



# Christmas Newsletter 2021

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of another busy and fun packed term here at The Meadows. Despite the challenges we still face with COVID, we have been able to continue our brilliant activities in class, as well as our fantastic extra-curricular timetable; including trips to the park, Malthouse Stables and the local shops.

To get in the festive spirit, some classes have been able to make special Christmas visits to West Midlands Safari Park, the SnowDome, Bowlplex and a Christmas Grotto. We have also taken part in a number of charity days in the run up to Christmas such as Children in Need, Elf Day and Christmas Jumper Day. It has been fantastic to see the children getting stuck in and enjoying all the fun and activities!

The school has seen lots of developments lately...Our outdoor areas have been improved; with the installation of an outdoor gym, the re-appointment of the Sixth Form garden area and the installation of sensory equipment around the playground areas. We are also looking forward to the completion of a new building at the back of the school, which is now well underway!

We are really fortunate to have such a strong community here at the school and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



### **Term Dates 2021-2022**

#### **Last Day of Term:**

Friday 17th  
December 2020

#### **Inset (Training)**

**Day:** Tuesday 4th  
January 2022

#### **Students Return:**

Wednesday 5th  
January 2022

#### **Half Term:**

Monday 21st to  
Friday 25th  
February 2022



# What's been happening?

## Children In Need Day

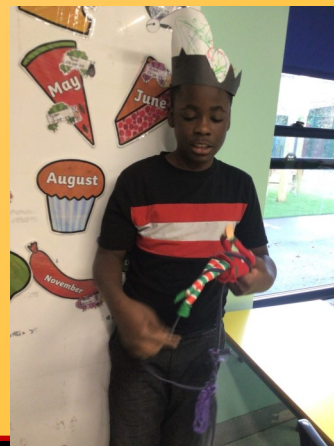
For Children in Need, we all wore our pyjamas or something yellow and we took part in lots of different activities throughout the day. We decorated biscuits in different ways, did some Pudsey yoga, guessed the bear's name, played Pudsey BINGO and enjoyed completing lots of different arts and crafts to decorate our own Pudseys. So far, we have raised £136.30 for Children in Need 2021 and are super proud of our team spirit to make this day a success.



## Elf Day

Elf day was celebrated on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. A fun day was had by all our students and staff we enjoyed elf hunts, selling cakes, making crafts and selling raffle tickets for our elf hamper.

We raised £294.41 for Alzheimer's Society !!





## Christmas Jumper Day



On Friday 10th December, we donned our Christmas jumpers for Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day. We raised over £60 as a school for the charity.

### Class 3:6

Class 3.6 have been working really hard this half term.

In Maths, we have been learning about money and making different amounts and learning to tell the time. In Science, we have been focusing on magnetism; looking at attracting and repelling. We turned ourselves into human magnets and looked at which poles would attract and which would repel.

We have been looking at A Christmas Carol and writing recounts. Students have learnt that recounts are written pieces about events in the past. Below are pictures of us ordering our images from the story.

We hope you all have an amazing Christmas and New Year!





## Class 5.6

Class 5.6 have been very busy on their second Enterprise project of the year, making Christmas cards and tags.



## GET YOUR CLOTHES IN A FLASH

Thank you for your support. We have received so many donations.  
We have so far raised £36.36.

**We are looking for baby clothes. If you have any you would like to donate, please drop at reception.**

## Class 3.7

This term Class 3:7 have been reading "A Christmas Carol" in English. We took part in role-playing parts of the story.

In Science, we have been looking at 'Electricity' and 'Magnetism'. We created some circuits to generate electricity.

In P.E, we practiced 'Dribble and Shoot', working together in groups and turn-taking. For our Enterprise Christmas Fayre, we made plastic bead decorations for Christmas trees.





## Class 5.5

Students in 5.5 have been working on our D of E 'Skill' unit to make the bags for our class contribution to the Enterprise Sale.

Great engagement getting the bags ready for the tie-dye and enjoying seeing the patterns each one has made. We are all looking forward to receiving the orders so you can see our fantastic work.



## Class 5.2

Students in 5.2 have been going for a drink and snack in the local community working towards our ASDAN accreditation.

We have developed our communication and social skills whilst in the community.





## 'My Body' Bubble

### PE

During the first half term, KS3 & 4 classes participated in gymnastics, whilst KS5 did a range of sports. Students did a range of fun activities from balancing across equipment to completing small dance sequences. All classes took on the challenge of how P.E has changed and brought a great sense of enjoyment to the sessions. By the end of the half term it was great to see how far each class had come.

