

2 October 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

“Observe how difficult it is to change yourself and you will understand how naive it is to try and change another person.” – Voltaire

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move further into the autumn season, the changing colours of the leaves and the arrival of cooler, wetter mornings are becoming increasingly noticeable. The first half of the Autumn Term is now well underway, and our Reception, Year 3 and Year 5 pupils are thoroughly enjoying their weekly Forest School sessions with Mr Blackmore. These outdoor learning experiences provide children with valuable opportunities to explore the natural environment, develop creativity and work collaboratively to solve problems. Throughout this term, we will continue to place a strong emphasis on developing children's skills both in the classroom and through outdoor learning, ensuring that every pupil benefits from a rich range of high-quality experiences that support their personal growth and development.

At William Murdoch, we want children's books to reflect the journey of their learning and progress over time, rather than simply appearing neat and tidy. We encourage every child to take pride in their work by developing high standards of presentation. This includes forming letters and numbers carefully, placing handwriting accurately on the line, using margins appropriately and presenting their learning thoughtfully. Alongside this, we explicitly teach the small but important routines that contribute to success, such as using a ruler correctly, handling books with care and organising worksheets neatly. These habits may seem simple, but through regular practice they become part of children's everyday approach to learning.

High-quality presentation does not mean that every page should look exactly the same. Our pupils engage in a rich and varied curriculum, and their books naturally contain a wide range of learning experiences, including extended writing, diagrams, maps, photographs, illustrations and annotations. The appearance of work will therefore vary according to the subject and purpose of the task. Ultimately, our aim is to nurture a mindset where children take pride in everything they do and strive to do their best. By combining strong knowledge, positive learning habits, independence and a sense of personal responsibility, we help our pupils develop the foundations they need to thrive both in school and beyond.

At William Murdoch Primary School, the impact of our curriculum is centred on ensuring that pupils know more, remember more, and are well-prepared for the next stage of their education. This is achieved through a rich and challenging curriculum, a range of assessment tools such as pupil voice, learning walks and coaching activities, which all contribute to our continuous improvement cycle. We assess pupils using low-stakes quizzes, retrieval practice and formal tests, ensuring interventions where needed to close learning gaps. Regular feedback supports understanding, while wide reading and strong mathematical proficiency underpin key curriculum areas. Special Educational Needs

WILLIAM MURDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

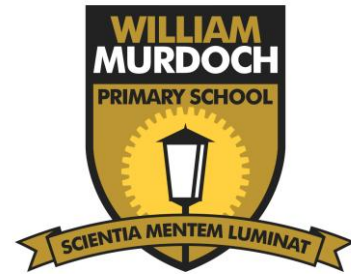
ANTROBUS ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B21 9NT TEL: **0121 554 0999** FAX: 0121 554 6332

EMAIL: enquiry@williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk WEB: www.williammurdoch.bham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: MR M. SINGH

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND

pupils and disadvantaged pupils are prioritised to achieve accelerated progress and successful outcomes.



School Council

The School Council at William Murdoch Primary School plays an important role in ensuring that pupil voices are heard and valued. Representatives from every class are democratically elected by their peers and meet regularly to discuss matters that affect school life.

Our newly elected School Council members recently attended their first meeting of the academic year. During the session, pupils shared that they are happy in school and have settled positively into their new classes. They also discussed the school's behaviour curriculum and felt that it is having a positive impact across the school community. School Council meetings will continue to take place each half term, providing opportunities for pupils to discuss school issues, share ideas for improvement and explore the UNICEF Rights Respecting Articles as part of their ongoing work.

Lower School



Upper School



National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day 2026 was a fantastic opportunity for children across the school to celebrate and enjoy poetry in a range of creative ways. Linked to this year's theme of Wonder, pupils explored how poetry can express curiosity, imagination and personal experiences, while experimenting with different styles and forms.

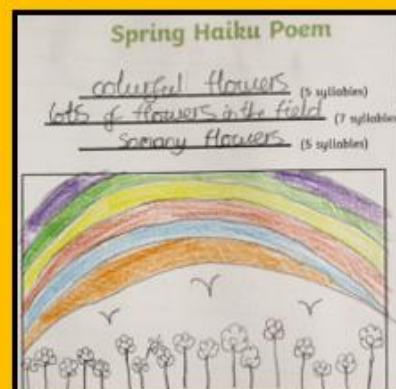
Throughout the day, children discussed and performed poems, identified poetic features such as rhyme and rhythm, and used these as inspiration for their own writing. From creating rhyming couplets and seasonal haikus to adapting the work of well-known poets and writing from unusual perspectives, pupils demonstrated great creativity and enthusiasm. Many classes worked collaboratively to develop ideas before sharing and reciting their poems, building confidence in both their writing and speaking skills.

