

24 January 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end.'
- Abraham Lincoln

Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been plenty to blow away the January blues at school this week. Despite the cold, the fog, the blustery winds and the dark mornings, the school is full of warmth and smiles, and we are so proud of all the children are achieving.

At William Murdoch Primary School, we are committed to fostering a healthy environment for all our pupils. As part of this commitment, we are delivering healthy eating assemblies and continue to review our approach to snacks to ensure that children have access to nutritious options during break times.

Early Years/Lower School Pupils

For our younger children in Lower School, fruit is provided by the school. Therefore, there is no need for them to bring snacks from home.

Upper School Pupils

For pupils in Years 3 to 6, we encourage bringing a healthy snack to school. While a piece of fruit or a vegetable is the ideal choice, other options such as low-sugar dry cereal bars (nut-free), crackers, rice cakes, malt loaf, breadsticks, or similar items are also acceptable.

However, please note that not all snacks are suitable. To ensure clarity, please consider carefully the snack guidelines for Upper School pupils:

Preferred snacks: Fruit or vegetables.

Items not permitted: Nuts, any snacks containing nuts, chocolate, crisps, sweets, cakes, biscuits, or fizzy drinks.

Other acceptable snacks: Grain, bread, protein, or dairy-based snacks, as long as they are nut-free and low in sugar and salt.

We hope these guidelines help in making healthier snack choices.

As this is the time of year when we have lots of illnesses and bugs going around, we do make sure children are wearing outdoor clothes for breaktimes so please ensure they are named. If your child is feeling a bit under the weather, please send them to school if they are well enough - we will always contact families if children become unwell at school. It is very important that they do not miss learning as it is very difficult for children to catch up.

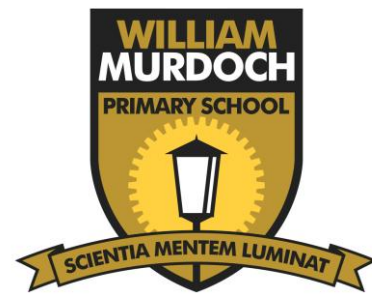
WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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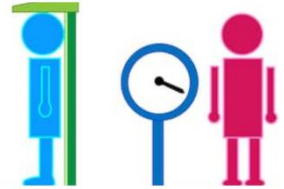
HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Height and Weight Check

Children in Reception and Year 6 will be bringing home a letter and consent form to have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The checks are carried out by registered school nurses or trained health and care providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything; however, if you do not wish your child to take part or has a medical condition that may affect their height or weight, please inform your child's Class Teacher by Friday 7 February 2025.



Reception Police Visit

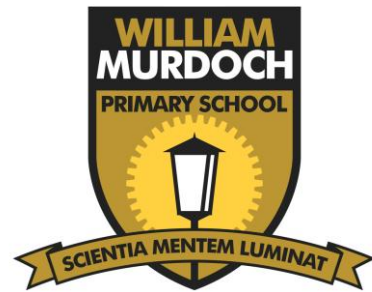
This week the children in Reception had a visit from their local Community Police Officer. The children had the opportunity to learn all about the role of the Police Officer, and learning about how they support and help in their local community.



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International Day of Education – Friday 24 January 2025

Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind. Today, 250 million children and youth are out of school, and 763 million adults are illiterate. Their right to education is being denied and it is unacceptable. It's time to transform education.

As computer and AI-driven systems become more powerful, the boundaries between human intention and machine-driven action often blur. This raises critical questions about how to protect and, ideally, elevate human agency in an age of technological acceleration and expanding automation. The 2025 International Day of Education – *AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation* – will explore how education can help people understand and steer AI to better ensure that they retain control over this new class of technology and are able to direct it towards desired objectives that respect human rights and advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

"On this International Day of Education, UNESCO invites the international community to work, through education, towards an enduring symbiosis between human and technological action. This special day reminds us that lasting peace begins with education." - Audrey Azoulay
UNESCO Director General.



