

26 September 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

*“Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen.”* – Leonardo da Vinci

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this message finds you well.

I wanted to personally share with you that I recently experienced a medical emergency. Thankfully, I am now on the mend and convalescing under the care of medical professionals and the support of my family.

While I take time to rest and recover, the leadership team at William Murdoch Primary School will continue to ensure everything runs smoothly. I have full confidence in their ability to maintain the high standards we all value.

I am deeply grateful for your understanding, and I look forward to returning once I am fully recovered. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and kind wishes.

At William Murdoch, we are passionately committed to ensuring all of our children and their families receive the support they need to thrive within nurturing, safe and honest relationships that recognise and celebrate the uniqueness of all. We know that in order for our children to achieve their full potential and thrive, the pastoral care we give is just as important as the academic support.

Our Pastoral Team is made up of Mrs S Baker (Pastoral Manager) and Mr R Harris (Senior Learning Mentor), who are available to offer support and advice to children and their families on a wide range of issues both in school and at home. They can be contacted via the Main Office; however, if they are unavailable you can leave a message. Alternatively, they are available every morning by the Albert Road gates.



We know that the first few weeks can be challenging while everyone is settling back into school routines and getting used to new teachers and rooms. With this in mind, please see the links below for advice on how to support your children, and two storybooks for you to share with them that we have found very supportive to those struggling with separation anxiety.



[Daily Dose - What to ask your kid at the end of the day \(atriumhealth.org\) \(Conversation starters\)](#)

[School Anxiety and Refusal | Parent Guide to Support | YoungMinds](#)

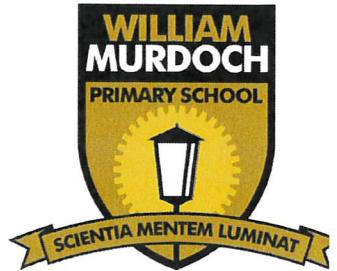
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## Pupil Data Collection Sheets

We are currently updating our systems and pupil records to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information. Today all pupils were sent home with their Data Collection Sheets. Please take your time to check through the information carefully and amend where necessary.



All adults who are responsible for your child must be included on the form, alongside their relationship to your child. As part of the school's safeguarding procedures, we have implemented a 'Password' policy. If anyone would like to change their password or they have forgotten it, please see the Main Office. All medical conditions that your child may have, including allergies, must be included on the form.

Please ensure that you provide an email address that you check on a regular basis, as this is the school's main method of communication. The completed Data Collection Sheets should be returned to the class teacher in the envelope provided by **Friday 3 October 2025**.

### National Poetry Day

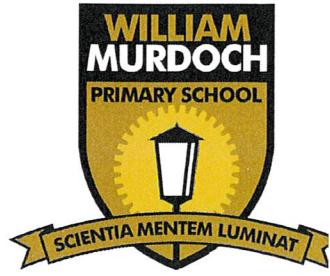
This year, National Poetry Day takes place on Thursday 2 October 2025, and the theme is play. With the goal of igniting a passion for poetry, this yearly event offers a wonderful chance to dive into and appreciate the art form. Whether it's reconnecting with beloved, well-known poems or enjoying the creative satisfaction of writing fresh pieces, there's something for everyone.



Reciting and reading poetry aloud opens the door to a world of rhythm, rhyme, and captivating musicality. Great poems often feature riddles, call-and-response, and rap-like flows that resonate with young readers, which is why so many of our pupils enjoy learning poetry at school. To honour this special occasion, children throughout the school will dedicate an English lesson entirely to poetry. They'll explore rhyming couplets, haikus, sonnets, limericks, and much more. It's bound to be an incredible day!

### Why is National Poetry Day so important?

1. Poetry provides an outlet for creativity and engagement and is associated with positive literacy behaviours.
2. Poetry is an important tool to express feelings and struggles, escape reality or make sense of the complex events going on in our world.
3. Children and young people who read poetry have higher reading engagement than those who don't.
4. Children who read poetry are more likely to say they enjoy reading (62% vs. 42%).
5. And are more likely to read daily (38% vs. 24%).
6. Children who write poetry had higher writing engagement – and are twice as likely to say they enjoy writing (59% vs. 29%).



