

12 September 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.” – Ryunosuke Satoro

Dear Parents/Carers,

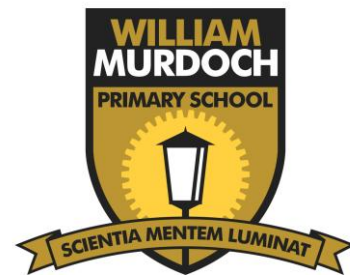
Thank you so much to everyone who was able to attend our Welcome Meetings this week. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces alongside those who are new to our community. There was an awful lot of information to take in so please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the school office if there is anything you need to double check.

At the start of each meeting, I spoke about the offer you can expect from us for your child during their time in school. This school was created through the amalgamation of Wilkes Green Infant School and Wilkes Green Junior School on 1 May 2019. The school takes its name from the tenacious and talented Scottish engineer, William Murdoch, who alongside James Watt and Matthew Boulton, were at the heartbeat of the industrial revolution. He lived on Queens Head Road and Murdock Road is named after him. Murdoch was a truly remarkable inventor who never stopped asking questions, solving problems, and imagining new possibilities. From building wooden machines as a child in Scotland to lighting streets with gas and improving steam engines, Murdoch showed that curiosity, creativity, and hard work can change the world.

Murdoch's legacy reminds us that great ideas often begin with simple questions and a passion for learning. At our school, we aim to nurture that same spirit in every child - encouraging them to explore, create, and persevere. By fostering a love of learning and a belief in their own potential, we hope our pupils will follow in Murdoch's footsteps and become confident, thoughtful individuals ready to make a difference. We realise each child is unique. We want our children to be successful, enjoy their time in school and feel safe and secure. We will work hard to ensure our children engage with their learning, collaborate with their peers and the teaching staff and uphold the school values of respect, effort, attitude, cooperation and honesty that we hold so dear.

At William Murdoch, we take pride in our school community and maintain high expectations for student uniform and conduct. We believe that this is a fundamental aspect of fostering a culture of high expectations and achievement. Therefore, we kindly request that all students wear full William Murdoch Primary School uniform every day. Regarding jewellery, the only permitted items are a pair of studs. Rings, bracelets, and necklaces should not be worn by students. In terms of footwear, students are required to wear black leather school shoes; trainers (except for Nursery where black trainers are allowed), canvas shoes, or boots are not permitted. On PE days, pupils can attend school in PE kit. However, children have already misplaced jumpers and cardigans and it is difficult to return them to who they belong to when they do not have their names in. Please add names to everything but especially blazers, jumpers, cardigans, PE hoodies and coats.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Attendance

Attendance has been very good so far this term. Thank you for your help in making sure that your children attend school and arrive on time. Although we continue to maintain a soft start to the day, punctuality is vitally important. All school doors close at 8.50am. Any children arriving after that time will need to enter via the Main Office and will be signed in as late. Children undertake important learning first thing in the morning and it can be unsettling for children who arrive late. If your child is unable to attend school, it is extremely important that you inform the school of this before 9.00am on the day of absence. Please either email the school at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk or leave a message on the absence line, giving your child's name, class and a brief reason for absence. If we are not informed of a reason for an absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please also arrive promptly to collect your child(ren) at the end of the day.

If your child is booked on a club and will not be attending for any reason, it is really important that you, and not your child, speak to a member of the office staff before the club is due to start. This is for safeguarding reasons. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is back up and running and we still have a small number of places available. The cost of this provision is £2.50 per day for the first child, and £1.00 per day for any additional children, and must be paid for in advance on a half-termly basis. If you require any further information, please contact the Main Office at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk.

Healthy Eating Reminders

Healthy Snack Policy

Our school policy is that we encourage all children to have fresh fruit or vegetables at morning break time. Sweets, crisps, cheese strings, chocolate, crackers and items such as Fruit Winders are not permitted. Lower School children are provided with a snack but children in Upper School should bring a healthy fruit or vegetable snack to eat at morning break or parents can purchase toast from the canteen via ParentPay.