It was wonderful to see such engagement with poetry across the school, with children embracing the opportunity to play with language, express themselves creatively and celebrate the power of words. Here are some poems from the day.

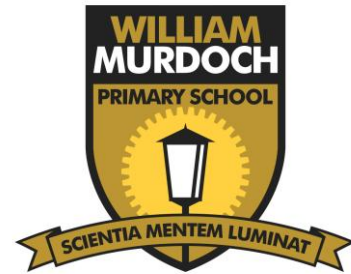
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WELCOME TO A WONDERFUL WORLD OF WONDER



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Aston Villa Vision 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 the coming weeks.



Autumn Term League Football Fixtures

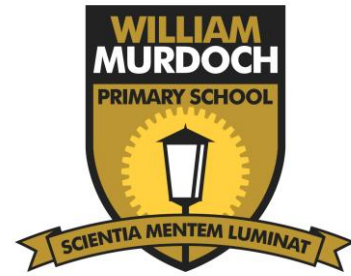
On Thursday this week, Mr Matthews and Mr Harris took the school football team to King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls for their first two fixtures of the autumn league. Tricky ties against St Michael's and James Watt were scheduled. Throughout both fixtures, the boys played with total commitment and regularly won the ball back high up the pitch, leading to several chances on goal.

This commitment, along with plenty of skill and talent, led to two comprehensive victories by scorelines of 3-0 and 4-0. Goals came from Godwin (2), Cairo (2), Balahamy (2) and Risay. Goalkeeper Madalin and defenders Luke and Dawood were delighted to keep two clean sheets. Yusuf, Momodou, Makbel and Kisembe also made valuable contributions. A great start to the new season!

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Harvest Donations Deadline Extended to Thursday 8 October 2026

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 when the food will be distributed. Many thanks in advance for supporting this initiative.



Pupil Data Collection Sheets

We are currently updating our systems and pupil records to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information. Last week, 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.

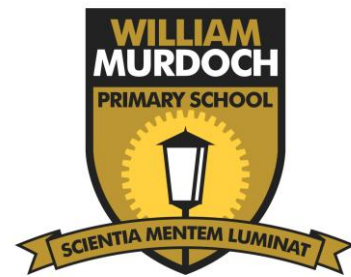
Please ensure that you provide an email address that you check on a regular basis, as this is the school's main method of communication.

Any outstanding Pupil Data Collection Sheets will need to be completed and returned when you attend your Parents' Evening appointment.

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Upper School Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings for children in Upper School will take place on **Wednesday 7 October 2026**, and this is where you can find out from your child's teacher(s) how they have settled into their new class and year group. The Lower School Parents' Evening will be held on **Wednesday 14 October 2026**. Appointments for parents' evening are for 5 minutes. If you have a particular concern that may take longer than this to discuss, please see your child's class teacher and arrange an appointment at another time.

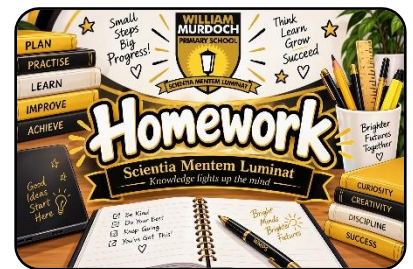
Parents' Evening – Y3.2

I regret to inform you of the postponement of Parents' Evening for Class Y3.2 that was due to take place on Wednesday 7 October 2026. This will be rescheduled for Wednesday 14 October 2026 and we will send parents an appointment letter in due course.

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).



World Mental Health Day

On Saturday 10 October 2026, it is World Mental Health Day. World Mental Health Day is a chance for us all to talk about mental health in general, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to talk about things and get help if you are struggling.

Below are links to more information about Mental Health Day and ideas of things you can do with your children to help them feel good.