## Nursery and Reception Open Days

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 into.**

## Year 6 Pupils with SEND

This QR code (for parents of Year 6 pupils with SEND) is great for families who are attending open days/evenings for secondary school transition. It gives suggestions of what questions to ask the SEND department.

<https://www.senschoolsguide.com/post/what-to-ask-a-senco>



### Children's Oral Health

Colgate® cares about the future of Children's Oral Health which is why our Bright Smiles, Bright Futures programme will reach approximately 3.2 million children in the UK this year, ensuring that every young person has equal access to fundamental Oral Health products'.

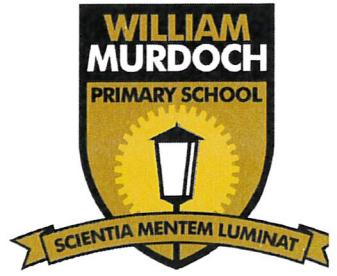
To help facilitate outstanding oral hygiene we are inviting parents/carers to access our digital pack via the following link: <https://bsbf-getinvolved.uk/parents/>

By completing the short form you'll:

- Have access to educational materials to help guide your child
- Receive a coupon for Oral Care products (redeemable one per person)
- Boost your child's confidence

### WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: 0121 554 0999 FAX: 0121 554 6332  
EMAIL: [enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk) WEB: [www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk](http://www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk)  
HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH



## Measles Information & Advice

There has been a recent increase in Measles cases across the West Midlands. Measles is highly infectious and can lead to serious health complications, especially in children under 1, pregnant women, and people with a weakened immune system. Outbreaks can happen when not enough people have been immunised.

To find out further information on the signs, symptoms and actions to take if you think that you or your child might have measles, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

## Nasal Flu Vaccine

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



## UNICEF Article of the Week

This week, pupils across the school have looked at:

**Article 12 (Respect for Children's Views)** - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during

immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.



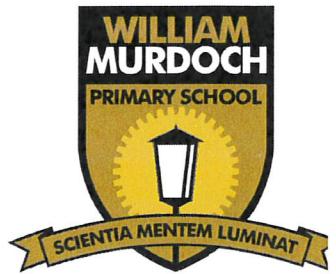
Pupils across the school focused on the question, 'Why should you be able to share your views and opinions on matters that affect you?' Staff and pupils have discussed the importance of being listened to and their views are respected and valued. It also helps them prepare for adulthood. Relationships between children and adults improve when there's communication.

## 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](mailto: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.



### 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](mailto:enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk). We are more than happy to help with completing the application process.

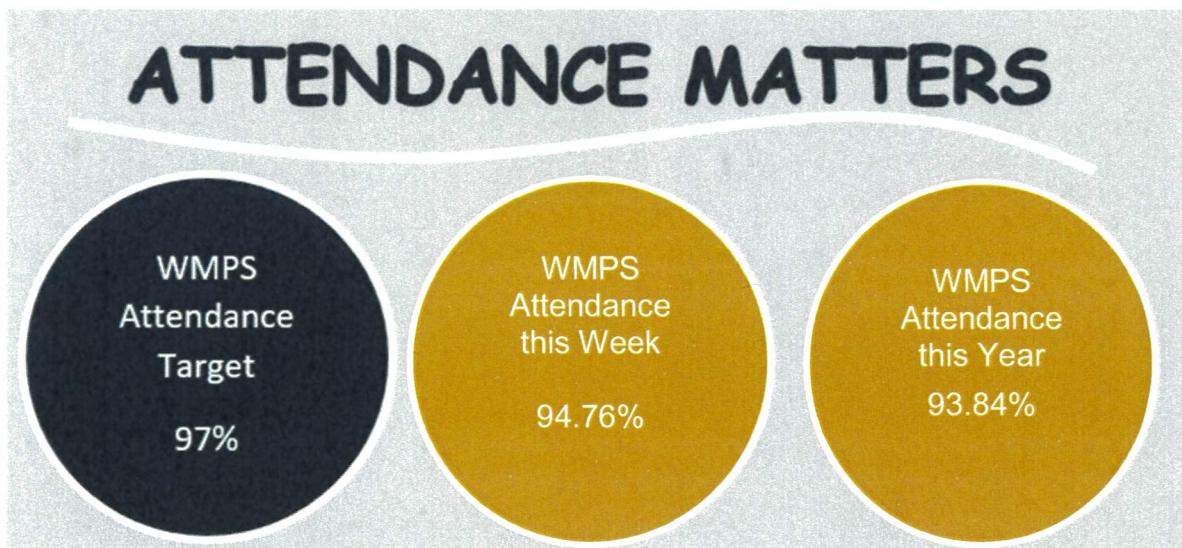
### Year 6 Parents - Secondary Transfer Meeting

