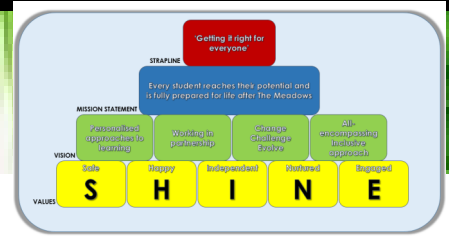


EASTER NEWSLETTER 2021



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Families,

The past 12 months have been challenging for us all. However, as vaccines rollout and a sense of normality begins, a more joyous future is set on the horizon.

It has been great to see very high levels of attendance since we fully reopened. The students have enjoyed returning to the routine of school and have settled back into their classes well. Every day in the school building is important and never more so than the days which lie ahead in the summer term. Regular attendance will give the adults supporting your children the best chance of assessing and supporting their progress along with preparing them well for the next academic year. Let's keep the collective effort going.

The plans for our expansion of three new classrooms will accommodate an additional 18 students to the Meadows School. I am extremely excited to put those plans into fruition, to give students the chance for a better education within our school.

This term, we introduced Google Classroom, a web based learning platform for students and parents to collaborate with the class teachers remotely. An overview of Google Classroom will be explained within the newsletter for your perusal.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and for all you are doing to play your part in safeguarding your child and our community, as we all work together to hopefully build a brighter future.

Stay safe and take care.



Summer Term Dates

Students Return:

Monday 19th April

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 3rd May

Polling Day:

Thursday 6th May

(School closed to Students)

Students Last Day:

Friday 28th May

Half Term:

Monday 31st May - Friday
4th June

Students Return:

Monday 7th
June 2021

**Student Last
Day:**

Wednesday
21st July



COMIC RELIEF - RED NOSE DAY

This year RED NOSE DAY was in much need for some love and laughter to be spread, especially during these turbulent times. To add a little joy and raise some money we all dressed down to donate in PYJAMAS. We raised just under **£300**, well done everyone!

There were many class activities the students and staff took part in, which included:

The dreaded Word Jar!

Each class designed their own giant red nose

The classes had a red themed day, included:

Red themed sensory exploration of fabrics, foods and smells.

Red themed cooking, for example, red velvet cup cakes, jam tarts, strawberry shortcake, red fruit jelly and red themed pizzas.

Red themed sensory stories for example, Little Red Riding Hood, The Little Red Hen and Big Red Bath to name a few.

Red themed dance massage/tacpac/yoga using songs, such as Lady in Red, or Red Red wine.

Red themed artwork and red themed games such as pin the red nose on the clown, red bean bag toss, sorting red objects and fishing for red balls. The students and staff all had an enjoyable week, here are some photos of their beautiful creative work.



Excellent
Work!



Keeping in line with our COVID safety measures, we remained in our zones. However, that did not mean we could not all celebrate as zones! In the Red Zone, they spent the afternoon having a PYJAMA Party and the whole group had a dance massage in the sports hall to lift some spirits!



ATTENTION AUTISM

Students are now been given the opportunity to some BUCKET THERAPY, to develop natural and spontaneous communication based on some fun filled activities.

WHAT IS IT? AND WHO IS IT FOR?

Attention Autism is an intervention model designed by Gina Davies, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist. It aims to develop natural and spontaneous communication through the use of visually based and highly motivating activities.

Gina's primary objective is that the sessions are fun and *"offer an irresistible invitation to learn"*

AIMS OF ATTENTION AUTISM

1. To engage attention
2. To improve joint attention
3. To develop shared enjoyment in group activities
4. To increase attention in adult-led activities
5. To encourage spontaneous interaction in a natural group setting
6. To increase non-verbal and verbal communication through commenting
7. To build a wealth and depth of vocabulary
8. To have fun!



There are four stages:

STAGE 1: THE BUCKET (ATTENTION GRABBER) to Focus Attention

Stage 2: The Attention Builder

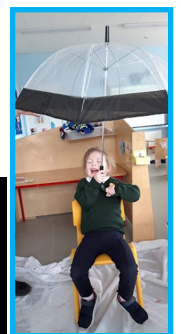
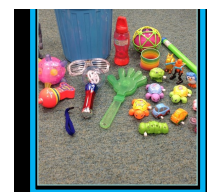
Visually stimulating activities are shown to the group by the lead adult, aiming to sustain attention for a longer period.