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

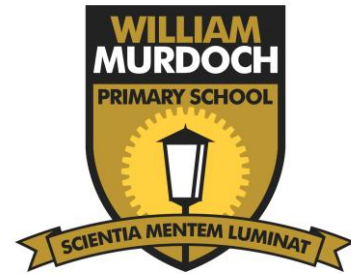
<https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1822/poster-pupils-wmhd.pdf>



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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 16 November 2026 at 9.30am

Monday 30 November 2026 at 9.30am

Thursday 7 January 2027 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® is concerned about the future of children's oral health which is why their 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

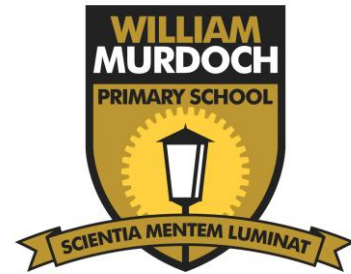
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Measles Information & Advice

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](#)

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.



Aston Villa Football in the Community Sessions

Aston Villa Foundation's Evening and Weekend Football in the Community centres are providing fun, inclusive football sessions for children aged 2-16. Sessions are available in Aston, Harborne, Streetly and Sutton Coldfield. To book a place please visit: https://tickets.avfc.co.uk/en-GB/categories/fitc-skills-and-player-development-centres?dd_referrer= (you will have to copy and paste this link into your preferred browser)



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UNICEF Article of the Week



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM
RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS
SILVER – RIGHTS AWARE

International Day of Peace

A kinder, fairer, more peaceful world
for every child

PEACE TODAY
BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Small
Actions
Big
Change

Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace. Peace, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are all closely connected because building a peaceful world needs all people everywhere to have their rights protected and respected, to have the resources they need and to live and thrive in a clean, safe environment. For this to happen, we need stable, caring governments making decisions and working together to ensure the safety of people and the planet.

Pupils across the school have looked at the following articles:

38



Article 38
War and Armed Conflicts

Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.

PROTECTION
IN WAR

39



Article 39
Recovery from Trauma and Reintegration

Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

RECOVERY AND
REINTEGRATION

♥ RESPECT ♥ KINDNESS ♥ EQUALITY ♥ PEACE ♥ A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

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 starting at 8.40am, 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.

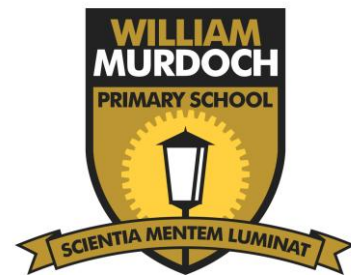
Please also arrive promptly to collect your child(ren) at the end of the day.

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.

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KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Nursery/Reception Places for September 2026

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 was born between **1/09/2022** and **31/08/2023 (Nursery)** or **1/09/2021** and **31/08/2022 (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 2027. 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 **Saturday 31 October 2026**.



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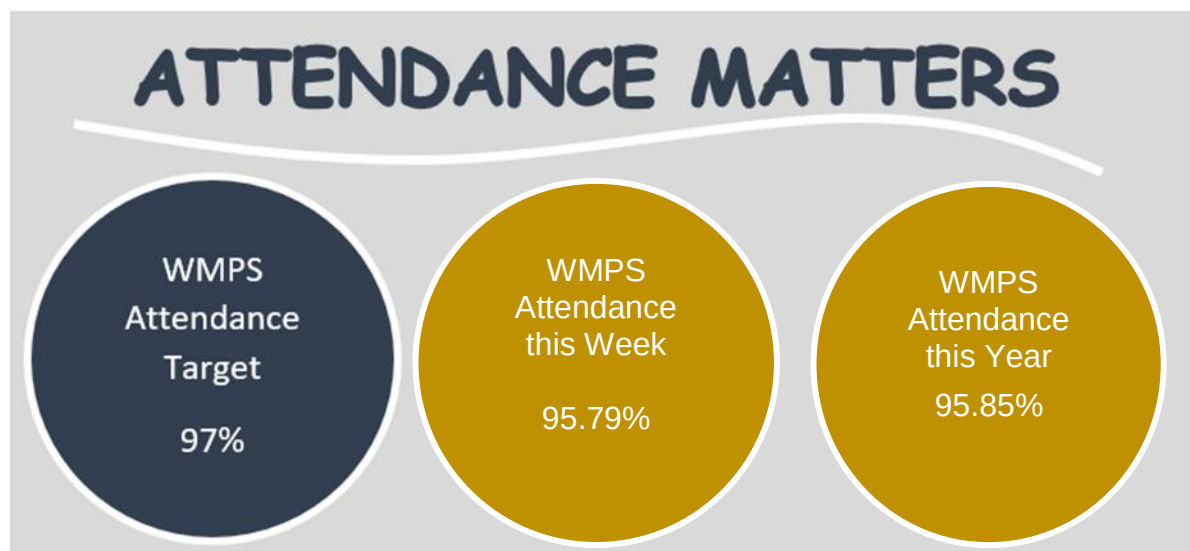
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WMPS Attendance Stats

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.