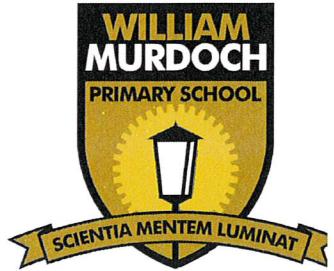
You will be aware that your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2026. The school has shared an information letter from the Local Authority for parents/carers on how to apply online.

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

### WMPS Attendance Stats

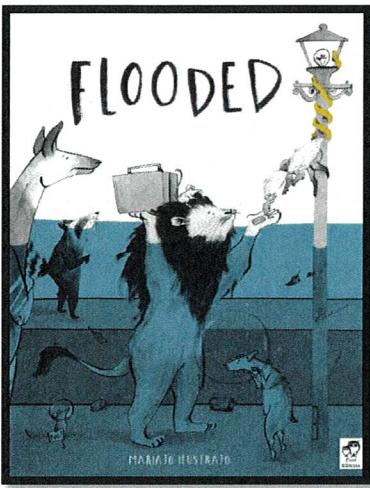
Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days, which equates to 380 sessions. Registration takes place at 8.50am in the morning and after lunch in the afternoon. Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session, including registration.





Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



**Flooded – Mariajo Ilustrajo**

Flooded is a captivating and beautifully illustrated book that tells a compelling story about confronting challenges before they escalate.

In Flooded, a seemingly ordinary day turns into something unexpected when the city wakes up to find itself slightly flooded. At first, no one seems concerned. Just a little water. However, as life continues as usual, the smaller animals begin to realise that this small issue is rapidly becoming a much bigger problem.

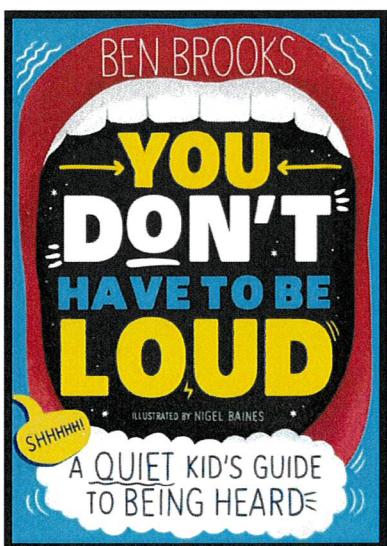
This delightful tale serves as a gentle reminder of how small challenges can grow into larger ones if we don't address them early. It also shows the power of community and how working together toward a shared goal can make even the toughest

problems easier to solve.

One of the most exciting features of this book is its pull-out page, which appears at a key moment in the story. This interactive element grips young readers, sparking curiosity and encouraging them to predict how the animals might solve their growing problem. The stunning illustrations, rich in blues and blacks, with vibrant yellow shades marking a very significant character, add to the drama and make the story even more memorable.

Flooded is a wonderful addition to any child's bookshelf. Its engaging narrative, combined with its beautiful illustrations and interactive design, makes it a perfect choice for younger readers, one that both entertains and inspires thoughtful discussion.

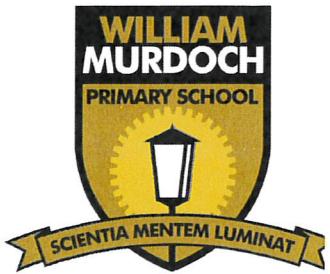
Upper School



**You Don't Have to be Loud: A Quiet Kid's Guide to Being Heard – Ben Brooks**

There is currently a huge range of self-help books for children on the market, and finding one that addresses the topic thoughtfully can feel overwhelming.