Stage 3: Turn taking & Re-engaging Attention

The lead adult demonstrates a simple activity/game and then some students get a turn.

Stage 4: Shifting and Re-engaging attention

Towards the end of stage 4, the students feel a sense of achievement, by creating their own piece of work independently.



NEW MEMBERS AT THE MEADOWS

We have added to our intake! We would like to introduce to you our two new guinea pigs. The students have warmed to them extremely well and are very fond of the animals. They love cuddling them.



Welcome to the
Meadows,
Angus & Hamish.



Happiness Box

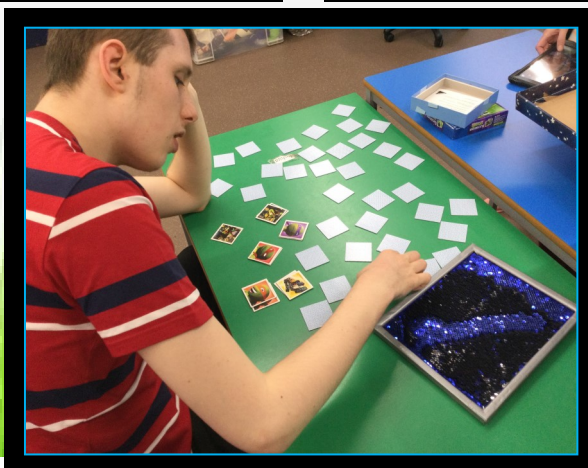
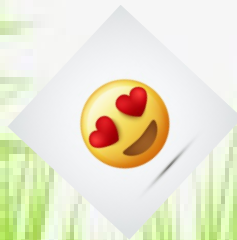
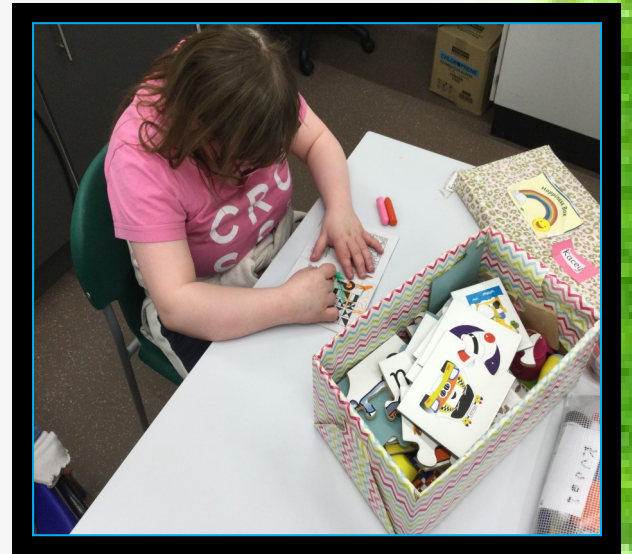
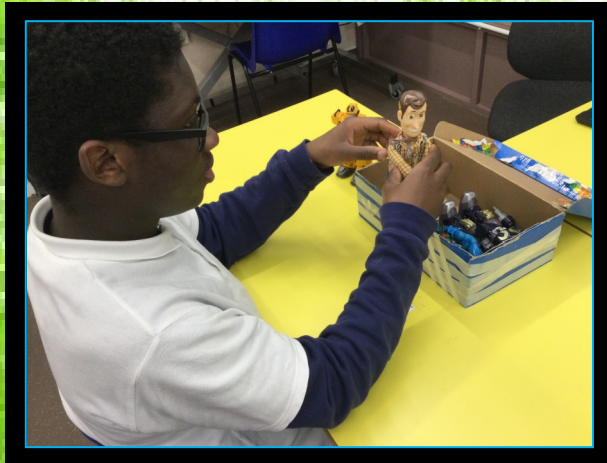
The Happiness Box has been a great resource for our students coming back to school. It is a visible and tangible way of creating what inner strength may actually look like before a students eye. It enables them to practice and rehearse strategies that help them cope with their emotions, resolve inner conflict, and bring them to a calm emotional state.

Our students have enjoyed physically touching and seeing inside the box, helping them bring inner calm, self soothe state of mind. Below are photos of the students enjoying the Happiness Box.





