

# William Morris Primary School



Call us : 01295 258224

Email us : info@williammorrisschool.org



24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Quote of the week:** "Ask yourself if what you are doing today is getting you closer to where you want to be tomorrow"

## Opportunities to get involved in at William Morris

### Friends of William Morris

This is the parent teacher association, which due to Covid, hasn't met for over 18 months. The group organises events which raises money for the school. In the past it has included, discos, Christmas events, summer fairs and many other fund-raising initiatives. We are keen to get this up and running again, if you are interested in becoming a part of this group then please speak to the office.

### Parent Forum

This is a forum during which operational items to do with the running of the school are discussed. It gives parents an opportunity to discuss elements of school life. It will meet once every half term for approximately 30 minutes at 9am. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact the school office.

## Illness

As the weather draws in, more cold viruses are circulating – we know that children are especially susceptible to these. However, unless your child is very unwell please continue to send them in. It is really important that attendance is very strong this year, especially considering the lost time for learning during the last two years. Our expectation is that children have an attendance across of the year of 97% or above. We will be getting in touch with parents and carers whose attendance is dropping below this level to support with attendance.

### Absence Procedures:

#### If your child is absent you must:

- Contact the school office as soon as possible on the first day of absence by email, telephone call or a voicemail left on the school absence line (please do NOT use Class Dojo or text messages to communicate about absence).

#### If your child is absent, we will:

- Telephone you on the first day of absence if we have not heard from you;
- If we are unable to contact you, we will regard this as a safeguarding issue and may carry out a welfare visit to your home.
- Invite you in for a meeting to discuss the situation with our Home School Link Worker or, if absences persist, with a member of the Senior Leadership Team i.e. Head of School or Assistant Head.
- Review whether the latest absence means your child has reached the Persistent Absence threshold and further action is necessary

### Lateness

Research has shown that being late has a significant negative effect on children's performance in school, even a few minutes every day adds up.

**Your child's best learning is a the beginning of the day...**

Check the time your school starts...don't be late!



### EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

When your misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Reception to Year 12 that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
30 minutes a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1½ years of learning
1 hour a day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year	Over 2½ years of learning



## The learning that has been occurring this week:

### Darwin:

The children have been exploring the garden this week, in maths we went on a hunt for natural resources and the children compared their objects and ordered them in to the tallest to the smallest. We have been learning all about why it's important to clean our teeth, we have been using tooth brushes to clean dirty teeth, we have also been sorting different foods which are good/bad for our teeth. The children have been busy mark making with large chinks in the garden where we have been drawing around our shadows, we have also been writing our names in zip lock bags filled with paint. Remember to go for a walk at the weekend and fill your autumn bags and bring them back on Monday so we can share with your friends what you have found. Have a lovely weekend everyone .

**Star of the week :** Matilda for independently using her name card to write her name.  
Amelia for coming into nursery with a big smile every day.



### Cartwright:

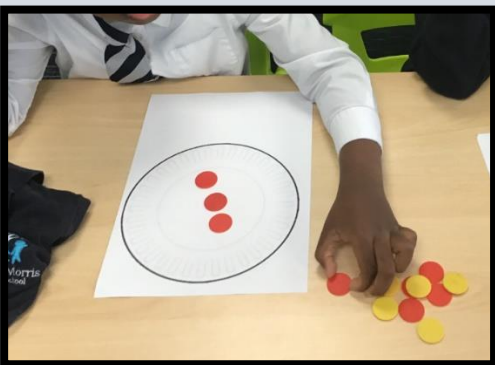
This week we started learning about bread through the story of the Little Red Hen. The children have learned about how wheat is grown and harvested and made in to bread. Perhaps you can try some different types of bread with your child at home? They have also been learning about the number 4. Can you challenge your child to find 4 items in your home, or look for the 4 symbols when you are out and about?

Remember to keep doing the letter formation sheets with your child and watch the phonics videos we send on Dojo. And have a great and restful weekend!