Birthday Treats

Children are asked not to bring sweets / treats / cakes in to celebrate their birthdays as this leads to peer pressure, does not support our healthy school status and is challenging for pupils with allergies etc. Thank you for your support.

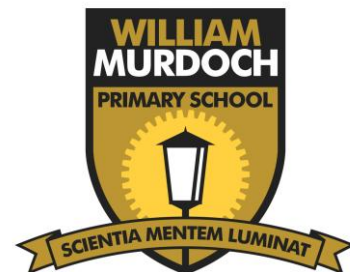
Packed Lunch Policy

Parents and pupils are encouraged to send a healthy packed lunch. No fizzy drinks are permitted. Packed lunches should not contain any products containing nuts (peanut butter, Nutella / nut-based chocolate spreads, nut based cereal bars etc.) as we have a number of children in school with a severe nut allergy.

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



Nursery and Reception

We have welcomed all of our Nursery and Reception children over the past two weeks. In the short time that they have been here, they have already made progress. Starting school can be a very difficult time for our youngest children but I am taken aback by how quickly they are settling into school routines. In Reception, the children are having fun making new friends and exploring a range of activities in the classroom. The children have been learning to write their name and have been exploring the early years environment. Children in Nursery are also making new friends and interacting well with a range of activities including singing nursery rhymes and action songs. 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 17 November 2025 at 9.30am

Monday 1 December 2025 at 9.30am

Thursday 8 January 2026 at 9.30am

Please contact the Main Office if you or someone you know would like to attend.

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 30 September 2025 to photograph the children in the Upper School. Family photos will be taken at 8.35am in the Upper School hall. If you would like a family photo, please bring your child straight to the Upper School hall at 8.35am and do not send them to class first. On Wednesday 1 October 2025, the photographer will photograph the children in the Lower School, including Nursery pupils. Throughout the days, individual, class and sibling photos will be taken. We will arrange for brothers and sisters in the Upper School and Lower School to be photographed together on either of these days. A letter will be sent to you nearer the time so you can let us know if you would like a sibling photo to be taken. **Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform. If your child has PE and is due to have their photograph taken, they must wear their full school uniform to school and bring their PE kit to school in their bag to change in to.**

School Meals - ParentPay

From Reception to the end of Year 2, children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. From Year 3 upwards the cost of school lunches will be £2.30 per day. Families in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). If you think you might be eligible and have not yet applied, please contact the school office in confidence, or visit <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> for eligibility details and to apply online. Even if your child does not take the free meals up, or is currently having free meals because of their age, his/her entitlement to FSM will attract additional funding to the school. Please do apply if you think you might be eligible.



For children who have moved up to Year 3 from September 2025, please remember that Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) stops at the end of Year 2. The cost of school meals for Year 3 upwards will be £2.30 per day.

We ask that parents settle all Parent Pay outstanding balances by Friday 26 September 2025. We will continue to chase any outstanding payments until they have been paid in full. The school operates a No Debt Policy with regard to school meals; however, families are well-informed and supported through the process.

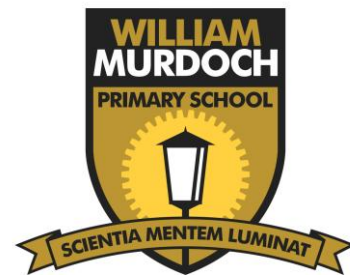
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Breaktime Snacks

A morning breakfast toast facility is available to all pupils from Year 3 to Year 6. Payment for toast can only be made through your child's ParentPay account. Toast must be purchased in full for each half-term priced at:

Toast	£6.00 per half-term (20p per day)
Cheese on Toast	£12.00 per half-term (40p per day)

Payment for toast must be made by the first Friday of each half-term. Fruit is also available for all Lower School pupils, including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), during morning break free of charge.