SPREAD THE HAPPINES

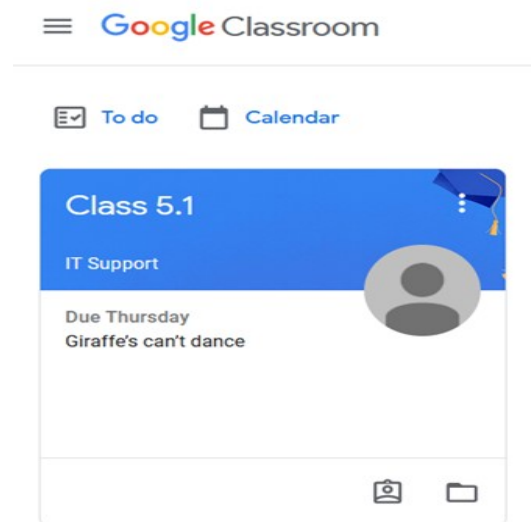




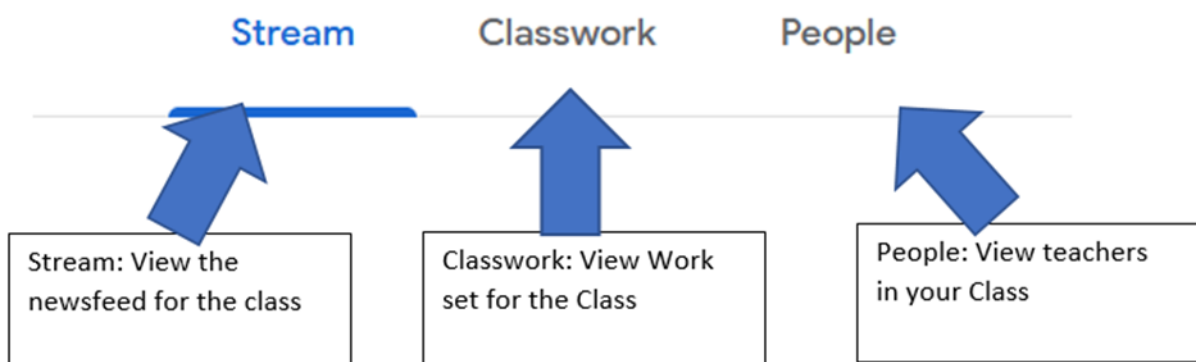
Google Classroom

Thank you to all our families that have worked so hard to provide home learning during the periods of school closure. Our teachers have also worked hard, planning and resourcing high quality learning that you have delivered. However, we are always looking for opportunities to improve and Google Classroom will enable us (school and home) to have a better, more effective partnership - working towards the same aim: to improve the life chances of our students. Google Classroom offers a digital safe space for students to view class tasks, access learning materials, view posted assignments, and turn in completed work.

1. On a computer go to <https://classroom.google.com> or search for Google Classroom. On a phone or tablet download the Google Classroom App from the App Store.
2. On the website or app, sign into your account. This will be provided by the class teacher:
3. After logging in you'll see a list of all classes you are in. You'll also see a list of work due in and when. For example, Class 5.1 'Giraffe's can't dance' is due in on Thursday.



4. Your class view has 3 main pages:



Try clicking on each to familiarize yourself with the pages. As the class teacher adds content you'll see the Stream and Classwork pages update.




Google Classroom

5. The Classwork page will show work assigned to you. Below you can see the 'Giraffe's can't dance' work set, details on what this work is, the image added by the teacher and a due date. Clicking 'view assignment' will open the assignment for work submission and comments.


 [View your work](#)

 [Google Calendar](#)  [Class Drive folder](#)

 **Giraffe's can't dance** Due 1 Apr


Posted 25 Mar Assigned

In class we have been doing the story 'Giraffe's can't dance'. It would be lovely if at home you could create your own shiny moon. The moon helped Gerald on his journey. I have attached a photo with instructions to support. Also on the photo is a suggestive active and calm activity which you might wish to do also. We look forward to seeing all the lovely moons you create.


 **EAE4B402-E566-4FB0-B...**
Image


[View assignment](#)

6. On the assignment page you'll see a screen similar to below. Class comments can be seen by all teacher and students in the class. You can click 'Add comment to Teacher' on the right to discuss the work directly with the teacher.