**Star of the Week** – Jacub, he always does fantastic listening and tries really hard during carpet time.

**Star Writer** – Bogdan- he completed 4 handwriting sheets outside yesterday and was really proud of himself

**Star Reader** - Zen, he is doing amazingly well in word time



### Kandinsky:

In Year one this week, we have completed some excellent writing. In English, the children have been rehearsing and writing sentences about the characters in A Squash and a Squeeze by Julia Donaldson. In Maths, we have been investigating equal groups up to 10. In STEAM, we have used a tally chart to record data and we used our hands to measure a range of objects in the classroom, such as a book and the tabletop. In PE, we have been enjoying gymnastics and practising our balancing skills.

**Star of the Week** – Emilee for always being kind and helpful

**Star Writer** – Chloe for excellent sentence writing

**Star Reader** - Roman for fantastic phonics work

## Seacole:

In Seacole this week we thoroughly enjoyed the Science Oxford workshop where we were able to investigate different properties of materials such as buoyancy and discussed why materials are chosen for a specific purpose linked to our STEAM challenge.

In Literacy we have been editing our narratives to use adjectives and adverbs for our Golden writing. In Maths we have been adding and subtracting multiples of ten to solve problems and drawing bar and part whole models to represent our calculations.

**Star of the week** – Toby for showing determination in his learning tasks.

**Star Reader** - Tyler for excellent blending.

**Star Writer** - Ben for his golden story writing



## Valentina:

Valentina Class had an amazing start to the week with a visit from Science Oxford. We loved learning all about forces and why it is important to be able to control the direction of push if you want your rocket to travel forwards! We then investigated the effect of the amount of water on how far the rocket will go – we found that the rockets with the most water travelled the greatest distance! We have continued our scientific experiments later in the week by investigating the effect surfaces have on how far a toy car will travel, we found rougher surfaces have greater friction so the car will not travel as far. We have been really challenging ourselves in our writing lessons to use formal vocabulary and subordinating conjunctions. As we have now completed our Golden Write, we are moving onto our next topic: poetry!

Well done to all children in Year 3 for another fantastic week!

**Star of the Week** – Erza, for consistently making good choices and trying her best.

**Star Writer** - Ilaria, for her wonderful use of formal language and subordinate clauses in her letter to the government.

**Star Reader** - Kelsey, for her excellent inferences during reading lessons.

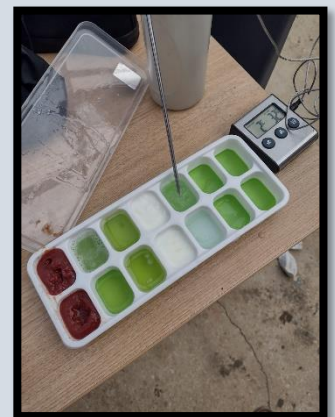
## Ramanujan:

In English the children have edited the final drafts of the internet safety advert and have written their first golden writes of the year, which they should all be very proud of. In maths the children have been looking at regrouping in the tens and hundreds column for column addition. Steam has seen them observing melting of water, butter and chocolate. They were surprised at the speed that water and butter melts and most asked to eat the chocolate! The children were also wonderfully fascinated to see the inside of a kettle and how water looks when it boils! Each morning they are also greeted in French by 'bon matin' pronounced 'baw ma-ta'... Another successful week for the year 4's!

**Star of the Week** - Luka for always being kind and helpful

**Star Writer** - Amelia for putting great thought into her Internet safety advert

**Star Reader** - Ted for his ongoing positive contributions to reading sessions



	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm
✓ Ketchup	-2	-3	-4	-5	-5
✓ Water	1	1	1	1	1
✗ Oil	0	-4	-5	-3	-4
✓ Milk	1	0	0	-1	-1
✓ Shampoo	-3	-4	-4	-5	-5

