

5 September 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." – Seneca

Dear Parents/Carers,

We were delighted to welcome our pupils back to William Murdoch Primary School following the summer break. It is truly delightful to see the school community again and our pupils all look extremely smart in their new uniforms. The start of the new academic year has been filled with energy and enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see children settling into their new classes with confidence and curiosity, and the great learning behaviours they have displayed following the work on our behaviour curriculum. Staff have worked hard to prepare engaging learning environments, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead for every child. There has been a calm, focused and determined start to the academic year.

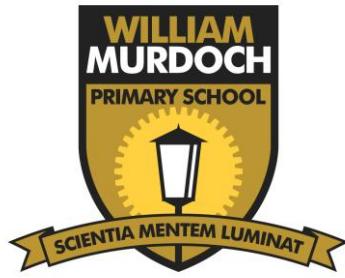
The summer holiday period is a busy time of the year for the site management team and the cleaning team. I would like to pay tribute to all the members of our support staff who worked diligently to get the site ready for the start of the academic year. It has again been a busy summer period with work completed on the new library, creating a stimulating and warm environment to read for pleasure. The outdoor Reception play area that was transformed last year has also had a couple of new additions, with the trees sculptured into a Gruffalo and an owl.



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 HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



As always, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that every pupil thrives both academically and personally. If you have any concerns or questions, please do come and speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance as they are best placed to help. If your query has not been resolved, myself and my two deputies, Mrs Pannu and Mr Matthews, are always available outside on the school playground at the beginning of the day should you wish to meet with us.

Dismissal takes longer at the beginning of the new academic year as your child's new teacher is still getting to know you and those who are on the approved list to collect your child. Many thanks in advance for your patience at home time when children are being dismissed.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs I Rafiq and Miss G Kaur in Reception, Miss U Shohid who has joined the Year 2 team, Mr J Cooke and Miss R Begum who are now part of the Year 4 team, and to Mr R Dempsey who has joined the Year 5 team. We are delighted to have them with us and look forward to the contributions they will make to our school community. I would also like to extend a warm welcome back to Mrs K Begum and Mrs J Khera, who have returned from maternity leave.

Lastly, a very heartfelt welcome to the William Murdoch Primary School family to all our new children and their parents. Our new Nursery and Reception children have joined us this week and have made such an amazing start. We very much hope that they have enjoyed their first week. It was lovely to see them starting to get to know each other and becoming more confident in their new surroundings during the short time that they have been in.

At William Murdoch Primary School, we believe that high expectations are key to creating a positive and productive learning environment. We expect all pupils to demonstrate excellent behaviour, attend school regularly and on time, and give their best effort in all aspects of school life. These standards help foster a culture of respect, responsibility, and ambition. As we begin this new chapter, let us embrace the year ahead with determination and hope. Every day is a chance to learn something new, overcome challenges, and celebrate achievements, no matter how big or small.

School Photographs

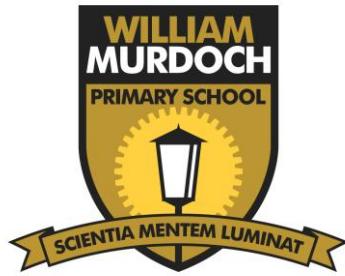
The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 30 September 2025 to photograph the children in the Upper School. Family photos will be taken at 8.35am in the Upper School hall. If you would like a family photo, please bring your child straight to the Upper School hall at 8.35am and do not send them to 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.**

Nationwide Emergency Alert Test – Sunday 7 September, 3pm

Please be aware that a nationwide emergency alert test will take place at 3pm on Sunday 7 September 2025. This will trigger a loud siren-like sound and vibration on mobile phones, even if they are on silent. While this is just a test, it is important to be mindful that it may cause distress.

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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.

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.

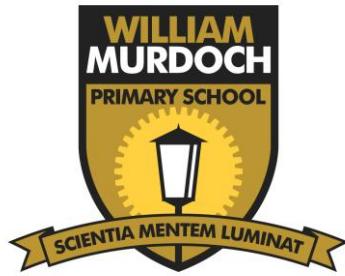
Termly Newsletters

Your child has been given a physical copy of the termly newsletter which details the topics your child will be covering in each subject this term. It is good practice for children to do some background reading on topics that they will be studying.

