

19 September 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

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

It has been lovely to have all of our Reception children in full time this week, and experiencing school lunches for the first time too. It's wonderful to see them exploring the learning opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom, including venturing into the Forest School. They have been getting to know each other and growing in confidence throughout the week. We hope that everyone soon feels settled and part of the school family here at William Murdoch.

It has been another busy week with a multitude of learning activities taking place each day including the instrumental instruction of violin, guitar, brass and sitar to name a few. Before and after school clubs are also in full swing. We have a number of intervention strategies in place to support pupils in their learning with the school offering 1:1 or small group tutoring.

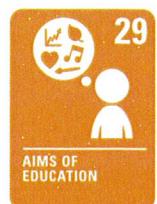
Litter

Recently we have noticed an increased amount of litter around the school grounds and outside the school gate. Please ensure any rubbish is disposed of using the bins provided and encourage your children to do the same.



UNICEF Article of the Week

This week pupils across the school have focused on Article 29 which is aims of education. Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



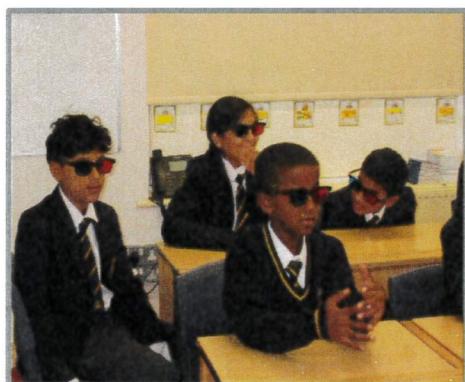
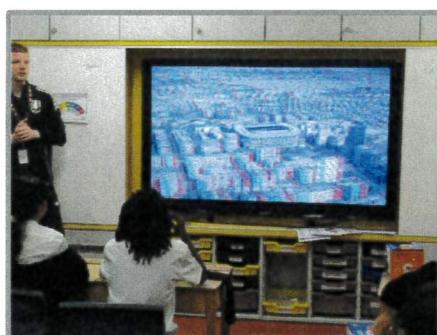
Pupils across the school focused on the question 'How can education support you to develop your personality, talents and abilities?' Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of developing pupil's talents and abilities by providing access to music, art, sports, clubs, trips, outdoor learning and supporting health and wellbeing. All these things will enable pupils to become the best person they can be.

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ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: 0121 554 0999 FAX: 0121 554 6332
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Aston Villa Vision and Colour Screening

Year 6 children were visited by the Villa Vision department of the Aston Villa Foundation, who carried out interactive and informative workshops. The children's first involvement with the initiative was through an eye health awareness workshop in the classroom, utilising equipment such as VR headsets, 3D glasses and eye models to give children a sense of understanding about the importance of looking after their eyesight. This was then followed by a vision and colour vision screening for each child. Children who are flagged from the screening will receive a fully comprehensive eye examination in Villa Vision's state-of-the-art mobile eyecare unit.



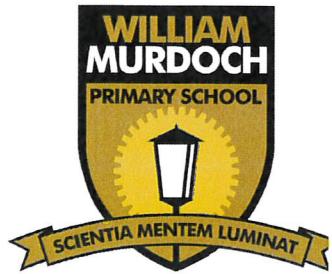
Nasal Flu Vaccine

A reminder that Flu Vaccine Forms are to be returned to the class teacher on **Friday 10 October 2025**.

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 long enough for how the food is distributed. The food donations are to be brought into school during the weeks commencing 22 and 29 September 2025. Many thanks in advance for supporting this initiative.





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

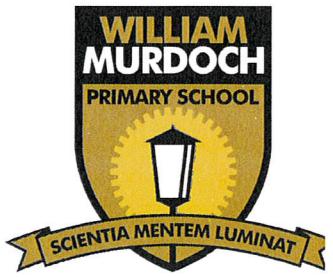
Children are asked not to bring sweets / treats / cakes in to celebrate their birthdays as this leads to peer pressure, does not support our healthy school status and is challenging for pupils with allergies etc. Thank you for your support.

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.

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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. **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

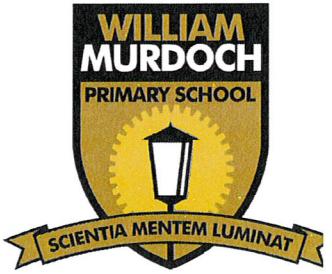
From Reception to the end of Year 2, children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. From Year 3 upwards the cost of school lunches will be £2.30 per day. Families in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). If you think you might be eligible and 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.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



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.

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.

Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer Meeting

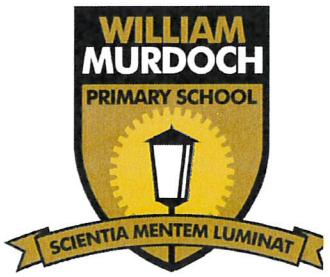
You will be aware that your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2026. The school has this week shared an information letter from the Local Authority for parents/carers on how to apply online. To support parents and pupils, answer your questions and explain the process as clearly 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**.

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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.