Parent/Carer Autism Awareness Course

The Communication and Autism Team (CAT) are running an awareness course for parents/carers of autistic children or of children on the Neurodevelopmental pathway. The course has been designed for parents who want to increase their understanding of autism. The sessions will be delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams; a link will be sent to you a few days before each session. Each session will last for 2 hours. For further information, please see the attached leaflet.

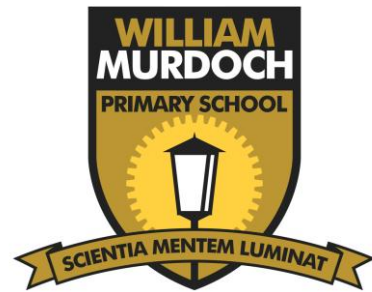
Our Communication to You

Please take the time to read emails sent to you. We try to make sure that everything you are sent relates to your child, so nothing is irrelevant. If you would like further information on any email we send, please contact the class teacher or the school office for assistance. We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter as we post reminders, useful information, and live updates from school and other community events of interest. Don't miss out, or let your child miss out. Please also keep up to date with everything William Murdoch via Class Dojo.

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UNICEF Article of the Week

This week pupils across the school have focused on **Article 13** which is freedom of expression. Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

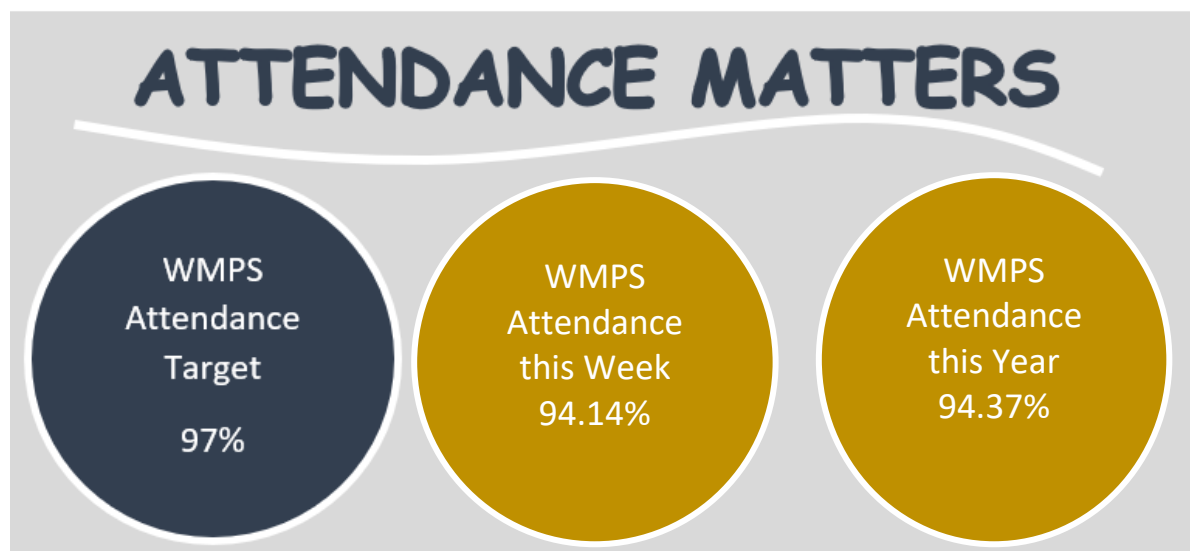
Pupils across the school focused on the question 'Why do you think it's important that children and young people are able to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions freely?'

Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of sharing thoughts freely and listening to each other's opinions. We also looked how adults can respect pupils' right to express their thoughts and opinions.



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.

