

17 October 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller

Dear Parents/Carers,

Primary school serves as the cornerstone for academic and personal growth. It is during these formative years that children develop essential skills, build lasting friendships, and lay the foundation for a successful future. At the heart of this journey lies a vital ingredient: regular attendance.

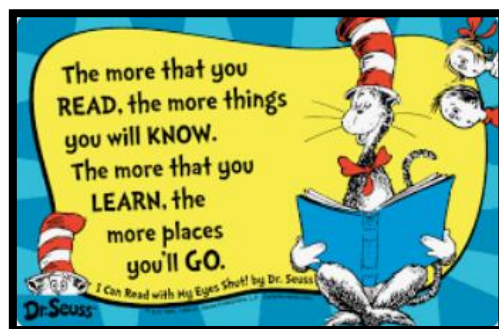
- 1. Learning Continuity:** Each school day is a unique opportunity for your child to learn and grow. Consistent attendance ensures that they don't miss out on valuable lessons, essential concepts, and the chance to build a strong educational base.
- 2. Building Routine:** Attending school regularly helps children establish a daily routine, teaching them important life skills such as time management and responsibility. These skills will serve them well as they progress through their educational journey and into adulthood.
- 3. Social Development:** Primary school is not just about academics; it's a place where children form bonds, develop social skills, and learn to work collaboratively with others. Regular attendance provides the consistent environment necessary for these important social interactions.
- 4. Confidence Boost:** Success at school can boost a child's confidence. Regular attendance allows them to participate in class, engage in activities, and showcase their talents, all of which contribute to a positive self-image.
- 5. Punctuality Matters:** Punctuality is a life skill that begins at primary school. Being on time for school sets a precedent for future commitments, ensuring your child develops the habit of showing up on time and ready to learn.
- 6. Legal Requirements:** It's important to remember that regular school attendance is not only beneficial but also a legal requirement. Ensuring your child attends school as scheduled not only supports their education but also keeps you in compliance with the law.
- 7. Educational Success:** Studies have consistently shown a direct link between good attendance and academic achievement. The more your child is present in school, the better their chances of excelling in their studies and achieving their long-term goals.

In conclusion, primary school attendance is the cornerstone upon which your child's educational journey is built. It's not just about being physically present; it's about actively engaging in the learning process, forging friendships, and setting the stage for a bright future. Let's work together to ensure that every day in primary school counts.

Our aim is to keep you informed about your child's attendance and to provide any assistance or support that may be needed. By flagging up any attendance issues early on, we can collectively address any concerns and help your child stay on track. Your partnership in your child's education is highly valued, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us.

WMPS Book Fair

Come and support your children and the school next week by visiting the WMPS Book Fair, which will take place after school from Monday 20 October to Wednesday 22 October 2025 in the Playgroup on the Lower School playground. See for yourself over 500 titles of the very best quality and range of children's books available today. The Book Fair will have all of your children's favourite books including those just published, some famous, some entertaining and amusing, some informative but all of excellent quality and at affordable prices. There are books to suit all pockets ranging from £1.00 - £10.00, with most picture story books and reading books costing between £4.00 and £6.00.



Every book you buy will help the school as the Book Fair donates books as a way to say thank you. Please support us by coming along on one of the days, which promises to be a very enjoyable experience for everyone. Specialist book advisors will be available to help you with choices and give you the best and latest information about children's books. We look forward to seeing you there.

BBC 500 Words Competition

Since 500 Words began, it has inspired over a million children across the UK to write their own short-stories. This year the BBC want to hear from even more children, no matter what their ability. The competition is a celebration of children's creativity, so stories will not be marked on spelling, grammar or punctuation. There will be two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less.



The closing date for entries is **Friday 7 November 2025 at 9pm**. More information on how to submit your entry can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk#zsfk239>

Be Empowered Workshops

Parents/carers of children and young people with additional needs, with or without a diagnosis, are invited to attend a series of workshops that have been written by and are led by trainers who are parents/carers of a child with additional needs themselves. The sessions run over a period of 6 weeks. Please see attached leaflet for further information.



Year 3 visit to Birmingham City Centre

What a fantastic trip to Birmingham City Centre! Year 3 had a blast as they entered Grand Central and were amazed by the different shops and sights. More so, they were enticed by Ozzy the Bull. We had time to watch the bull come alive and move his head, open his mouth and watch his eyes change colour. The children were mesmerised.

As we took in the sights of the shops, we entered the Bull Ring Link and something caught our eyes... something made our mouths water... It was doughnuts! Krispy Kremes to be exact! We spoke to Ian who told us about his career and about the doughnuts. He was very kind and gave Miss Mignott and Mrs Jacobs some doughnuts. This was a thoughtful act of kindness.

Then we saw St. Martins Church which has been in Birmingham City Centre for hundreds of years. This led to our unexpected visit to the wonderful, scented shop called Lush where Ray and Hana put on a spectacular demonstration with the bath bombs and watching the bath bombs dissolve and fizzle out into the water. The children got stuck in and placed their hands in the water and enjoyed the glitter and the differing colours. Did we forget to mention the smell...? It was divine!