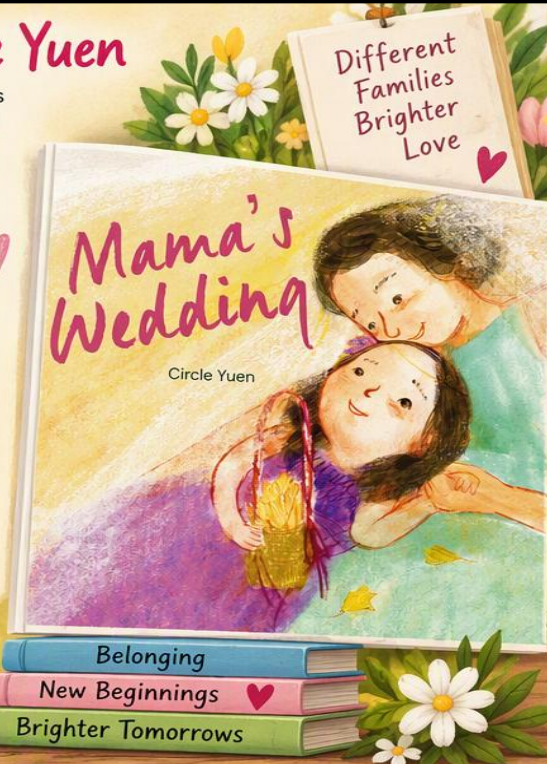
Mr Panichi's Book of the Week

Mama's Wedding - Circle Yuen

Mama's Wedding is a heartfelt and reassuring story that explores the emotions children may experience when families change and grow. As Ruby and her younger sister, Cindy, prepare to be flower girls at their mother's wedding, Ruby finds herself wrestling with questions about where she fits within her evolving family. Through the love and guidance of Granny, her father Daniel, and her new stepfather Alex, Ruby gradually learns that becoming part of a blended family does not mean losing the love she already has. Instead, it shows her that love can expand in new and meaningful ways.

This thoughtful picture book provides a gentle and honest look at the complex feelings children often experience during significant life changes. Rather than offering simple solutions, it validates children's worries and uncertainties while reassuring them that these emotions are completely natural. Its themes of belonging, resilience and family connection make it a story that many children will relate to, regardless of their own family circumstances.

For parents, *Mama's Wedding* offers a valuable opportunity to open conversations about blended families, new beginnings and the emotions that often accompany change. Warm, uplifting and deeply reassuring, it is a wonderful book to share at home and a worthwhile addition to any child's bookshelf, providing comfort and understanding that young readers can return to again and again.



Upper School

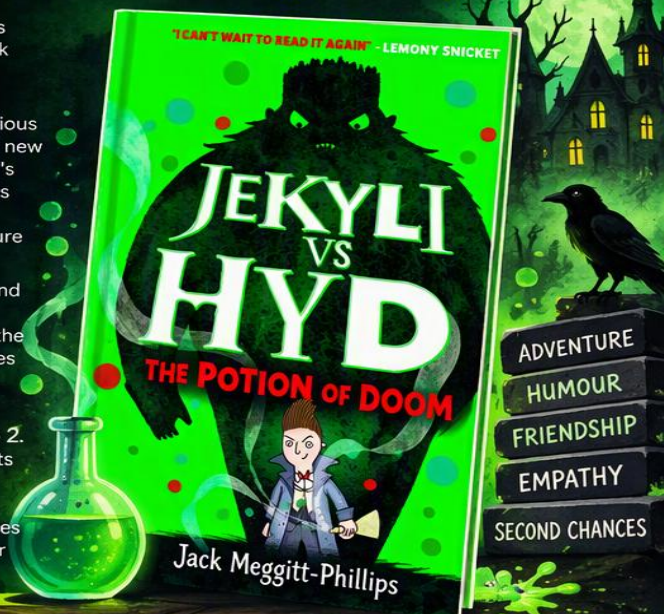
Jekyll vs Hyde: The Potion of Doom - Jack Meggitt-Phillips

Fans of dark humour and outrageous adventures will love this delightfully wicked story from Jack Meggitt-Phillips. The book explores the battle between good and evil while delivering plenty of laughs along the way.

