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JUNIOR NEWS EXPRESS

18th September 2026

Value of the Month

Democracy, respect and our Golden Rules

Message from the Head

Dear families

It's been another busy week in school.

Y3 Coffee Mornings

It was lovely to meet lots of parents at our Y3 coffee mornings last week. Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Y3 teachers, Family Workers, Mrs Douglas, Mrs Ramzan, Mr McMulkin and myself. It's lovely to see parents we recognise from their older children, but also to meet parents who are new to our school. I have to say, the new Y3 pupils are delightful and have settled in well.

Pupil leaders

We held our Head Boy and Head Girl elections last Thursday and I am pleased to introduce Soraya as Head Girl and Eman as Head Boy. They will be supported by Aleena and Karnika as Deputy Head Girls and Jared and Majidul as Deputy Head Boys. I am confident that they will serve the pupils, staff and school with pride. Our senior prefects will be helped by our team of Y6 prefects, Aisha, Saad, Holly, Eesa, Besan and Tajwar.

I was able to present the badges to the new members of the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) last week. They have already begun to think about our Autumn fete which is coming up soon. Look out for more pupil leadership; in Y3 our Eco Warriors, and Y4 our Maths Ambassadors, as well as Behaviour, Rights Respecting and Reading ambassadors. Not forgetting our Sports Leaders and Junior Road Safety Officers. All of our pupils will have many responsibilities during the year and I know they will show their leadership skills in all activities they do.

Enrichment

Our pupils have already started to represent our school at various sporting events. So far, we've had Y5/6 multisports, and next week it's Y3/4 multisports and cross country. As ever, thank to Mr Osborne and Mr Britten for supporting our pupils at these events.

Our clubs have started up now. There's always a daily club at lunchtimes in each year group and many before and after school clubs to join. It's been great to see so many pupils coming to our breakfast club – remember it's free for everyone and your children can choose to have breakfast, or not, it's fine to just send your child for the child care only option.

Autumn Fete

We are looking forward to our Autumn Fete – more details to follow. It's a lovely afternoon filled with fun and enjoyment. Each class runs their own stall and all pupils get to visit the stalls and spend their money. All money raised is spent on our pupils.

Have a great weekend, and see you on Monday.

Mrs Adams

Attendance Target = 96%+					
Attendance for w/e 04.09.26			Attendance for w/e 11.09.26		
	Classes who met target 96% +	Most improved attendance		Classes who met target 96% +	Most improved attendance
Y3	Europe	Europe	Y3	No Class	Africa
Y4	No Class	Hokusai	Y4	Hepworth Baker Hokusai	Baker
Y5	Saturn Mars Neptune	Neptune	Y5	Venus Mars Jupiter Saturn – 100%	Saturn
Y6	Goodall Johnson	Goodall	Y6	Goodall Hawking – 100% Jemison	Hawking

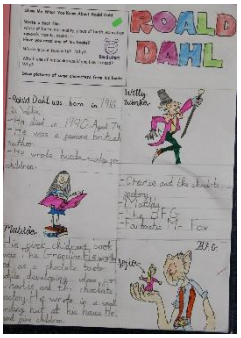
William Austin Wizards

South America	Ayleen	Yayha
Asia	Leen	Dawud
Europe	Arbaaz	Hareem
Africa	Raqib	Aleena J
Hokusai	Jannat	Harim
Baker	Jabinath	Arwa
Hepworth	Ali-Zaman	Eva
Van Gogh	Anessa	Ruhan
Mars	Jannat	Mikaeel
Neptune	Zahra	Idrees
Jupiter	Deen	Aafiya
Saturn	Aminah	Haydar
Goodall	Zahra	Aisha
Curie	Maryam	Hadid
Hawking	Yusuf	Anaya
Jemison	Manahil H	Abdul R
Johnson	Rayha	Isa

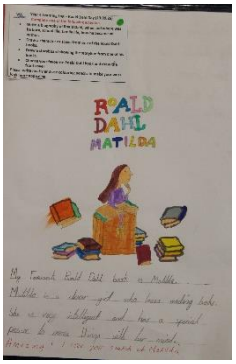
Take a look at this week's

WOW Work!

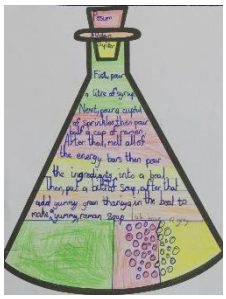
Africa – Maria



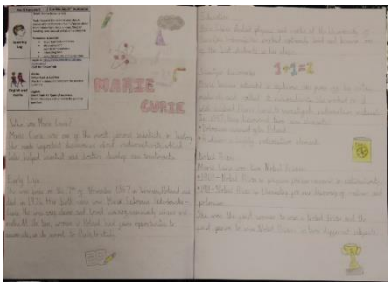
Baker – Arwa



Jupiter - Aydan



Curie – Maryam



We are pleased to inform you that our school will be taking part in the **Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)** programme. RRSA helps children learn about their rights, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and encourages them to become responsible, respectful and active members of our school community. Through this initiative, children will take part in a range of activities and learning experiences linked to children's rights. We look forward to sharing updates with you and providing information about future projects and events that will support our RRSA journey.

unicef UNITED KINGDOM
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Year 3

We are incredibly proud of our Year 3 children, who have made a fantastic start to life in the Junior School and settled quickly into new routines. In Maths, they have been using dienes and place value counters to represent numbers up to 1,000. In English, we have begun our new unit based on the finding tale *Rocky and the Wolf Cub*. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a prehistoric beast hunt on the playground, which has provided lots of inspiration for their learning. Thank you for your continued support at home. We have been so impressed with the quality of the children's homework already this term. Please continue to sign your child's reading record regularly to give them the chance to take part in our weekly 'In It to Win It' draw during singing assembly.