 **Giraffe's can't dance** Clare Taylor • 25 Mar 100 points Due 1 Apr

In class we have been doing the story 'Giraffe's can't dance'. It would be lovely if at home you could create your own shiny moon. The moon helped Gerald on his journey. I have attached a photo with instructions to support. Also on the photo is a suggestive active and calm activity which you might wish to do also. We look forward to seeing all the lovely moons you create.


 **EAE4B402-E566-4FB0-BFD...**
Image

 **Class comments**
[Add a class comment](#)

Your work Assigned

[+ Add or create](#)

[Mark as Done](#)

 **Private comments**
[Add comment to Clare Taylor](#)

Talk to your teacher ×

Private comments are only visible to you and your teacher

[Got it](#)

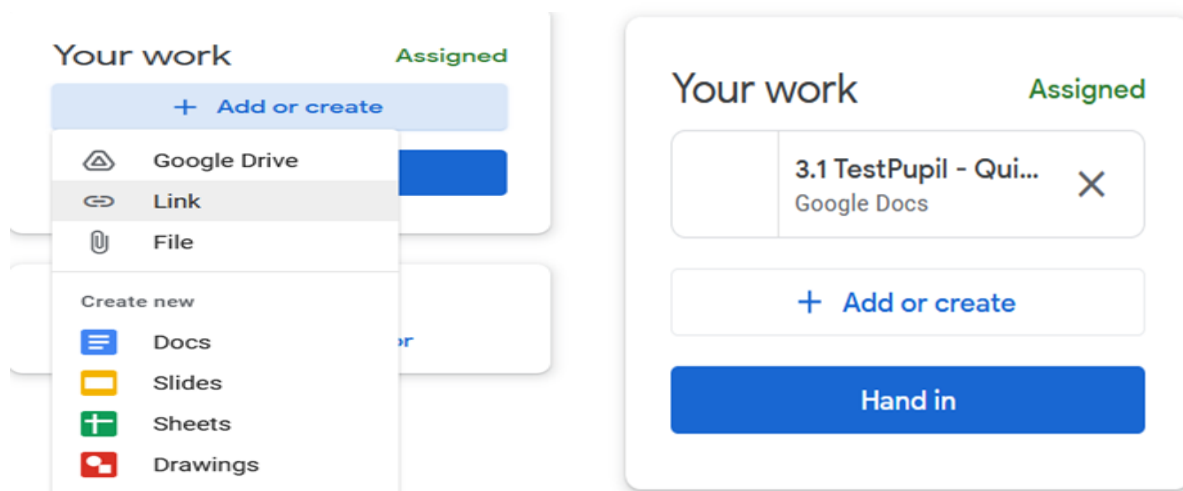


Google Classroom

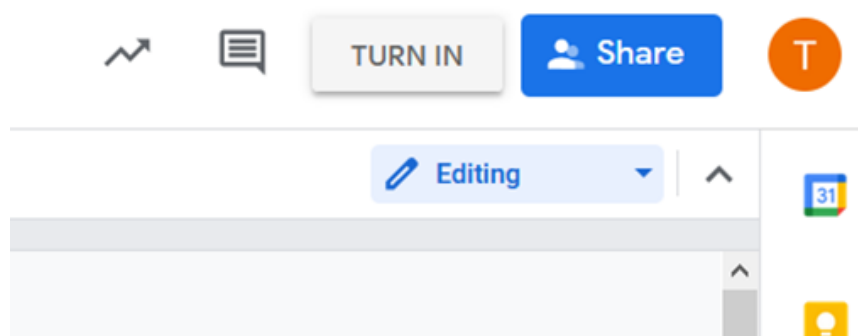
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7. Click '+ Add or Create' to add work for submission to the teacher. For this particular assignment photo or video evidence of their creations would be perfect, so on a computer we'd select file, then attach the photo/video. You can attach multiple items to each assignment. The apps are very similar, they'll ask you to select the images/videos from your gallery.

With other assignments, where you have a handout to complete digitally you'll see an existing Google Doc listed under 'Your Work'. Click on the Document to fill it in, this will save as you type.



8. When you've attached all your work or completed the handout click the blue 'Hand In'. This work will be submitted to the teacher. If using Google Docs you can click the 'Turn In' button at the top right to instantly hand that document in to the teacher.



If you need help navigating or accessing the work on google classroom, please contact the Class Teacher, we are here to help.