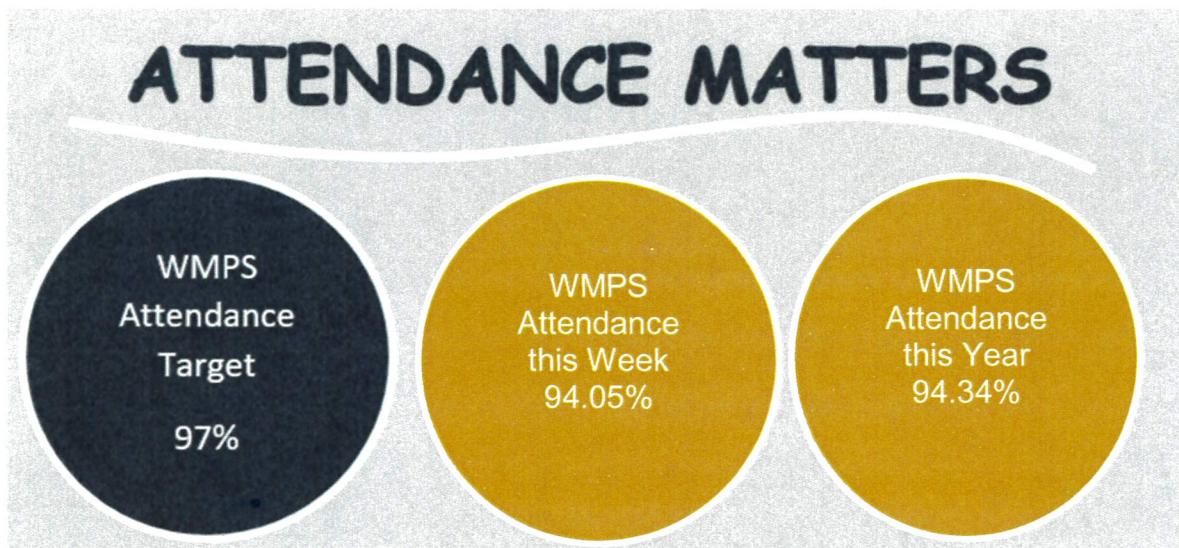
After-School Clubs

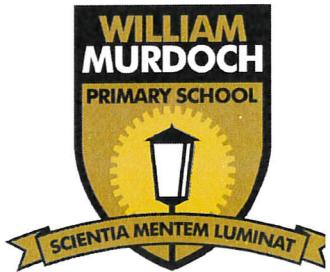
The school continues to provide an outstanding before and after school club offer. Places will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Pupils who have shown an interest in joining a club will be given a letter for their parents to complete and sign. It should be returned to their class teacher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



WMPS Attendance Stats

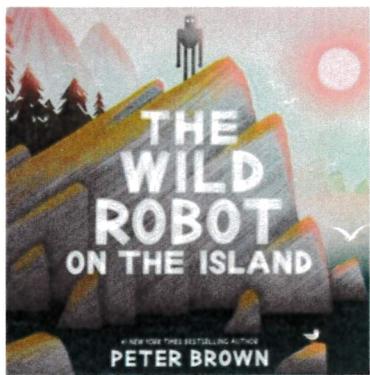
Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days, which equates to 380 sessions. Registration takes place at 8.50am in the morning and after lunch in the afternoon. Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session including registration.





Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School

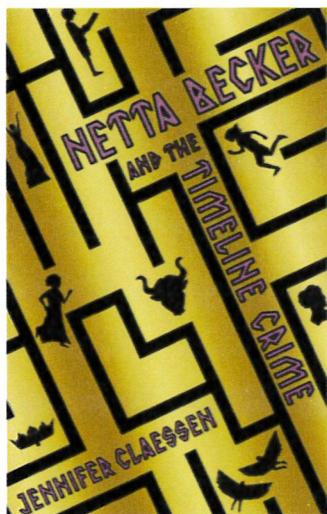


The Wild Robot on the Island – Peter Brown

Join Roz, a robot who finds herself stranded on a remote island where she was never meant to be. As she learns to live alongside the animals and adapt to her surroundings, Roz discovers the true meaning of home.

With stunning artwork by Peter Brown, this moving story is perfect for families discovering The Wild Robot for the first time, or for fans who already love the bestselling series. A wonderful addition to any home library. Don't miss the chance to bring Roz's unforgettable adventure to life!

Upper School



Netta Becker and the Timeline Crime - Jennifer Claessen

Looking for a thrilling read? This gripping time-slip adventure is packed with mystery, mythology, and sibling teamwork that will keep readers turning the pages!

Netta isn't thrilled to be spending the holidays in a crumbling villa in Crete with her history-obsessed little brother, Remy. But everything changes when she begins having vivid dreams that transport her back to Ancient Greece, where King Minos is about to unveil his labyrinth, and whispers of a terrifying monster grow louder.

