye? Don't worry. They can get £1 off any ANY book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can find your nearest bookseller at [www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers](http://www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers).

There are also lots of fun reading ideas and resources for you to enjoy with your child at home on the World Book Day website at: [www.worldbookday.com/families](http://www.worldbookday.com/families) as well as brilliant book recommendations for all ages.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day this year, which could not happen without the support of our parents and carers – thank you.  
dressed as their favourite book character OR come dressed as a specific word, which you will be able to select from our vocabulary list.

## **Aston Schools Premier League Football Competition**

On Tuesday, Mr Harris and Mr Walker took 8 children from Year 5 and 6 to play in the Aston Schools Premier League football competition. The children were fantastic in both application and attitude. This competition will run over 3 weeks with the winner being decided by the results that each team achieve. This week we played against James Watt Primary School and won 1-0 and then played Glenmead Primary School, losing out 3-1. The children represented themselves outstandingly in all aspects of the game. We as a school are incredibly proud of the team. Many thanks to the parents who came along to support.

## **Warwickshire Cricket Coaching**

Warwickshire County Cricket Club are once again providing coaching for our Year 4 and 6 pupils this half-term, along with an after-school club for Year 5. Our coach, Kieron Buchanan, led an assembly this morning that introduced pupils to cricket and the Chance to Shine charity, which gives millions of school-aged children the opportunity to play the sport each year. A leaflet is attached containing details for how to get your child involved in cricket outside of school, completely free of charge.

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## Unicef Article of the Week

### Access to Information from the Media

Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.



This week the article is linked to Article 17 Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Pupils across the school focused on the question 'Why do you think it is important to think about whether the information you receive is reliable (can be trusted)?'

Staff and pupils discussed the different types of media and how it can teach accurate information.

### 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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## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

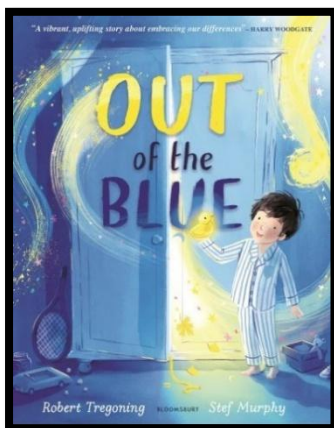
WMPS  
Attendance  
Target  
97%

WMPS  
Attendance  
this Week  
94.31%

WMPS  
Attendance  
this Year  
94.05%

### Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

#### Lower School

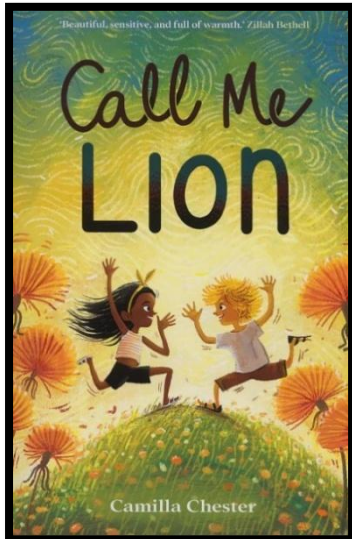


#### **Out of the Blue - Robert Tregoning & Stef Murphy (illustrator)**

In a world where the government has banned every colour except blue, a young boy struggles with his love for yellow. At school, during a litter pick, all colours except blue are tossed into trash bags. But the boy secretly treasures yellow, hiding yellow items in his wardrobe. He feels guilty for liking something forbidden. One day, his father discovers the hidden items, and together, they decide that it's okay to love yellow. Their act of rebellion sparks a change, inspiring others to embrace colour. Soon, their street is filled with vibrant hues. This heart-warming, uplifting story encourages individuality and highlights the dullness of conformity. Perfect for EYFS/KS1 children.



## Upper School



### **Call Me Lion - Camilla Chester & Irina Avgustinovich (illustrator)**

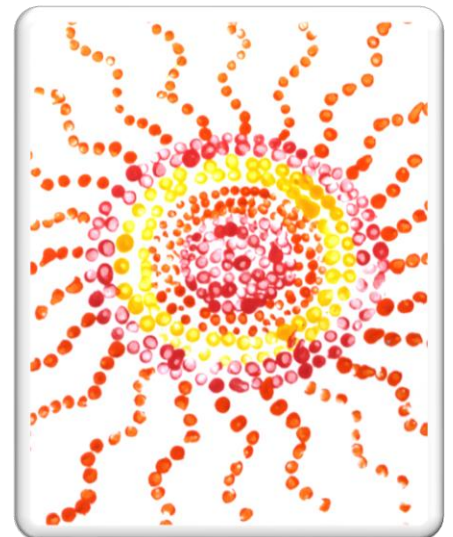
During a scorching heatwave in Luton, Leo is making the most of his school holidays by doing what he loves—dancing. Then, a new neighbour, Richa, moves in. She's everything Leo isn't—confident, outgoing, and social. Leo struggles with selective mutism, meaning he can't speak to anyone except his family. But Richa isn't put off. With their shared passion for dancing, they form an unexpected but perfect bond.

Chester's thoughtful and heartfelt book explores themes of loneliness, standing up to bullies, facing fears, and the power of true friendship. The portrayal of selective mutism is handled with sensitivity and care, showing a deep understanding of the condition. Ideal for KS2 children.

## Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

### Arman Y1.2

In Year 1 the children have been learning that artists paint in a range of different ways, and often with a variety of special tools. Using cotton buds the children produced paintings of the sun in a pointillistic style. The children even had the chance to practise their paint mixing skills when they produced the orange paint! Arman applied the paint very carefully and produced a vibrant piece of work.



Fajar -Y6.1



Year 6 have been producing lots of excellent work as part of their Renaissance Sculpture unit. Throughout the unit the children have been learning about many famous works of art and a selection of well-known pieces of architecture. In particular, Year 6 learnt about Florence Cathedral and then produced a clay relief of this location. Fajar carefully carved the clay relief and used metallic paints very effectively to produce a well finished piece of art work.



## Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 3 pupils, for becoming this week's 'Pupil of the Week'.



Hayyam Y3.1

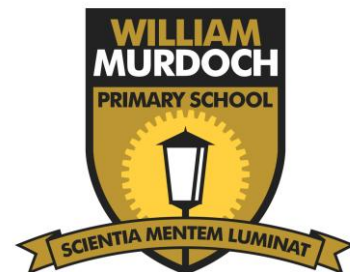


Afeen Y3.2



Lakshdeep Y3.3

# KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Many thanks for your continued support, cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

## Dates

4 March 2025	Year 4 visit to Warwick Castle
4 March 2025	Aston Premier League Fixtures, King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, 3.30pm-5.00pm
6 March 2025	World Book Day
7 March 2025	Year 5 visit to National Space Centre
7 March 2025	Year 6 Good Work Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
7 March 2025	Year 1 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm
10 March 2025	Lower School Parents' Evening 4.00pm to 6.00pm
11 March 2025	Aston Premier League Fixtures, King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, 3.30pm-5.00pm
11 March 2025	Year 6 SATs Meeting. 3.30pm-4.00pm
12 March 2025	Year 6 SATs Meeting, 9.00am-9.30am
12 March 2025	Little History Quiz, King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, 1.15pm-3.15pm
12 March 2025	Upper School Parents' Evening 4.00pm to 6.00pm
14 March 2025	Year 4 Good Work Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
14 March 2025	Year 5 Aboriginal Workshop
14 March 2025	Year 5 Maths Challenge, King Edward's School, 1.15pm-3.00pm
14 March 2025	Y1.3 Science Week Assembly. 2.50pm-3.15pm

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