Mrs High and the Year 3 Team

Year 4

Year 4 have been working hard and have made a productive start to the term. In Maths, we have been exploring numbers to 10,000 using place value counters and Dienes. In Science, we have started learning about living things and classification. In English, our new text is *Gregory Cool*, and the children have enjoyed listening to Tobagonian music and learning about the island of Tobago. Thank you for your continued support. Please encourage your child to read daily and spend 10 minutes each day on TTRS.

Ms Ahmed and the Year 4 team.

Year 5

Year 5 have started their new English unit, *Myths and Legends*. We have enjoyed exploring some gruesome Greek myths and are looking forward to writing our own mythical tales! In Maths, we are continuing our work on place value. Our Times Table Rock Stars battles will be starting soon, so keep practising those times tables! In Science, we are investigating forces and how they affect the world around us. Please continue to support your child by encouraging them to read for at least 10 minutes each day. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Hussain and the Year 5 team.

Year 6

In a special assembly, Year 6 children had the opportunity to overcome their fears by plunging their hands into mystery boxes containing some of their biggest, slimiest and creepiest fears! Following on from this, we will be writing narratives about overcoming phobias. In reading lessons this week, we have been studying some of Roald Dahl's most famous texts to mark Roald Dahl Day which was on the 13th September; children loved making predictions about what would happen next in his book 'Boy'. In geography, children have been learning about how lines of latitude and longitude work and using them to find exact positions. If you would like to speak to one of the Local Authority experts about you child's high school application, please remember to send the reply slip to be given an appointment on 1st October in the Family Centre. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Gilligan and the Year 6 team.

English Mrs Compton

At William Austin Junior School, we are passionate about developing confident, fluent readers who enjoy books and reading for pleasure. One of the most effective ways parents can support their child's learning is by encouraging regular reading at home.

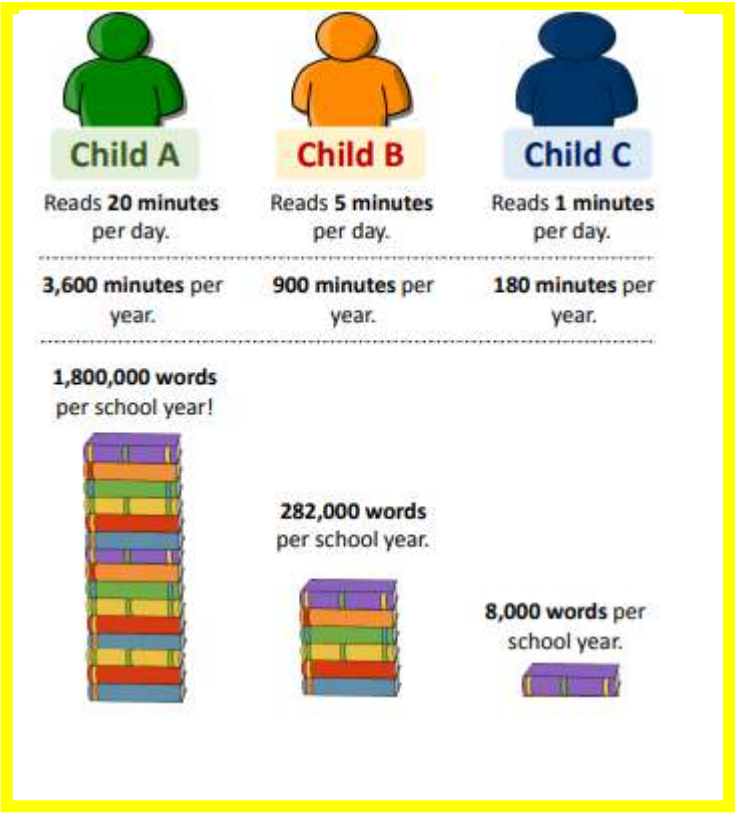
We expect all children to read regularly throughout the week. Even a short period of reading each day can make a significant difference to a child's vocabulary, comprehension and spelling.

When listening to your child read, please take a few moments to talk about the text together. Asking questions helps to develop understanding and encourages children to think more deeply about what they are reading. You might ask:

- What has happened so far?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Can you explain the meaning of a new word?
- Why do you think the character made that choice?

We also ask parents and carers to sign their child's reading record book each time they read at home.

Reading is a partnership between home and school, and together we can help every child develop a lifelong love of books. Thank you for your continued support.



Family Workers

Volunteering in a School Environment

We are pleased to continue our partnership with **Luton Adult Learning** and are excited to offer another *Volunteering in a School Environment* course.

If you are unable to attend this course, please do not worry. There will be further opportunities available in the future. Please keep an eye on your text messages and emails for updates and enrolment information.

New Courses starting in the Family Centre

- Wednesday – Make Up course 10 weeks (£40)
- Thursday – English for Beginners 10 weeks (£40)

For more information, please call 509121 or look out for text messages.

Year 6 High School Applications

Letters have now been sent to all Year 6 parents/carers inviting you to book an appointment with the **School Admissions Team** if you require support completing the online application form.

The deadline for submitting applications is **31st October**. Please note that **all applications must be completed online**.

When completing your application, please ensure that:

- All required sections are completed.
- You list **three different preferred schools**.
- You do **not** enter the same school three times.

Please be aware that late applications, or failure to submit an application by the deadline, may result in your child being allocated a school place outside of your catchment area.