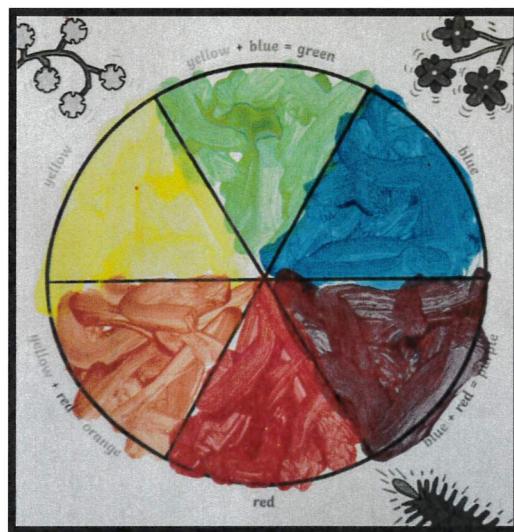
As the line between past and present begins to blur, Netta and Remy must race against time to uncover the truth behind the labyrinth before Netta is lost to history forever.

Perfect for fans of Greek myths and exciting mysteries, this adventure is sure to capture imaginations and spark curiosity. Don't miss out!

Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

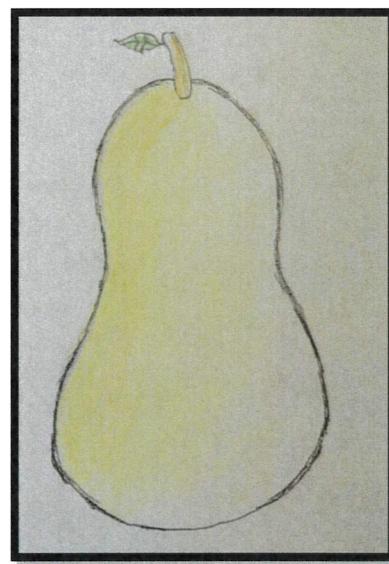
R.3 – Zeeshan

In Reception the children have been learning about colour and how it can be found all around us. In addition to this, the children learnt how different colours can be mixed together to form new ones. Reception had lots of fun producing colour wheels using different paints. They carefully applied primary and secondary colours to their work and the final pieces of art looked excellent. Zeeshan painted the colour wheel very effectively!



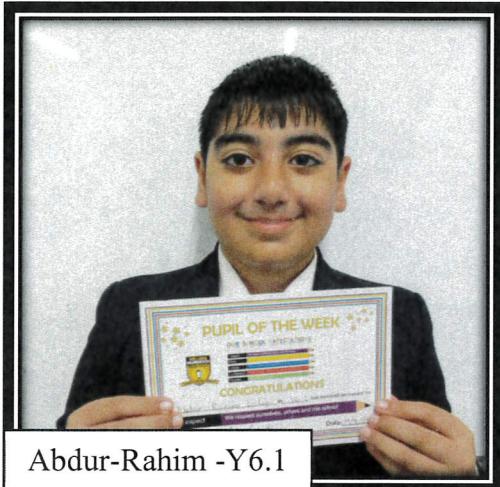
Y5.2 – Liyana

In Y5.2 this week the children learnt about a range of different artistic styles. In particular, they learnt about the styles of artists George Stubbs and Vincent van Gogh. The children were then tasked with creating images of pears using chalks, in a smooth style. Liyana was able to use chalk very well in her art work and the final result was outstanding.

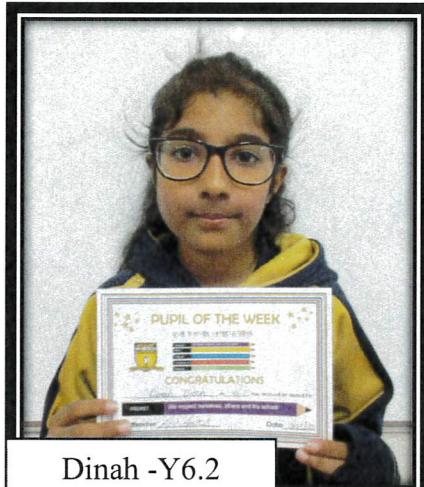


Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 6 pupils, Abdur-Rahim, Dinah and Sara and our Year 5 pupils, Yusuf, Gurisha and Harkeerat this week. Keep it up!



Abdur-Rahim -Y6.1



Dinah -Y6.2



Sara -Y6.3



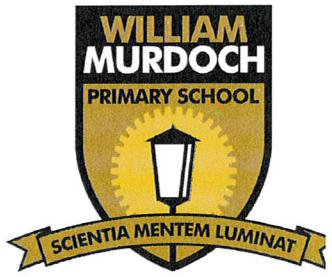
Yusuf - Y5.1



Gurisha - Y5.2

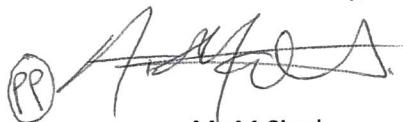


Harkeerat - Y5.3



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

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

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
26 September 2025	Year 3 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.10pm
30 September 2025	Family & Sibling School Photographs, 8.45am
30 September 2025	Upper School Photographs
1 October 2025	Lower School Photographs
3 October 2025	Y3.1 Harvest Class Assembly, 2.50pm-3.10pm