Welcome Meetings

Over the coming weeks, we will be holding Welcome Meetings for parents so that you can become familiar with the team that is supporting your child, the curriculum being taught, school policies and procedures, and other information that will provide you with a broad insight into what you can expect your child to learn this year. The meetings will take place in the Upper School hall as follows:

Year 1 – Thursday 18 September 2025 at 3.35pm
Year 2 – Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 3.35pm
Year 3 – Monday 15 September 2025 at 3.35pm
Year 4 – Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 3.35pm

Class Dojo

At William Murdoch Primary School, we use Class Dojo as our remote learning platform. Class Dojo provides a way for children to complete learning online and submit work to their class teacher. As parents, you can see the work set by the class teacher and the completed homework submitted by your child. On the 'Class Story', you will be able to see the latest information and updates. There is also a messaging feature for you to contact your child's class teacher; however, this should not be used for sensitive issues, nor for reporting absences. All messages will be responded to within two working days.



If you experience any technical issues, then please contact the Main Office for further assistance.

Nursery/Reception Places for September 2025

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 1/09/2021 and 31/08/2022 (Nursery) or 1/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 (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.

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Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer Meeting

You will be aware that your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2026. The school has this week shared an information letter from the Local Authority for parents/carers on how to apply online. To support parents and pupils, answer your questions and explain the process as clearly as possible, a Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting has been arranged on **Monday 22 September 2025 at 3.30pm in Y6.3 and repeated on Tuesday 23 September at 9.00am in the Training Room (hut in the middle of the playground).**

We encourage ALL Year 6 parents to attend one of these meetings so that you are fully informed of the secondary school application process.

Please refer to the website <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find further information. Your application must be submitted by **Friday 31 October 2025**.

Change in Circumstances

May we request, if there are any changes to your circumstances over the holiday, such as address, telephone number, email address etc, that you inform the Main Office via email at enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk. If there have been any changes to your personal circumstances which you feel may have an impact on your child, please let their teacher know as soon as possible.

After-School Clubs

The school continues to provide an outstanding before and after school club offer. Places will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Pupils who have shown an interest in joining a club will be given a letter for their parents to complete and sign. It should be returned to their class teacher as soon as possible.



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.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

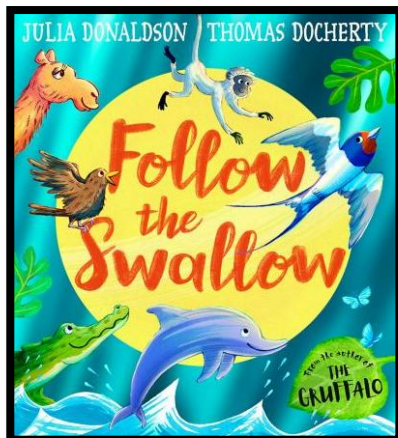
WMPS
Attendance
Target
97%

WMPS
Attendance
this Week
93.68%

WMPS
Attendance
this Year
91.77%

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



Follow the Swallow – Julia Donaldson & Thomas Docherty (illustrator)

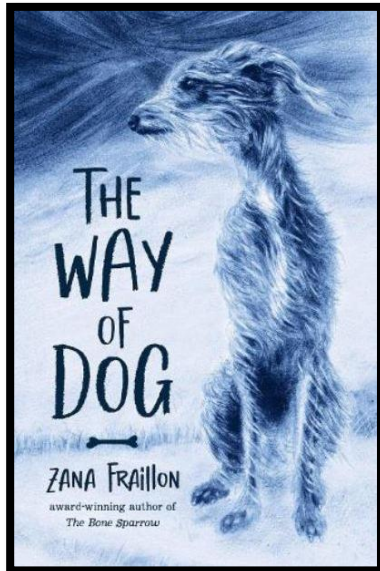
Chack the blackbird and Apollo the swallow are the unlikeliest of friends. When Apollo tells Chack he'll soon be flying all the way to Africa, Chack doesn't believe him. And when Chack explains that the blossom on his favourite tree will one day become bright orange berries, Apollo isn't convinced either!

As the seasons shift and time passes, both birds are in for a big surprise.

Join Chack and Apollo on their journey across the world in this charming and witty story about believing in your friends and the magic of seasonal change.

From the award-winning author of *The Gruffalo*, *Follow the Swallow* is a delightful read for every season.