'You Don't Have to Be Loud' stands out immediately with its wonderfully simple and innovative title, capturing the essence of its message perfectly. The cover is striking, featuring a large mouth that dominates the page, while the book's rounded edges make it comforting and pleasant to hold.



Written in the first person, the book draws on the author's own experiences, offering anecdotes that are charming, funny, and utterly authentic. It strikes a careful balance between providing advice and support for children and young people who identify as shy, quiet, or introverted, and sharing Ben's personal journey through the world from a 'quiet' perspective.

Throughout the narrative, Ben includes inspiring quotes from famous individuals, some of whom readers might never have imagined as shy. These are woven seamlessly into the story, gently reminding readers that shifting their mindset can help reframe feelings of shyness. The illustrations, in a red, grey, and white palette, use red particularly effectively to highlight shy characters on the page, adding another layer of meaning and engagement.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and often wished it had been available when I was growing up. It is a thoughtful, engaging, and highly relatable read. An excellent addition to any child's bookshelf.

### Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week



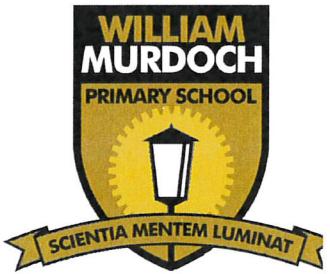
#### Zaynab – Y2.1

In Year 2 the children have been learning about tints and shades. Lots of time was spent discovering how famous artists, both present and past, vary tints and shades within their art work. One artist that was researched in class was Claude Monet and the children enjoyed seeing examples of his work. The children learnt about different colour types including primary, secondary, warm and cool. Everyone had the opportunity to create different tints and shades of colours and created art pieces using them. Zaynab applied colour beautifully in her artwork.



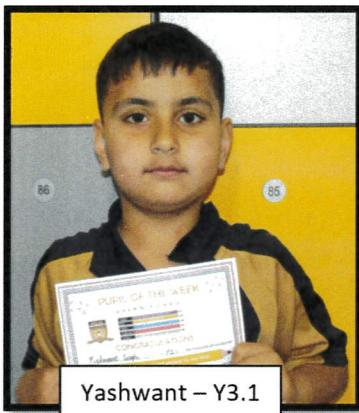
#### Maidah – Y4.3

In Year 4 the children have been creating still life drawings using pencil and other materials. The children have been learning a number of different techniques that can be used to create a sense of three-dimensional form in a piece of work. Year 4 looked at several images of art work and discussed the tone and form of each. Maidah produced an excellent drawing of an apple and used a variety of tones in her drawing.



Pupil of the Week

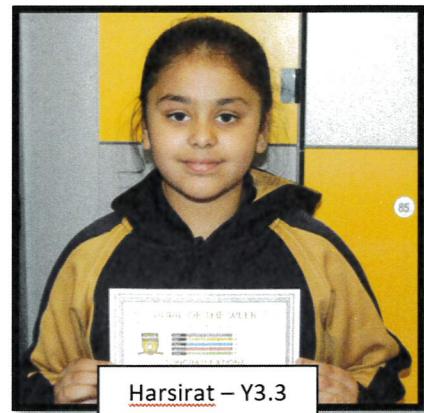
Well done to our Year 3 pupils, Yashwant, Maowa and Harsirat for their hard work and effort this week. Keep it up!



Yashwant – Y3.1



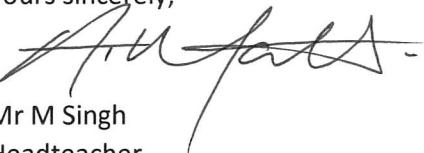
Maowa – Y3.2



Harsirat – Y3.3

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

Yours sincerely,

PP   
Mr M Singh  
Headteacher

**Dates**

30 September 2025	Family & Sibling School Photographs, 8.45am
30 September 2025	Upper School Photographs
1 October 2025	Lower School Photographs
3 October 2025	Year 4 Good Work Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
3 October 2025	Y3.1 Harvest Class Assembly, 2.50pm-3.10pm
6 October 2025	Lower School Parents' Evening
8 October 2025	Upper School Parents' Evening
10 October 2025	Y6.1 Class Assembly, 8.55am-9.15am
10 October 2025	Year 1 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.10pm