Half-Term Holiday

Please note that school will close for pupils on Thursday 23 October 2025 at 3.20pm/3.25pm for the half-term holiday. The school will re-open again for pupils on Monday 3 November 2025 from 8.30am for morning Nursery and from 8.40am for all other pupils.

Bulb Planting Day

Parents/carers are invited to take part in a 'Bulb Planting Day' on **Saturday 18 October 2025 from 10.30am to 1.00pm**. Please see attached leaflet.



Parents of Year 6 Pupils - Open Mornings at King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys

King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School are holding Open Mornings which are aimed at boys who have already sat their 11+ and still considering their secondary school options. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Homework

Homework is a staple of school life, and of home life. After all, almost every one of us will have done homework ourselves as a child and most of us will be drafted in to help with it at some point as a parent, carer or grandparent. Although schools are not *obliged* to set homework, and some don't, at WMPS we set daily homework and expect children to do it.

The only homework that will be marked regularly in school is spellings, knowledge organiser quizzes and Maths. We also encourage daily reading (at least 20 minutes a day).



School Photographs

You will have received your child's proof of school photographs. The photographs can only be ordered online. On the proof you will see the website address: www.starvisionphotography.co.uk and a personal access code which is to be entered when ordering the photographs.

Star Vision Photography have confirmed that all parents and carers who have more than one child in school will be able to mix between access codes when ordering any pack. They have also introduced three download packs where different access codes can be mixed as well. This means that this term their photo packs are even better value than ever!

Star Vision Photography have also included a £5 discount for a minimum purchase of £35. This offer is valid until **9 November 2025**.

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.

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

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/>



School Aged Immunisations

The NHS has developed a leaflet that offers advice and explains immunisations that all children are offered during their time at school. For further information see the attached leaflet or visit,

[BCHC website](#)

UNICEF Article of the Week



Black History Month

This week's article of the week has focused on Black History Month. Black History Month takes place in October every year and is a celebration of key figures and events in Black history. Having begun in the USA, it has been celebrated in the UK since 1987, with the emphasis on celebrating particularly the history and contributions to society of people with an African or Caribbean heritage.

There is a different theme every year, for example in 2022 the theme 'Time for Change: Action Not Words' highlights the importance of being an ally and coming together around shared common goals to achieve a better world for everyone. The theme for 2023, is 'Black Resistance', recognising the ways in which Black people have resisted oppression, discrimination and prejudice throughout history.

Pupils across the school have looked at article 2 which is non-discrimination and the Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 30 which is children from minority or indigenous groups, and focuses on how every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.



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.

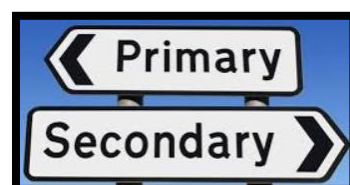
Nursery/Reception Places for September 2025

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

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.



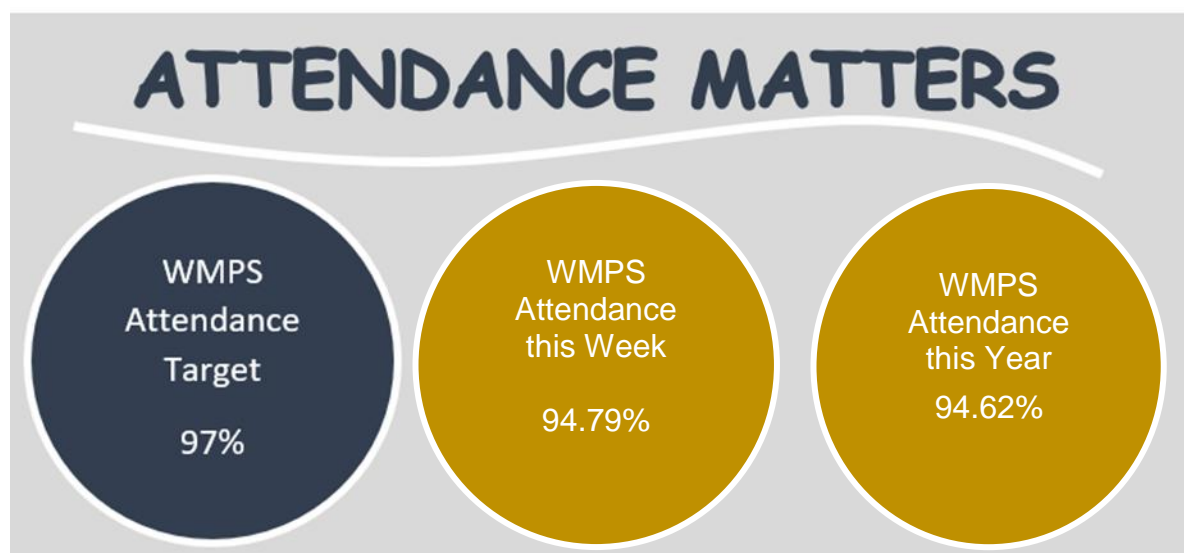
Please refer to the website

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> where you can find

further information. Your application must be submitted by **Wednesday 31 October 2025**.