Your child will also bring home a credit card-sized card with all the term dates for your convenience.

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
Year 5 – Thursday 11 September 2025 at 3.35pm
Year 6 – Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 3.35pm

Book Bag Sale

The school has now received the new delivery of book bags. Lower School book bags, Upper School rucksacks, as well as drawstring PE bags will be available from the Main Office before and after school. The bags are being sold via ParentPay at cost price as follows:



Lower School book bags: £8.00
Upper School rucksacks: £10.00
PE Bags: £5.00

We understand with it being the beginning of the new academic year, not all parents will have set up their child's online payment account, therefore, on this occasion we will be accepting cash payments.

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.

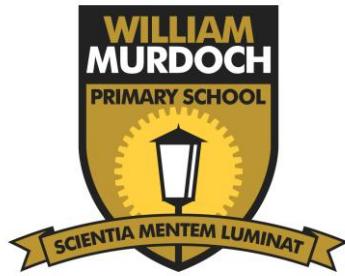


If you experience any technical issues, then please contact the Main Office for further assistance.

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**.

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Parents' Evening

Please note the Autumn Term parents' evenings are scheduled for the week commencing 6 October 2025. The Lower School parents' evening will take place on Monday 6 October 2025 with the Upper School parents' evening being held on Wednesday 8 October 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 shared with you closer to the time.

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.



Projects

Today, pupils were set an Autumn Term project, which should be handed in on **Monday 15 December 2025**. Pupils should work on their projects during their weekends, and submit a photo of their progress on Class Dojo every two weeks. Their class teacher will remind them to do this. The titles of the projects which have been set for each year group are as follows:



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Reception: Look at Me
 Year 1: People That Help Us
 Year 2: The Royal Family
 Year 3: The Tudors
 Year 4: Ancient Egypt
 Year 5: Ancient Rome
 Year 6: The Victorians

Your child has been sent home today with a project letter with further details, which can also be found on Class Dojo. Projects have been a long-standing tradition of the school and provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their research, analysing, organisation and presentation skills. It also provides a chance for parents to get involved by helping their child complete their project.

Birmingham Water Sports Festival

Join the Andrew Simpson Foundation, StreetGames and partners at the Birmingham Watersport Festival on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of September 2025. This festival is designed for families of children aged 4-16 to get an introduction to water sports in the city and is completely free.

Please note: This is a very popular annual event, whilst we want as many people to take part as possible, spaces are limited and will be allocated by each provider on a first come first served basis.

BIRMINGHAM WATERSPORTS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 13TH & SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Back for the second year running, we're bigger and better than ever!

Join us for a city-wide celebration of paddling and watersports! With activities running at 9 venues across Birmingham, there's something for everyone.

All ages are welcome, so bring your family and friends for a fun-filled day out, with watersports activities for adult and children aged 5+.

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

BARTLEY GREEN SAILING CLUB BARTLEY GREEN Bell Boating, Sailing, Rowing, Kayaking & more Run by: ASFC Birmingham	ACKERS ADVENTURE BIRMINGHAM Bell Boating, Kayaking & more Run by: Ackers Adventure	PERRY BARR LOCKS PERRY BARR Bell Boating, Kayaking Run by: Alpine & Suced	SELLY OAK SHOPPING PARK SELLY OAK Bell Boating, Kayaking Run by: South Birmingham Paddle Club	BIRMINGHAM & BLACK COUNTRY WILDLIFE WILLOW GREEN Bell Boating Run by: Mountain Community Trust
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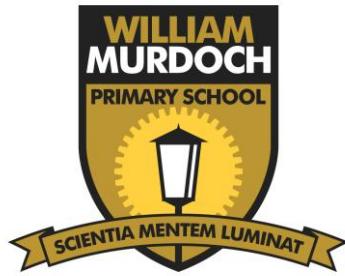
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

THE BOAT INN CASTLE VALE Bell Boating, Kayaking Run by: Community Environmental Trust	KING'S NORTON JUNCTION KNITS NERTH Bell Boating Run by: The Junction Paddle Club	ICKNIELD PORT LOOP PORT LOOF Bell Boating, Kayaking Run by: Saffell Hub	STAR CITY, WATSON ROAD STAR CITY Traditional Boat Racing, Women's Regatta Run by: Novak's Bats
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Find out more & book online www.birminghamwatersportfestival.com




KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



What to bring:

- Shoes you don't mind getting wet for all water activities.
- Lightweight/waterproof clothing. Avoid jeans!
- Buoyancy Aids, Helmets and other safety equipment will be provided.