Upper School



The Way of the Dog - Zana Fraillon

Scruffity is a moving and powerful story that begins in heartbreaking circumstances. An unwanted puppy born into a harsh puppy farm, confined to a cage and denied the warmth of love or freedom. But when a lonely boy connected to the farm shows him kindness and a glimpse of life beyond the bars, Scruffity's world begins to change. As the pair flee together and are ultimately separated, Scruffity must face the world alone, discovering the harshness and beauty of life, and the enduring power of hope, loyalty, and love.

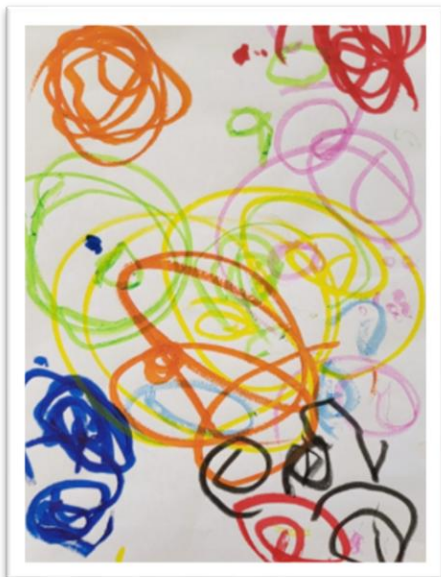
Told in a beautifully lyrical verse style by award-winning Australian author Zana Fraillon, this unique story is narrated entirely from the dog's perspective. Scruffity's voice is both heartwarming and thought-provoking, offering young readers in Years 5 and 6 a rich emotional journey and an imaginative exploration of the bond between animals and humans.

This is the kind of book that stays with children long after they've turned the final page, perfect for sparking meaningful conversations at home. Ideal for parents seeking stories that inspire empathy, resilience and compassion.

Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

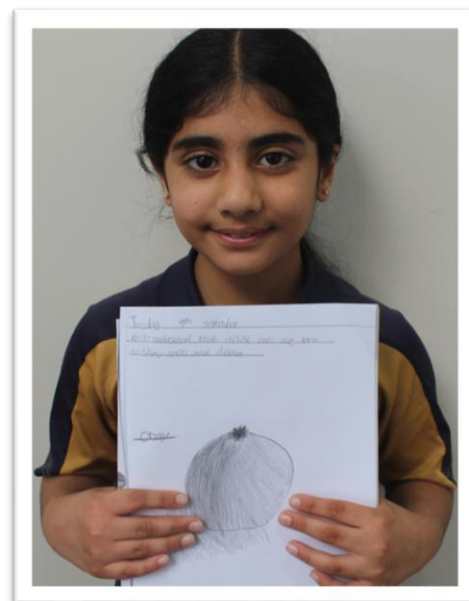
Nursery children

In Nursery the children have been practising mark making. The children have been having lots of fun using a range of materials in different colours to help create their art work. There is a lot of creative potential being spotted in the Nursery children and we look forward to seeing their creativity throughout the future.



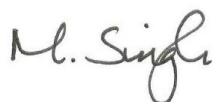
Anha – Y4.2

In Year 4 the children have been learning about how artists create form and dramatic effect in their art work. The children explored how varying tones within a piece of art can create a three-dimensional effect. Anha produced a drawing of an orange and thought a great deal about the areas of light and shade within the piece of fruit. She demonstrated a good level of pencil control and this is evident in the accuracy of the drawing. The final result is excellent.



Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working alongside you this academic year.

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

15 September 2025	Year 3 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
16 September 2025	Year 4 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
17 September 2025	Year 6 Villa Vision Parent Workshop, 9.00am-9.30am
17 September 2025	Year 2 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
18 September 2025	Year 1 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
19 September 2025	Year 6 Good Work Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
19 September 2025	Year 5 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.10pm
22 September 2025	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting, 3.00pm-3.30pm
23 September 2025	Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting, 9.00am-9.30am
26 September 2025	Y6.2 Harvest Class Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am