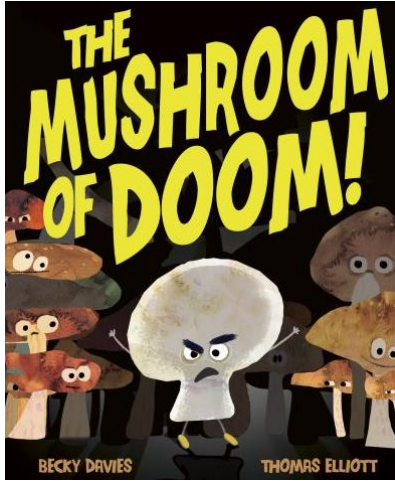
WMPS Attendance Stats

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



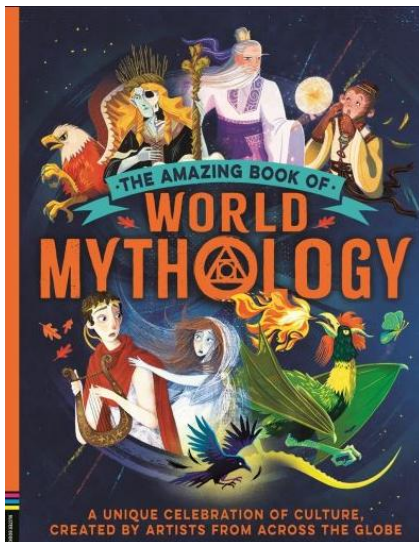
The Mushroom of Doom! – Becky Davies & Thomas Elliott (Illustrator)

This picture book is a brilliantly clever creation, brimming with humour on every page, both in its witty text and its expressive illustrations.

At its heart, it's a tale of revenge and the futility of holding grudges, told with a playful twist that adults will appreciate just as much as children. With nods to classic Bond villains and a generous dose of wordplay (he's not just the Mushroom of Doom—he's also a "fun guy"), the story is packed with clever references and laugh-out-loud moments. The illustrations perfectly match the quirky narrative, and giving mushrooms such vivid, individual personalities is no small feat.

The ending is delightfully ambiguous, sparking conversation and interpretation. The Mushroom himself is a wonderfully exaggerated villain, one who may or may not face justice, and who seems stubbornly resistant to learning from the kindness shown to him. It's rare to find a picture book that genuinely makes people laugh out loud, but this one will. The concept of a villainous mushroom is irresistibly intriguing, and the execution is every bit as entertaining as the premise promises.

Upper School



The Amazing Book of World Mythology – Stella Caldwell

Stella Caldwell's Amazing Book of World Mythology presents short, engaging retellings of myths from across the globe in a way that's easy to access and enjoy.

One of the book's most refreshing features is its thematic organisation. Rather than grouping stories by region, it arranges them by shared themes, highlighting the universal nature of storytelling and the connections between cultures.

Each of the six chapters contains four or five stories that can be read independently, making them ideal for reading aloud as a quick bedtime tale. At the end of each chapter, a double-page spread introduces additional stories, characters, or objects related to the theme, reinforcing the global parallels in myth and legend.

Visually, the book is a treat. Each myth is illustrated by a different artist, and this diversity in style adds richness and

depth to the reading experience. The variety of artistic voices is a key reason the book feels so expansive and inclusive.

With its compelling storytelling, vibrant illustrations, and wide-ranging content, this is a book every child should have the chance to explore. It's a fantastic addition to any KS2 child's home library.

Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week

Hafsa - Y1.2

During the first half term in Year 1 the children have been using the primary colours (red, yellow and blue) to create pieces of art work. The children looked at the work of many artists and discussed how they used primary colours and shapes in their work. The children had a go at creating their own art work in a similar style to the work of Mondrian. Hafsa worked well with the primary colours and applied the paint incredibly carefully to produce a vivid and exciting piece of art!



Abdullah - Y3.2

In Year 3 the children have been thinking about how artists incorporate printing into their practice. Time was spent discussing a selection of art pieces and the children analysed the effectiveness of different printing techniques in art work. Year 3 were tasked with producing their own prints and the outcomes were excellent! Abdullah produced an outstanding print of a flower and made an effort to add intricate detail to his print.



Pupil of the Week

Well done to our Year 2 pupils, Zaynab, Hidayah and Devansh for their hard work and effort this week. Keep it up!

Congratulations



Zaynab – Y2.1



Hidayah – Y2.2



Devansh – Y2.3

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

20-22 October 2025	Autumn Book Fair
23 October 2025	Year 4 Diwali Festival Assembly, 9.00am-9.45am
23 October 2025	Pupils break up for Half-Term
24 October 2025	Staff Training Day
3 November 2025	Pupils return to School