

MAY HALF TERM NEWSLETTER 2021



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Families,

It's been great to see the students return for the summer term, picking up from where we left off at Easter.

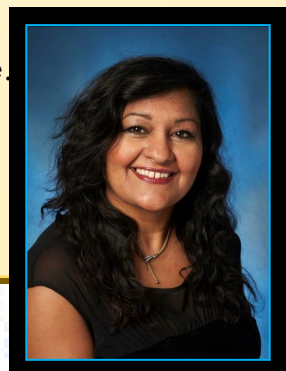
As national restrictions gradually relax, we will look at what this means and begin to reintroduce things that have not been possible over the past year. Government guidance and the safety of all site users will be at the forefront of the decisions we make and you will be notified of any changes to our arrangements well in advance. In the meantime, we will continue to operate as we are, keeping within the guidelines.

We have been fortunate in not having to close any class bubbles since our return in March. These measures help to keep one another safe and reduce the risk of further disruption to the education of our students and community.

This term, the students have been involved in a number of activities that have been both enjoyable and engaging. The students have been looking at 'healthy eating', 'forces and motion', 'road safety' and 'planting seeds' to name a few. When considering our curriculum activities it is imperative that we have a clear purpose on 'getting it right for everyone' by ensuring that learning is personalised to the needs of our students. It is characterised by a **broad, balanced, relevant and holistic curriculum**, which accommodates and supports the needs of our students, so they can reach their potential, in their preparation for life after The Meadows. Communication, wellbeing, independence and enjoyment are the key drivers: we want our students to be happy, to feel safe, to achieve their potential and to feel valued as a member of the community.

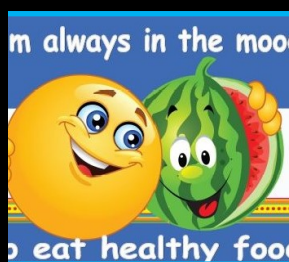
Enjoy your half term break and we will see you in a weeks time.

Stay safe and take care.



What's been happening?

In **Class 3:3** they have been very busy this half term creating and preparing healthy food as part of their 'My Independence' curriculum. They have been involved in our Attention Autism intervention, Bucket Therapy stages 1, 2 and 3, and growing cress seedlings in science together with a plant diary.



And there's more...

Class 3:7 have been involved in My Thinking-Science. The students have been learning about Forces and Motions. They have been experiencing this outside in the playground and identified the forces such as 'pushing' a swing and a gate, 'pulling' a door handle and a bench and 'spring' by bouncing a ball.

In 'My Independence', the students learned about road safety and answered questions on how to keep safe and what they should be doing when crossing the road. We took videos of the children and played them in class. The children enjoyed watching themselves on screen and identified any errors made, e.g. not looking left and right.



What's been going on in school?

This half term, **Class 5.5** have been doing an Asdan Life skills challenge unit on Horticulture. They have also been growing things to eat. The pictures below show some of the students hard at work tending to the fruit and vegetables they have planted from seeds and how they have grown so far.

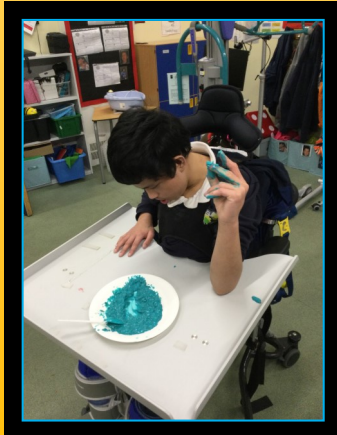


Class 5:5



Additionally...

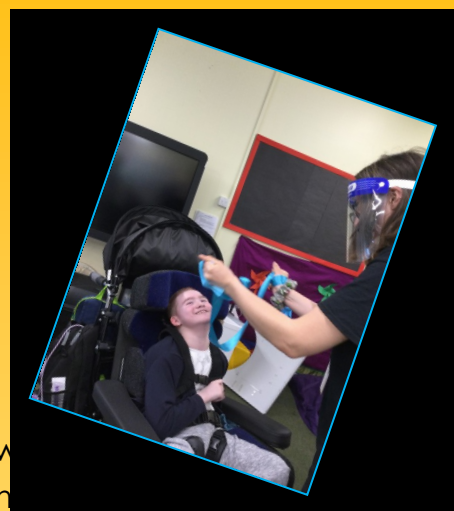
Our students have been enjoying time with Simba, the school therapy dog.



They have been involved in MESSY fun, creating some Artwork.



Class 3:4



and taking part in DRAMA with the tutors from Birmingham REP.



Excellent work everyone!



Doing our bit for the environment

Litter is ugly, it is harmful to the environment, it is harmful to health, and to wildlife. Yet people generally believe that clearing up litter is someone else's job, and education and behaviour change is at the centre of most litter campaigns for that reason. Research shows that many people are concerned about litter and that some people consider it an antisocial behaviour, however, just as many people admit to dropping litter.

As part of our Community Action, **Class 5.4** have been going to the park and litter picking and sanitising equipment to make the area a better place for the general public. Students have recognised that it means that children can play on the grass and play on the equipment in a safer way.



Did you know?

- The amount of litter dropped each year in the UK has increased by a massive 500% since the 1960s
- 7 out of every 10 items of discarded litter is food packaging or wrappers.
- All types of litter takes time to degrade, so the ideal thing is not to drop it in the first place.

Below is the average time it takes for some commonly discarded litter to decompose.

- Orange peel and banana skins - up to 2 years
- Cigarette butts - up to 2 years
- Plastic bags - 10-20 years
- Tin cans - 50 years
- Aluminium cans - 80-100 years
- Plastic bottles – they can last forever
- Glass – does not degrade

(Information taken from litterbins.co.uk)



Keep calm, just keep swimming!