When the selfish and spoiled Henrik Jekyll inherits the mysterious Jekyll Manor, he and his parents eagerly move into their grand new home. Before long, Henrik begins experimenting in the manor's laboratory and accidentally creates a potion that unleashes his darker side: the mischievous Eddie Hyde. As Henrik and Eddie battle for control, readers are swept into a fast-paced adventure packed with chaos, humour and unexpected twists.

While the story revels in bad behaviour, eccentric characters and wonderfully silly moments, it also encourages readers to think about friendship, empathy and the choices we make. Beneath the laughs lies a thoughtful message about understanding ourselves and learning from our mistakes.

With its perfect blend of spooky thrills, sharp humour and memorable characters, this is an excellent choice for Key Stage 2. Children will be hooked by the action and comedy, while parents will appreciate the positive themes woven throughout. A highly entertaining read that is sure to be passed between friends and revisited time and again. If you're looking for a book that combines thrilling adventure with meaningful messages, this is a story your child will treasure long after they've turned the final page.



Great Stories Help Brighter Futures

Mr Slinn's Artist of the Week



Our Amazing Artists!

All About Me!

Nursery AM - Ilma, Japneet and Shabaazveer

In recent weeks, the children in Nursery have been thinking about their identities and their personal characteristics as part of their 'All About Me' unit. The children were tasked with creating self-portraits and were allowed to use lots of materials in a very creative way! The work that was produced was then put on display and the outcomes were excellent! Ilma, Japneet and Shabaazveer created wonderful art pieces. There are certainly some very talented artists in Nursery!



Ilma



Japneet



Shabaazveer

Be yourself!

Be Creative!

Be Amazing!



Miss Begum's Mindfulness Club

Lots of Year 5 children have been taking part in Miss Begum's Mindfulness Club on Friday afternoon. In this club the children have been completing a number of creative activities in a very calm and peaceful setting. In the most recent Mindfulness Club, the children painted pumpkins and they had lots of fun doing so!

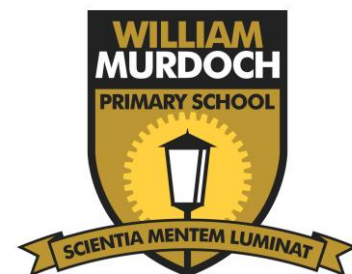


Be Calm
Be Kind
Be Creative
Be You!

Pause
Breathe
Create
Be Happy

Small Moments Big Happiness

KNOWLEDGE LIGHTS UP THE MIND



Pupil of the Week



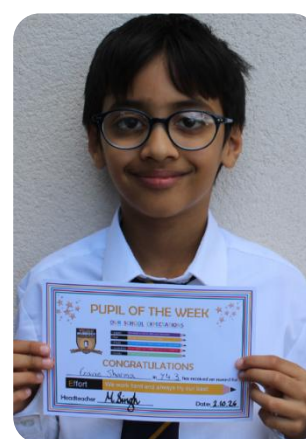
Well done to our Year 4 pupils, Bian, Aayat and Gavin for their hard work and effort this week.
Keep it up!



Y4.1 Bian



Y4.2 Aayat



Y4.3 Gavin

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Singh
Headteacher

Dates

06 October 2026	Aston Villa EDI Event, 9.30am-11.45am
07 October 2026	Upper School Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
08 October 2026	Year 6 Trip to Blists Hill Victorian Museum, 9.00am-3.25pm
09 October 2026	Year 5 Bellboating
09 October 2026	Y6.1 Class Assembly – National Poetry Day, 8.50am-9.15am
09 October 2026	Year 1 Good Work Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm
13 October 2026	Year 3 Trip to Birmingham City Centre, 9.00am-3.20pm
14 October 2026	Year 4 Visit to Jethavana Buddhist Temple
14 October 2026	George Waterfall Cup Fixture, 3.30pm-4.30pm
15 October 2026	Autumn Term League Football Fixtures, 3.30pm-4.30pm
16 October 2026	Y6.2 Bikeability
16 October 2026	Year 5 Bellboating
16 October 2026	Year 2 Good Work Assembly – Attitude, 8.50am-9.15am
16 October 2026	Y5.2 Class Assembly, 2.50pm-3.15pm

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