

EASTER NEWSLETTER 2022

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear all,

We come to the end of a fun-packed half term with lots of activities and events taking place. Students have been extremely busy and have thoroughly enjoyed partaking in Careers Week, Comic Relief and their usual array of offsite visits.



Careers Week was a huge success, with Tina Chance, our Careers lead, organising the activities. Throughout the week, students took part in various things and it culminated with a fantastic enterprise sale on the Friday, which gave the opportunity for our classes to generate money for their class teams through selling different items.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have given one-off consent for local visits. This has been really beneficial for classes in taking advantage of all the amenities in the local area. Students' learning has been enhanced as they are able to apply topics from class to real-life situations such as visiting the park, visiting the post box, going to the local shops and buying items.

You will see in this newsletter, we have included lots of useful information with regards to Safeguarding including tools for talking about online safety with your child. We look forward to hosting a coffee morning at school next term for parents/carers wanting more information about this.

As always, I do hope you have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all again in the Summer term!



Term Dates

Easter Holidays:

Monday 11th April to
Friday 22nd April 2022

Students Return:

Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday:

Monday 2nd May 2022

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:

Thursday 21st July 2022

*We will now break up
for Summer on
Thursday 21st July
rather than Friday 22nd
July in lieu of the
Queen's Platinum
Jubilee bank holiday.*



What's been happening?

PMLD Classes - 3.4, 4.3 and 5.1



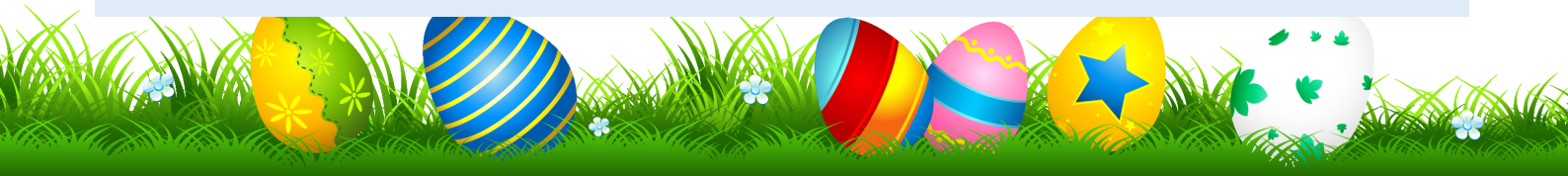
The classes have been enjoying the sun whilst we had it!



Class 4.3 celebrated Red Nose Day by making red themed pizzas!



Enterprise week gave our PMLD classes lots of new experiences. We had a visit from the Animal Man, experienced some gardening activities and helped clean some of the school windows!



COMIC RELIEF

The school took part in raising money for Comic Relief on Friday 18th March by dressing up in something red or as a superhero. Classes took part in different activities and quizzes

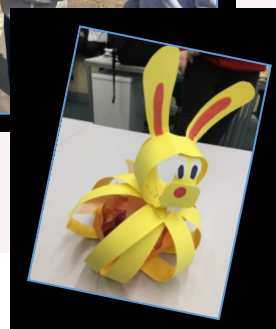
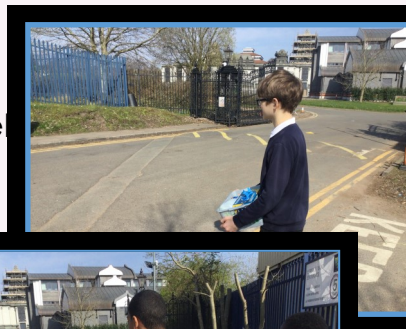
and classes 3.8 and 3.9 also hosted a cake sale to raise money for the charity. We were able to raise a grand total of £246.45! Thank you for all of your generous donations. Here are some pictures of Class 3.3 taking part in some fun Red Nose Day activities including a red nose themed sensory circuit, bucket therapy session and sponge the

Headteacher!



Class 3.7

This term, Class 3.7's topic was Occupations/Careers and Work Experience. For enterprise week, the students made Easter chocolate bunnies and they worked with the Animal Man, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The students experienced working with other adults in school and off-site, they visited places such as Sainsbury's and the local temple. They developed their skills out in the community such as Travel Training and Life Skills - social communication and exchanging goods for money.