The Transition Event Online 2021

Running throughout May

Webinar every week

thetransitionevent.co.uk
#TransitionEvent

FREE EVENT

the
transition
event hub
May 2021



Supported by

The Transition Event Online

Supported by



Running throughout May 2021 with live weekly
webinars



A virtual event for young people with additional needs and those who support them.

After a successful online event in 2020, we are thrilled to announce that we'll be back this year with an even bigger event. Running online throughout May, the event will bring together experts to talk about the different transition topics, aim to help answer your questions, and arm you with the most up-to-date information so you can best support your young person and safeguard their future.

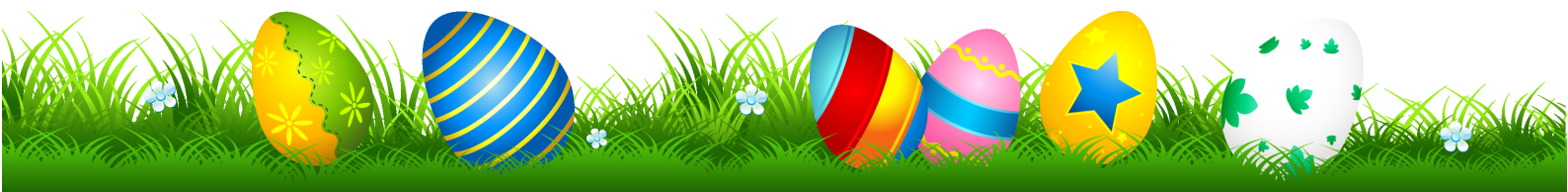
Register to receive more information about the event as it is announced. This online event is for parents and carers of children with additional needs, young people themselves and schools. The event hub goes live **3rd May 2021**.

So come and visit us for a variety of transition presentations, resources and workshops – all for FREE!

Know someone else who may like to attend? Please share! The Transition Event, is totally free and perfect for parents, carers and young people alike.

If your child is in Year 14, and still does not have a destination/place at their chosen pathway, please contact Ash Furness via email, and he will be happy to assist.

Ashley.Furness@themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk



Barnardo's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Covid Helpline

Boloh

The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic family Covid-19 Helpline

Have you or your family been affected by the pandemic and need someone to talk to?

You can contact one of our specialist support advisors for free between Monday and Friday 10am – 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am – 3pm on

0800 1512 605

Or talk to us on our webchat by visiting helpline.barnardos.org.uk and click on the icon 

Believe in
children
 Barnardo's

**Have you been affected
by Coronavirus?**

We are here to help.


Call the

Boloh

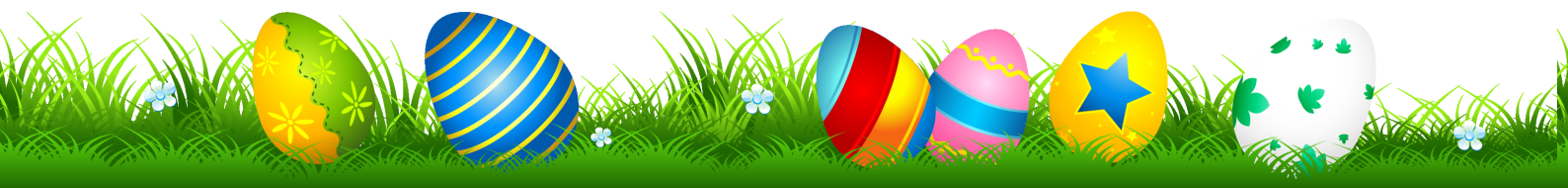
**helpline for free
support for you
and your family**

Lines are open between Monday and Friday 10am – 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am – 3pm on

0800 1512 605

Or talk to us on our webchat by visiting helpline.barnardos.org.uk and click on the icon 

Believe in
children



Boloh - The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic family Covid-19 Helpline

Boloh is the Barnardo's COVID-19 helpline and webchat for those 11+, you can call them on **0800 1512605** or chat online

"Are you a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic child, young person, parent or carer, affected by Covid-19? You can speak to us about your worries, problems and stresses during this time, and we can provide emotional support, practical advice and signposting to other organisations who can provide further help. If you're a professional, you can also contact us to discuss how to support a child or young person they are working with.

Speak to us:

We are available to talk Mon-Fri, from 10am-8pm, and Sat-Sun 10am-3pm.