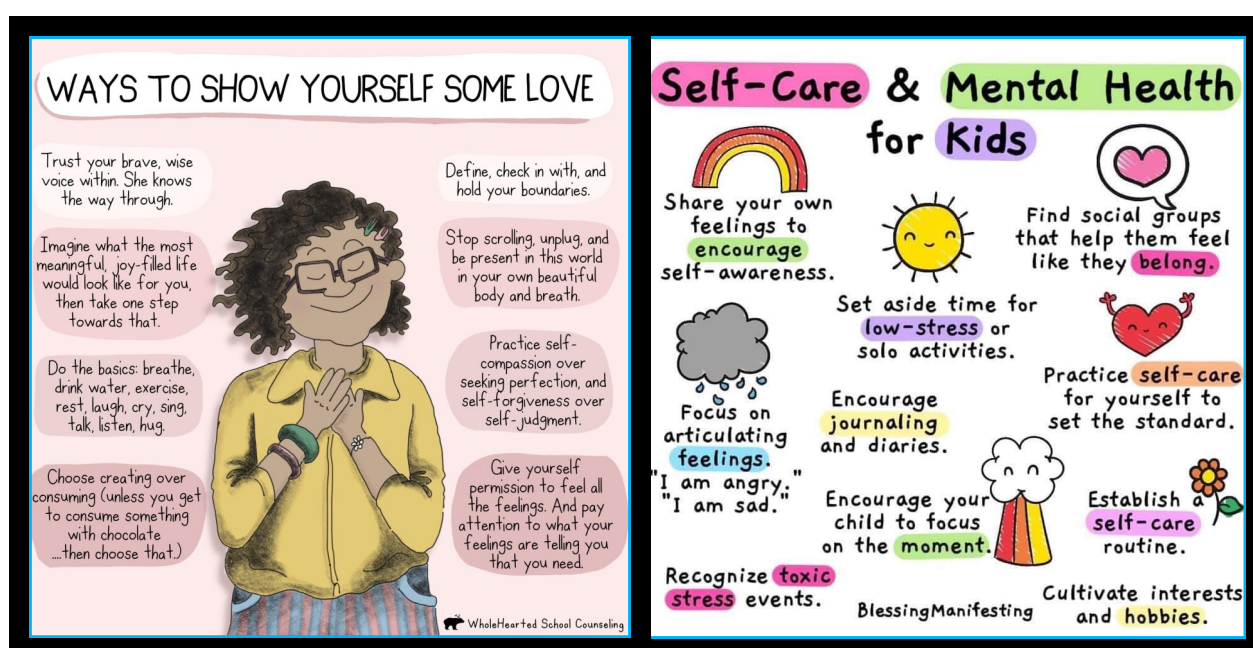
If the students have been able to enjoy swimming again as restrictions start to ease. Here we have Nathan getting his body into position to do the mushroom float. Alfie with Leigh in an intensive interaction session and Lea and Nana playing basket ball.



That's Amazing!

Self-Care & Mental Health

Self-care is an important part of living a healthy and happy lifestyle. Looking after yourself both mentally and physically is crucial to taking control of your health. We lead increasingly busy lives and it can be easy to forget to put yourself first, especially if you have multiple responsibilities and other people to care for. But looking after yourself will make you feel better, and the better you feel, the better you will be in all areas of your life, from work to relationships. Self-care doesn't have to involve a huge time commitment and it doesn't have to cost the earth. It could be listening to your favourite music, relaxing with a good book or taking a walk outside. It's about making a commitment to putting yourself first, even just for a while. Below are just some examples to show yourself some love and some self care tips.



The Meadows School takes its safeguarding duty very seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, then please contact the school or the Sandwell Children's Trust. We are here to help and support you.

Staff Updates

First and foremost, we would like to welcome back Sam Forbes, Assistant Headteacher and Rhianna Gill, Learning Support Practitioner from their maternity leave. Congratulations to our Class Teacher, Kieran Bradley on the arrival of his baby son, we send good wishes to you and your family. We have appointed three new teachers who will start in September 2021. They are Stacey Mountford, who is already with us and has worked her way up from HLTA and now is a Class Teacher, brilliant work Stacey! As well as Lauren Price and Tina Chance who will be joining us in September 2021 welcome to the Meadows Team!

And finally, we would like to say a big farewell to Nia Hinton after being with us for nearly 5 years' moving on to pastures new. Thank you for the hard work and dedication you have shown throughout your time with the Meadows family. We wish you all the best for the future.

SAVE THE DATES:

Sixth Form School Prom - Friday 9th July 2021
School Graduation - Wednesday 14th July 2021
Sports Day - Friday 16th July 2021

Please refer to the schools website for further information.

Summer Term 2 Dates:

Students Return:

Monday 7th June 2021

Student Last Day:

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Dates for next academic year 2021-2022:

Autumn Term 1: Tuesday 7th Sept - Friday 22nd Oct 2021

Autumn Term 2: Monday 1st November - Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term 1: Wednesday 5th January - Friday 18th February 2022

Spring Term 2: Monday 28th February - Friday 8th April 2022

Summer Term 1: Monday 25th April - Friday 27th May 2022

Summer Term 2: Monday 6th June - Friday 22nd July 2022

Staff training days and when school will be closed for other reasons are:

Thursday 2nd September, Friday 3rd September and Monday 6th September 2021; Tuesday 4th January 2022; Polling Day Thursday 5th May 2022; Training day - Friday 6th May 2022.

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