National Careers Week 2022

What a fantastic week we had at The Meadows School for Careers Week. The young people really did experience and explore the world of work. On Monday 7th March, we welcomed the Animal Man to come and show us some animals and talk to us about his work looking after these animals. The response from the young people was AMAZING.

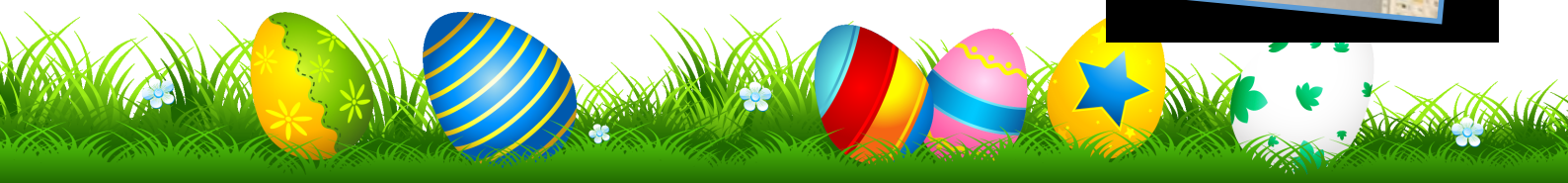
Throughout the week, we took part in a variety of different work experiences throughout the school including office work, litter picking to support our local community in keeping the environment clean and tidy, domestic duties around the school and maintenance work to keep our school safe. We also explored different jobs through the support of ICT. You can look with your child and see the jobs they have explored by visiting www.yourfutureblackcountry.com

During the week, each class took part in a mini enterprise project. Each class selected a project and worked as a team to create their item to sell on celebration day on Friday 11th March. We welcomed visitors to join us for the event. Our young people did a tour of the school and we all joined in the Dining Room to see the wonderful creations they had made. Each young person participated and it was a joyous occasion. The school has raised over £600 towards all our new adventures coming in the future!

We have raised money for local charities too. These are charities which the young people have selected themselves as part of their ASDAN life skills challenge qualification and Duke of Edinburgh award. They include:

The Donkey Sanctuary—Class 5.5 have made bracelets which they have sold and have so far raised £57. They are continuing to make these beautiful bracelets, so please get in touch if you would like one to support their work.

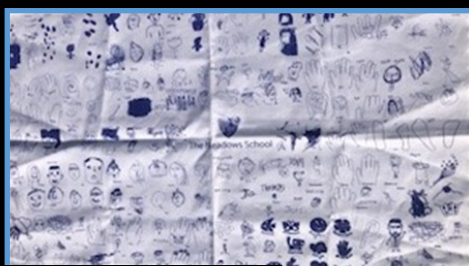
Kidderminster Lions Football Club—A grand total of £110 has been raised through the students selling raffle tickets. This money has been donated to the football club to support young people continuing to play and develop a growing sport.



Thank you for all your support. The young people worked so hard and what a wonderful event we had to celebrate the end of Careers Week.



The Meadows tea towel, created by all students in the school completing their own individual pictures. For sale for £5. If you would like to order one contact the school.



Faith Centre Air Quality Project

During Careers Week, as part of the Faith Centre Air Quality Project organised by Sandwell Local Authority, the school was invited to take part in a tree planting day at the Balaji Temple on Wednesday 9th March. We sent 12 eager volunteers who thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck in to planting and helping the environment through this project. As a big thank you for their hard work, Nicky Taylor, a Public Health Development Officer who organised the day, visited the school to kindly present them all with a certificate.