## Davinci:

It has been another busy week in Year Five. In English we have finished our first draft of our own story set near a volcano; this has been challenging at times, but we are working hard to improve the quality of our writing and ensuring that our writing flows. In reading we have considered whether it is right for museums in this country to own and display important artefacts from other cultures. It is a difficult issue, but on the whole Year Five believed that artefacts should be owned by their country of origin. In mathematics we have continued to investigate place value in a variety of ways and been applying the skills we have been learning to have us solve problems. Our STEAM topic has seen us move onto looking at earthquakes. We have thought about the structure of our planet and how the constant movement of the tectonic plates can lead to a build-up of pressure and when that energy is released earthquakes occur. By looking at world maps we have discovered that the United Kingdom is not very close to any major fault lines - phew! Our skills in Tag Rugby have continued to develop. This week we have been working hard on small, accurate passing and trying to 'hold the line'. The offside rule is proving troublesome, but we are confident that we will nail it. We have certainly seen an improvement in our skills during our mini-games. Finally, our music session with Oxfordshire County Music Service was brilliant this week. We were all able to get out our instruments and begin to play them, Mr Probert taught us how to hold them in a resting and playing position and we then went on to have a go at various rhythms using the note C. We'll be playing tunes in no time at all!

**Star of the week** – Viktoria for being such a helpful and reliable member of our class.

**Star Reader** – Zion for consistently reading at home and at school and sharing what he has learnt.

**Star Writer** - Callum for the enthusiasm and pride he has shown in his writing this week



## Shakespeare:

This week, we've been planning our stories with a moral. We've each come up with a lesson that our main character is going to learn, the key events that will reveal the lesson and the main characters that will be involved. We're looking forward to starting the writing process next week. Our STEAM day on Monday went well and we successfully made some sucker suckers with electrical circuits built in. We'll start developing our design ideas for our STEAM showcases next week. In PE, we've started playing mini tag rugby games as we explore of the (quite complicated) rules!

**Star of the Week** - Cody, for working hard in all lessons, from Reading to PE. What a great performance in tag rugby!

**Star Writer** - Tobias, for putting thought into his story planning by using a real life experience.

**Star Reader** - Leo, for his thoughtful response to why all adults should read 'The Island'.

## School Dates 2021 - 2022

	School Ends	School Starts	School Closed
October Half Term	22 <sup>nd</sup> of October	1 <sup>st</sup> of November	
Christmas Holidays	17 <sup>th</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> of January	
February Half Term	18 <sup>th</sup> of February	28 <sup>th</sup> of February	
Easter Holidays	8 <sup>th</sup> of April	25 <sup>th</sup> of April	
Bank Holiday			2 <sup>nd</sup> of May
May Half Term	27 <sup>th</sup> of May	6 <sup>th</sup> of June	
INSET Day			24 <sup>th</sup> of June
Summer Holidays	18 <sup>th</sup> of July		
INSET Day			19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> of July

## Notices

### What to do if your child is unwell

Please e-mail or phone the office to let us know the reason for their absence. Your child, must self-isolate immediately and arrange to have a test should your child display any one of the following symptoms:

- a new, continuous cough;
- a high temperature; or
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.

If we observe any of these symptoms in school, we will call you to collect all of your children and take them home. You will then need to organise a test for the child displaying symptoms. A positive result means the children needs to isolate for 10 days. A negative result means the child can return to school immediately.

### Key Dates

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** – Individual and Sibling Photographs

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Flu Immunisations for YR to Y6

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Bikeability

**June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Year 6 Residential

**June 27<sup>th</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup>** – Year 4 Residential

### Baseline Assessments

This week the Reception teachers (Mrs Smith and Miss Mitchell) have started the government reception baseline assessments (RBA) this is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. It is statutory for all schools from September 2021.

The RBA is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils. It is likely they won't even be aware it is taking place. For further information please follow the link below. Many thanks, Sarah OBinna  
- EYFS Lead

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### Helpful Links

- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/>
- <https://banbury.foodbank.org.uk/>
- <https://sunshinecentre.org/>
- <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk>
- <https://www.mind.org.uk/>
- <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools>

Have a great weekend!



Ally Johns and the school team.