The second half term was far different with KS3 participating in basketball and KS4 in cricket. All classes participated in a range of fun activities with some technology added in as well. By the end of the term, it was great to see how far some classes had come and see some games being played amongst the students and occasionally staff too.

### Forest School

Here are a selection of photos from this term's Forest school. Students have had fun outdoors taking part in a selection of activities.

### Swimming

We have had fun in swimming this half term. This is one of our teachers trying out a communication aid in the water. This helped our students to choose what activity they'd like. It worked really well.

The boys in 3.2 loved playing basketball and waiting for their next go. The boys were fantastic and really enjoyed scoring the goals.

### Rebound Therapy

Rebound Therapy is an exercise therapy which uses a full-sized trampoline to provide opportunities for movement, therapeutic exercise and recreation for people across virtually the whole spectrum of special needs. It's more than just SEN trampolining, it can provide a huge number of benefits for participants ranging from those with mild to severe physical or learning disabilities. Rebound is used to promote balance, an increase or decrease in muscle tone, relaxation and sensory integration. It also facilitates movement, improves fitness and exercise tolerance and improve communication skills. Above all else, it is fun and the students at The Meadows who access the therapy absolutely love it!



## Staff Updates

It is with a heavy heart that we must say farewell to our amazing Deputy Headteacher, Simon Adams. Simon has had a huge impact on the school and will be sorely missed by all the staff and students. During his time at The Meadows, he has been pivotal in creating change for the better and helping to provide a safe and positive environment for everyone here. We know that he will be a brilliant asset to his next school (a little closer to his hometown in the North East!) and will definitely leave some big shoes to fill here at The Meadows.

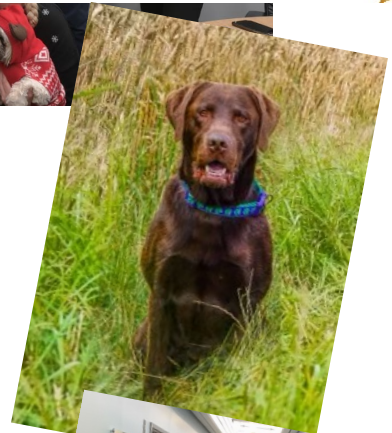
Together with Simon, we must also say goodbye to our beloved therapy dog, Simba. Simba thought long and hard about leaving but has decided to follow the guy that feeds and walks him, no matter how lovely he is treated by all his friends at The Meadows. Simba has been an amazing addition to our Meadows family and has been a source of transformational therapy for some of our students.

From all of us at The Meadows, you will both be sorely missed and we wish you all the best in your next venture.

We also say farewell to one of our LSPs, Chantel Moore and wish her all the best in her next role.

This half term, we have also welcomed some new members to The Meadows team. We welcome Aleatheia Benjamin as our Business Manager, our new cleaner, Aaron Joseph and our new SSP, Abbie Davies.

We also send our love to a number of staff on the safe arrival of their babies. A big congratulations to Chris Coombes on the birth of a little boy, Vicky Naylor on the birth of her son and Sarah Bolton on the birth of her daughter.





## Other Achievements



A huge congratulations to one of our students, Olivia from Class 3:3, who has been named 'Young Person of the Year' at the 2021 Sense Awards, which celebrate the achievements of people with complex disabilities. Olivia was recognised for overcoming significant challenges since the outbreak of the pandemic. **Well done Olivia!**

## Transport

A big thank you to all the drivers, escorts and the Travel Assistance Team for their patience during COVID. Without their support and flexibility, we would not have been able to facilitate the safe transport of our students. We wish them all a happy Christmas and look forward to working with them in the New Year.

## Useful Links for Families

Lots of people help care for a family member. Looking after someone can be rewarding and develops lots of skills. But it can also impact on their education, health and social life. Please contact any of the below organisations if you need help or support.

Sandwell Young Carers—[www.sandwellyc.com](http://www.sandwellyc.com)

Sandwell Council Assist—[www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/)

Sandwell Deaf Community Association—[www.sdca.co.uk](http://www.sdca.co.uk)

Disabled Parent Network—[www.disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.disabledparentsnetwork.org.uk)

Talk to Frank—[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

The Children's Society—[www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

Carers UK—[www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org)

ChildLine—[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

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