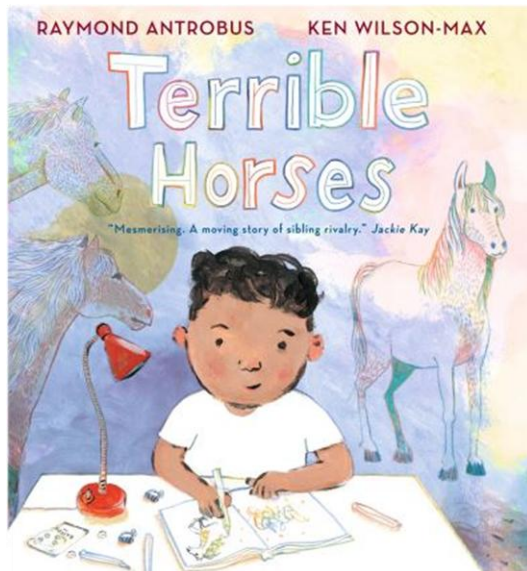


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Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School

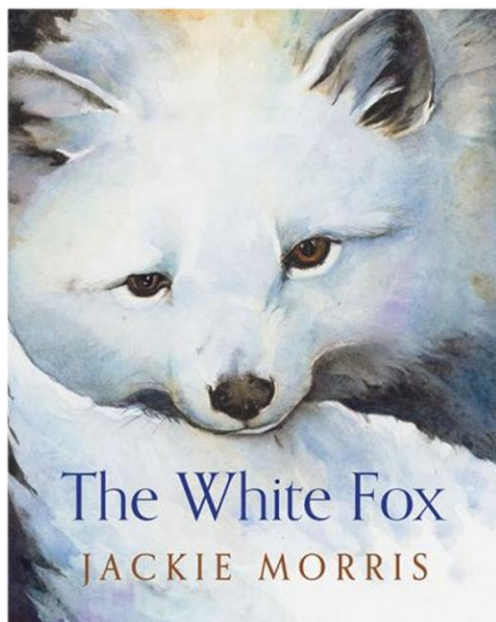


Terrible Horses – Raymond Antrobus & Ken Wilson-Max (Illustrator)

Terrible Horses, written by the deaf poet Raymond Antrobus, explores sibling rivalry through the eyes of a young boy who wears hearing aids. He feels jealousy towards his older sister's friends and possessions. When conflicts arise between the siblings, the boy turns to drawing and storytelling to process his emotions. It is through these creative outlets that the siblings eventually find a way to reconcile.

This book will resonate with many children, as it captures the complex emotions of frustration, anger, and love that often arise in sibling relationships. It encourages readers to reflect on their own experiences and engage in discussions about them.

Upper School

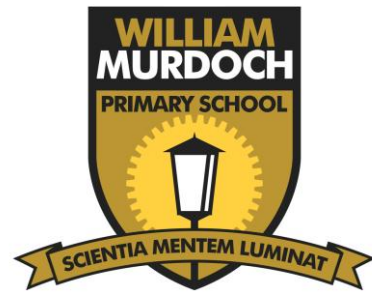


The White Fox – Jackie Morris

The day the fox appeared, everything started to shift for Sol. Feeling lost, isolated, and far from home, Sol finds an unexpected bond with a small Arctic fox he discovers at the Seattle docks – a creature that, like him, seems out of place in the vast city. With his dad always busy at work and missing the grandparents they left behind, Sol decides to bring the fox home, hoping to restore a sense of connection to his own family.

This short chapter book offers more than meets the eye. With its heartfelt narrative and beautiful illustrations, it explores themes such as loneliness, identity, and the need to belong. The story takes readers on an uplifting journey, highlighting the importance of family ties and our connection to the natural world.