Love to Sing? Join a Fun and Inclusive Choir!

Does your child enjoy singing and performing? If you live in North Birmingham and have a child aged between 8 and 16, they're warmly invited to join a vibrant community choir led by the internationally-acclaimed group Black Voices.

Sessions take place every Saturday during term time, from 10am to 12pm, at Grosvenor Studios. There's no need to audition, fill out forms, or read sheet music—just come along and enjoy singing songs from around the world in a fun and welcoming environment.

The choir is led by Ebony Wilson, a former member of the Birmingham-based World Music Youth Choir, and supported by Black Voices. It is a fantastic opportunity for children to build confidence, make new friends, and take part in exciting performances throughout the year.

<https://www.grosvenorroadstudios.com/about-us/world-music-youth-choir>

Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Lower School



The Journey Home – *Frann Preston-Gannon*

The Journey Home is a beautifully illustrated story that follows four animals who are forced to leave their homes and set off across the sea in search of a safe new place to live.

Perfect for younger children, this heartwarming tale introduces important environmental themes in a gentle, age-appropriate way.

Frann Preston-Gannon's engaging storytelling and stunning artwork capture young imaginations while planting the seeds of empathy and care for the planet.

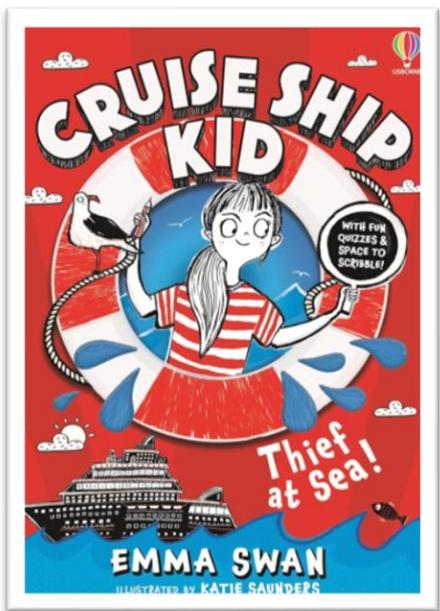
Along their journey, the animals meet a mysterious dodo, an encounter that encourages little readers to ask questions, spark conversations, and think about how we can protect the world around us.

Ideal for bedtime reading, The Journey Home is a meaningful addition to any child's bookshelf and a wonderful way for parents to explore big ideas through a story their children will love.

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Upper School



Cruise Ship Kid: Thief At Sea! - *Emma Swan*

Get ready to set sail with Silver, the Cruise Ship Kid in this laugh-out-loud new detective adventure from debut author and West End actress Emma Swan.

Meet Silver:

1. She lives on a cruise ship
2. Her name really is Silver
3. She's never had a best friend her own age
4. And... she's definitely NOT a detective

But when some mega-expensive watches go missing on board, Silver decides this is her moment. If she cracks the case, maybe – just maybe, she'll finally make some real friends. With a little help from a gang of over-80s who prefer bingo to detective work, Silver dives into her first ever investigation at sea.

Perfect for fans of Tom Gates and Pamela Butchart, this fun-filled diary-style read is packed with doodles, activities, and cruise ship chaos. Inspired by the author's real-life childhood on a cruise ship, it's 100% mystery, 100% fun, and 100% friendship.

Don't miss the start of this brilliant new series. It's a page-turner for junior detectives everywhere.

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

Your sincerely,



Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

10 September 2025	Year 6 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
11 September 2025	Year 5 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
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 5 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm
18 September 2025	Year 1 Welcome Meeting, 3.35pm-4.00pm