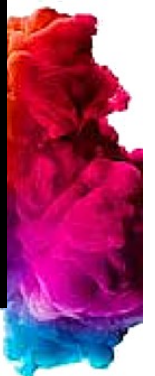
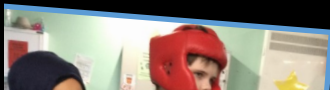
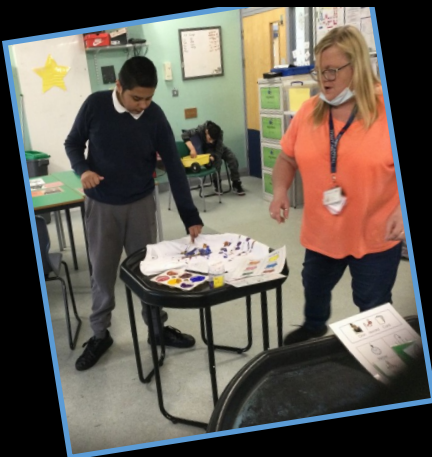
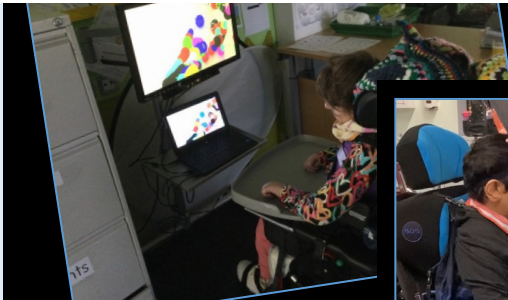
Well done everyone!



HOLI

FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

Classes have been learning about the Hindu festival, Holi, which is the festival of colour; celebrating spring, love and new life. It takes place on 18th March each year. Here is Class 3.2 enjoying some art activities and Class 3.4 using parachutes and eye gaze equipment in learning about Holi.



Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

Online Safety



Recently, we have had several incidents of students having been using the internet unsupervised and they have at times been doing things online that could put them at risk. Please be aware that children with SEND can be more vulnerable to internet grooming and exploitation of different kinds. One tip is that if you do allow your child to use social media, make sure they only use it on a shared family device and when you are around to monitor what they are viewing and who they are talking to.



Resources to help you talk about Online Safety with your child:

If you search on Youtube for the NSPCC video called 'Share Aware Lucy and the Boy', this is a great video that helps explain to parents/carers and young people about the risks of talking to strangers online - and of sharing pictures with them. It is simple, short and brightly-coloured and depending on your child's level of understanding, is a good way to talk to them about making sure they do not go online without adult supervision.

National Online Safety is a fantastic organisation that creates helpful resources for schools and parents/carers around Online Safety. They even have a free app that you can download to your phone which we would recommend doing. The app has a huge list of websites and games that young people use online and explains what they are, how they work, the risks associated with them and how to use them in a safer way.

The NSPCC website has a brilliant section called 'Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe' where it explains how to set up parental controls and filters on all your devices. However, you can also go into any O2 shop (whether or not you are an O2 customer), and they can help you to set up parental controls on your devices. While not 100% perfect (you still need to monitor your child when they're online), they can help filter out inappropriate,

As always, the Pastoral Team at The Meadows are here to help you. If you are worried about your child or need some support, just give us a call.

Online Safety Coffee Morning—Wednesday 27th April

On Wednesday 27th April at 9:30am, we are holding an Online Safety Coffee Morning for all parents and carers. During the Coffee Morning, one of our Safeguarding Officers will be conducting a short presentation on Online Safety for children with SEND, looking at the specific risks that can face our young people. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and get some practical advice around safeguarding your child online. If you would like to attend, just contact school reception to put your name down as we have limited spaces.



Operation Encompass

Since 2018, as a school we have taken part in a project run jointly between schools and Sandwell Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to 9am on the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the Police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

If you have any questions about Operation Encompass, or have any concerns about domestic abuse and would like our advice and support, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team here at school.

Food Bank Vouchers

The Pastoral Team are currently in the process of becoming voucher-distributors for the local Food Bank. This means parents/carers of students at The Meadows can approach the school if you are in need of a voucher for a food parcel from the Black Country Food Bank, which has branches

School Communication

We are encouraging all parents/carers to download the free school gateway app, on your smartphone or desktop. The parent engagement app will allow you to receive communication from the school, and soon you will be able to book dinners through the app (more info to follow). Just search School Gateway in your App store and download



Apple iPhone users, download the app here: <http://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload>

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information The Meadows already has, so please make sure the contact details we hold for you are up to date.