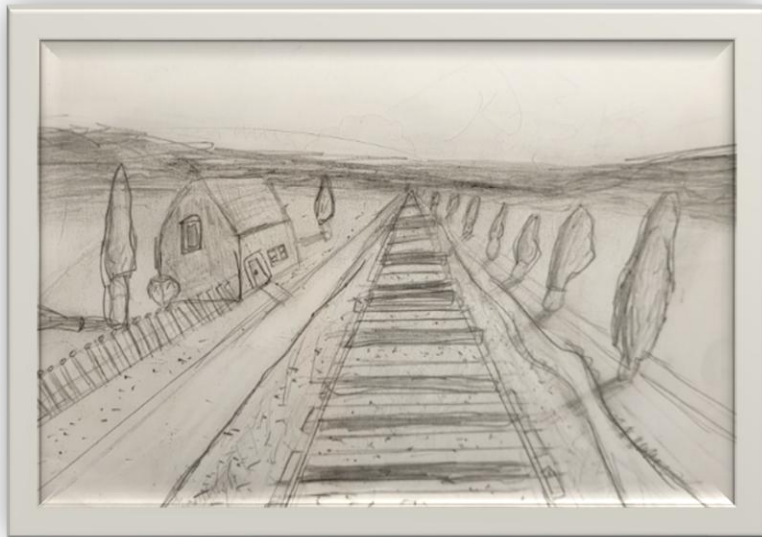
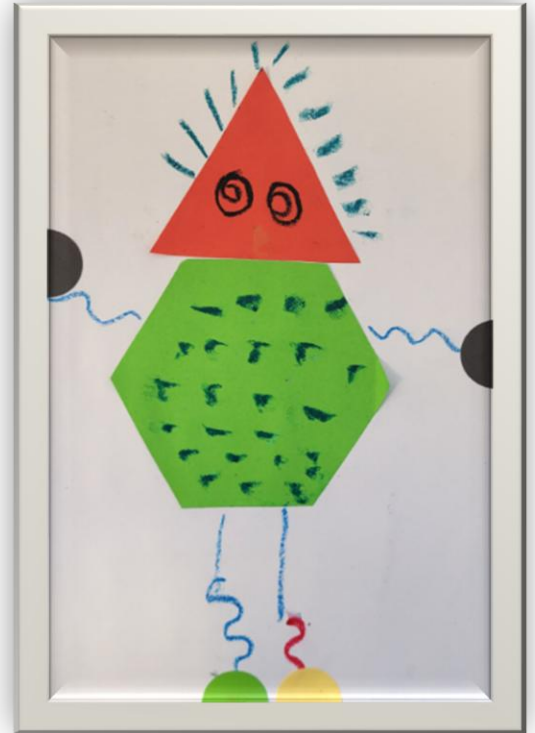
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Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

Precious R3

In Reception the children have been learning about Joan Miró who was famous for combining abstract art with surrealism. He famously worked with a range of different materials and his work is on display in different parts of the world. Miró often produced work based on natural forms and commonly produced dream-like paintings. The children learnt how shape and colour can be used in creative ways to build up an image. Precious produced an excellent abstract picture of a person using a range of simple shapes and vibrant colours.



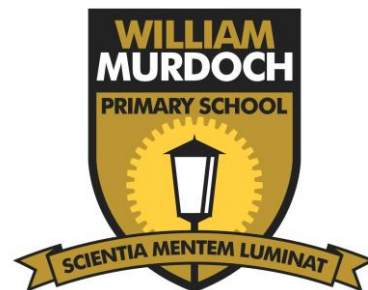
Muhammad-Tayyaan Y6.1

In Year 6 the children have been learning about how artists create perspective in their work and how two-dimensional work can be given a three-dimensional appearance. Muhammad-Rayyaan put into practice the techniques he had learnt in relation to perspective well when producing his drawing of a railway track. The accurate use of both line and tone successfully create a three-dimensional effect in his work.

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Pupil of the Week

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

Reception 1



Sukhmani – R1



Jayden Mal – R2



Razia Rani – R3

Many thanks for your continued support, cooperation and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

28 January 2025	Aston Villa Mixed Premier League National Qualifiers
30 January 2025	Chinese New Year workshops for Year 2 and Year 4
30 January 2025	Reception visit from West Midlands Fire Service
31 January 2025	Year 4 Good Work Assembly. 8.55am-9.15am
31 January 2025	Year 6 'A Time for Letters' Workshop, 1.35pm-2.35pm
31 January 2025	Y3.2 Healthy Eating Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm
5 March 2025	Year 3 & Year 4 Aston Villa Football Club Multi Sports Festival

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