In many languages, Boloh means **speak**.

We are here to help you if you have experienced bereavement, ill health, feeling down or anxious about the lockdown, feeling isolated, worried about friends or family, concerned about your finances, unemployment, experienced bullying or racism, issues with homelessness or eviction, worried about returning to school/university or any other issue.

Our team of specialist psychotherapists can provide you with ongoing support during this difficult time.

On the phone, our helpline advisors can talk to you in English, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Mirpuri and Polish.

Our psychotherapists can provide therapeutic support in English, Gujarati, Urdu, Bengali, French, Spanish, Arabic, Punjabi, Mirpuri, Pothwari, Hinko, Hindi and Sundhi.

Interpreters are available for other languages."

If you would like more information about support from BOLOH, please contact the Pastoral Team for leaflets and details.



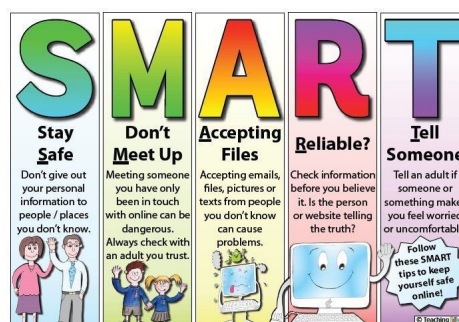
Safeguarding

Online Safety

In recent months, many children have spent far more time online than they would usually and we have noticed an increase in some pupils accessing inappropriate video games and potentially unsafe content at home.

Please make sure your child's online activity is monitored closely, especially the appropriateness of the material they are accessing, the games they are playing and the people who they are engaging with online. Further information can be found on our website; Parents' guide to online safety.

The school takes its safeguarding duty very seriously and if you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, then you must contact the school or Sandwell Children's Trust on 0121 569 2200 in confidence. This number must also be used if you suspect any unlawful or inappropriate contact that has taken place with either your child (or other children) online. Your DSL in school is Simon Adams, Deputy Headteacher.



 **Sandwell**
Children's Trust
Contact us

Sandwell Children's Trust HQ
Wellman Building
Dudley Road
Oldbury
B69 3DL

Tel: +44 (0) 121 569 2200

Thank You **TESCO** extra

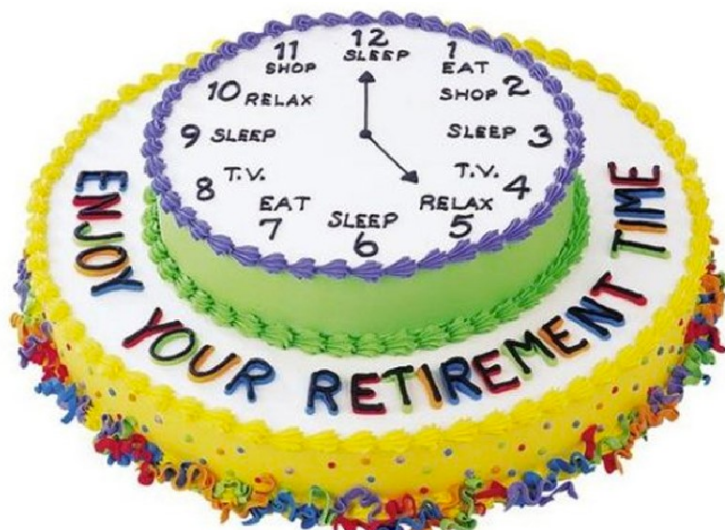


A big thank you to Tesco Extra in Dudley. Their Community champion, Kerry Lowe has kindly coordinated the donations of Easter eggs for our students.



Farewell

We would like to say a big farewell to Sue Bridgewater (SSP), who has retired after 12 years of dedicated service. We wish you a peaceful retirement. Sue will be greatly missed by all, and we thank you for all that you have done for the school.





Here are some jokes that were shared by the students.

What kind of
jewellery does an
Easter Bunny
wear?
14 carrot gold

Why shouldn't you tell an
Easter egg a good joke?
It might crack up.

How does the
Easter Bunny stay
in shape?
It eggs-ercises

Why did the Easter egg
hide? Because it was a
little chicken.

The Meadows School, Dudley Road East, Oldbury, Sandwell, B69 3BU

Tel : 0121 569 7080 Email: headteacher@themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk