

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2020



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Families,

I would like to offer a huge warm welcome to those students who have started their Meadows journey this year with us and a big welcome back to all of our students returning. It feels amazing to be able to resume some normality and have us all back together finally!

We are still navigating our way through strange times and I would like to thank you for the support you have shown so far in our efforts to keep the school community safe.

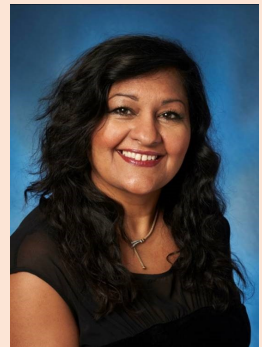
We are fortunate to be in a position where we can now enjoy our normal activities and can take advantage of going on our fantastic offsite trips once again.

We look forward to the completion of our new building at the back of the school, hopefully by April 2022, which will make way for three new classrooms and enhance the learning space for our students.

We have seen our student numbers rise significantly this year and with that has arisen challenges; particularly with regards to the traffic congestion around site. We are working closely with the Local Authority and the Temple to improve the situation and ask for your patience in the meantime in supporting the school to keep our students safe at the beginning and end of the day.

After such tumultuous times, it is important that we all work cooperatively to provide the most positive experience for our students and I thank you for showing respect and kindness to all members of the school community in doing this.

I am happy to be able to share with you some of the exciting things our classes have been doing up until now and I look forward to what the rest of the year will bring!



What's been happening?

CLASS 5:2

Class 5.2 have been going on off site visits to the park and Malthouse stables, having lots of fun. It's great to be back out in the local community.






CLASS 5:4

Class 5.4 have been practising their independent living skills by following instructions, working in a team and taking turns to use equipment to support each other and the project.

Over the next few weeks external contractors are going to re vamp the area and make it easier for the sixth form students to maintain .



Class split into two groups to plan, prepare, cook, serve, eat and clear away dinner. This week Group 1 made 'Napoletana Pasta' while Group 2 laid the table and made place mats. They all did washing up after enjoying their meal together!



CLASS 3:10

Class 3.10 have enjoyed visiting Malthouse stables as part of Maths and PHSE. They have been working on colours, numbers and turn taking with their peers through Archery. Students have been excellent when visiting here and will continue their visits throughout the school year.



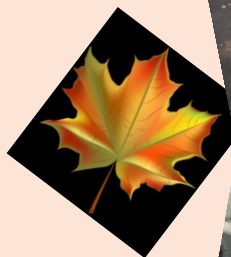
CLASS 3:3

Here are some photos of Class 3.3 who have been learning about Hindu culture. They have been exploring different elements of Hinduism and learning about the different Gods and symbols.



CLASS 3:7

This term we have been enjoying Drama, where we have been imitating another person and anticipating what may happen next. In Art, we made a collage handprint as a class, as the theme is Family and Friends. As part of Black History Month, we looked at some inventions such as the pencil sharpener, ice cream scoop and the ironing board. In P.E, we participated in the sport, basketball. In Science, we looked at forces and motions - push and pull and looked at the invention of the bicycle. During our Recovery Curriculum, we have been taking part in therapeutic activities such as cooking, visiting Meadowland (where we picked apples!) and taking turns in My Independence - Getting to Know Others, using the equipment in Key Stage 4 playground. We also have been using the Fitness Suite on a weekly basis as part of our well-being.



Student Council



We are the new Student Council and we are looking forward to helping our friends at The Meadows.

We have been very busy putting together ideas to make the school an even better place for everyone to come to.

We have also arranged some fundraisers, starting with Elf day on the 3rd December. Details to follow!

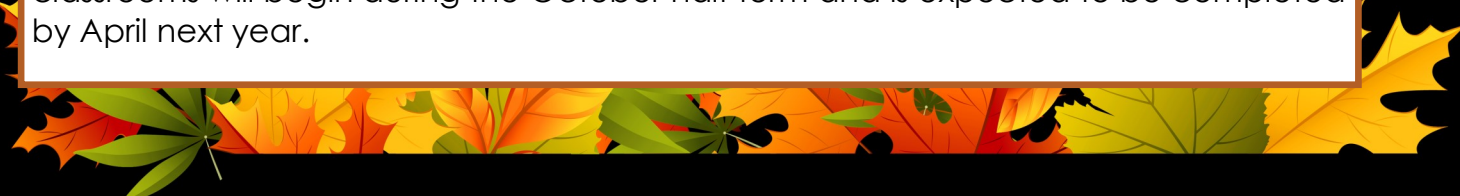
Site Updates

We have been developing and improving the outdoor provision for our young people so that they can learn and socialise during break-times. The developments also offer new enrichment and learning opportunities for your child to develop their communication, social, and independence skills whilst taking part in various physical activities.

New developments include; a dedicated scooter track so that students can play and learn about travel training. We have also added some trim trail equipment around school so that students can develop their balance, co-ordination, and team-building skills. In the KS3 playground, we have a suite of interactive and sensory equipment which include a bubble, smoke and snow machine. We have also developed a dedicated Sensory outdoor classroom which will have water and sand play as well as other fun sensory exploration activities. For our students in wheelchairs, we have purchased an improved front-loading swing, a new round-about and some sensory tunnels so they can experience new sensations and become part of their own learning Journey.

In the final phase of the developments, we have an outdoor gym which extends into the P16 playground, which will allow students to develop and work on individual programs for their physical well-being. This will help our students to develop the necessary skills to go out into the community and use equipment readily available for physical exercise.

We are also pleased to announce that work on a new building to house more classrooms will begin during the October half term and is expected to be completed by April next year.



Transport Updates

We are aware of the issues surrounding the congestion at the beginning and end of the school day. We are working closely with the Local Authority and The Balaji Temple to try and alleviate these and are making arrangements to improve the situation for all of us. We have been informed by the Local Authority that transport contracts will change in February, meaning that there will be less vehicles on site and you will be informed of any changes accordingly.

Thank you to those families transporting their own children who have shown great cooperation and patience since September. Please continue to adhere to our guidance regarding parking at the school by reverse parking into spaces and not parking on the side road. Any requests for late drop offs and early pick-ups should be made in writing to the email address:

headteacher@themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk

Parents/carers of children who use Travel Assistance transport, please do not send them with food or drink on transport. Eating aboard can be a safety hazard.

Staff Updates

Together with the rise in student numbers since September, we have been fortunate enough to welcome some fabulous new staff members to The Meadows team. We welcome our new teachers; Lauren Price and Tina Chance, our new Learning Support Practitioners; Emilia Motterham, Karen Moore, Kelly Arnold, Cadi Walkley, Michelle Turner, Karis Richards, Katie Costin, Chantel Moore, Robert Close and Millie Hampton. We also welcome two new Student Support Practitioners, Daveina Grant and Jules Harper-Orme and our Sports Coach, Harry Smith.

It is with great sadness, that we bid farewell to one of our long-serving LSPs, Jenny Priest and our Governor, Robert Byatt. We thank them both for their dedication and support in their time with us.

We would also like to wish Vicky Naylor, Carley Simpson, Sam Nicholls and Sarah Bolton a restful maternity and look forward to the safe arrival of their little ones!

Parent Information

We are pleased to announce the new Service Level Agreement in place at the school, giving us the provision of 2 Educational Psychologists on a weekly basis. We have also enhanced our Occupational Therapy provision from 1 day to 2. This will be greatly beneficial for our students.

PLEASE BE AWARE WE HAVE A "NO-NUT" POLICY.

Please can parents and carers take care when sending food in with students and refrain from sending anything which may contain nuts.

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Half term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021

Students Return: Monday 1st November

Last Day of Term: Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term

Inset (Training) Day: Tuesday 4th January 2022

Students Return: Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half Term: Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022

Students Return: Monday 28th February 2022

Last Day of Term: Friday 8th April 2022

Easter Holidays: Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April 2022

Summer Term

Students Return: Monday 25th April 2022

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022

Polling Day: Thursday 5th May 2022 (School Closed to Students)

Inset (Training) Day: Friday 6th May 2022

Students Last Day: Friday 27th May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Students Return: Monday 6th June 2022

Last Day of Term: Friday 22nd July 2022

Please visit our school website for all latest news and updates –

<https://www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk>

