

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2020



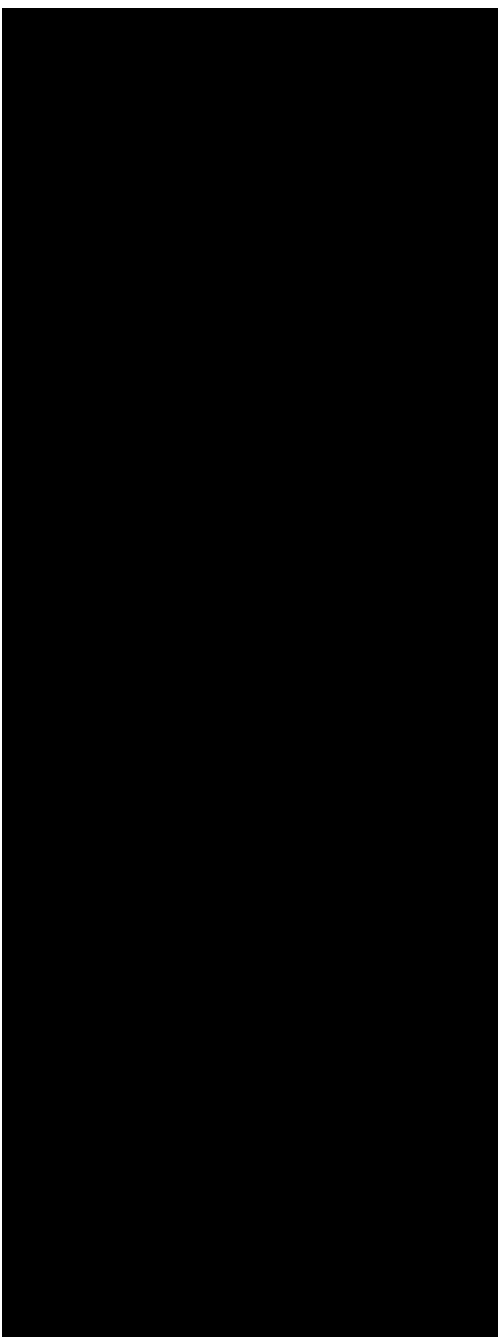
## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

The Spring Term is now in full swing and as we reach the mid-point in the school year, we look back on yet another productive and fun-filled half term.

Classes have been busy and students have enjoyed various activities, projects and trips over the last few weeks, including a residential trip to Foxes Hotel for our Sixth Formers and a Careers Visit to Queen Alexandra College in Birmingham.

During the half term, we were also fortunate enough to welcome some visitors from the Richardson Brothers Foundation who have generously pledged a donation to our school to support different projects, which is fantastic news! We look forward to using this to further develop our facilities and provision for our students and staff.

I would like to thank all our staff and students once again for their hard work this half term and to all our families for their support. I wish you all a restful break and we look forward to welcoming you back for the second half of the term.



# What's been happening?

## Birmingham Dogs Home

Class 4:2 would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' for all the donations for Birmingham Dogs Home. Vicky and her dog, Bertie recently visited the class to tell them all about Birmingham Dogs Home and collect the donations. The students had a fabulous time, learning about the dogs at the dogs home and what happens behind the scenes there. Students even had the opportunity to have a go at scanning the dog to identify the microchip and the importance of microchipping pets.



## Save the Children- Christmas Jumper Day

Class 4:2 would like to thank everyone for the donations and for taking part in Christmas Jumper Day. In total we raised £125.29.

## Peter Pan

On Thursday 9th January, to coincide with the Christmas production of Peter Pan at Birmingham Repertory Theatre, actors visited the Meadows to deliver an immersive and colourful theatrical experience retelling the classic story with delicious smells and delightful sights and sounds.





## Foxes Hotel Residential visit

On 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, we took a small group of students on an off- site residential visit to visit Foxes Hotel in Minehead, Somerset as part of our Careers Education curriculum.

Foxes is a specialist college and training hotel for young people with learning disabilities.

During the visit, our students were able to take part in taster work experience activities in accommodation services, front of house and food preparation tasks to truly immerse them in a student experience.

We stayed overnight at Foxes Hotel on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis, giving students an opportunity to develop their independent living and self-care skills. We enjoyed some relaxation time in the hotel lounge with games in the evening and even managed some beach time in the morning before returning to school!

For more information on Foxes go to:  
<https://foxeshotel.co.uk/>



### Class 3:7 Shopping Trips to Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda

Class 3:7 have been visiting their local supermarkets to experience the location of items in the store, use of a shopping list, exchange money/pay for items and pack shopping. Class 3:7 really enjoyed visiting the stores and using the self-service checkout.



### Careers Visit to QAC

On 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January, we took groups of Key Stage 4 and 5 students to have a look around Queen Alexandra College in Birmingham, as part of our careers programme.

QAC is a National College for young people with disabilities. They offer courses for young people aged 16-25 as well as employment focused and supported living programmes.

During our visits, we had an introduction to life at QAC, a tour of the campus and facilities – and stayed for lunch.

We enjoyed meeting the staff and students and having a look at the college. The sports facilities and climbing wall were a particular favourite!

For more information on QAC go to [www.qac.ac.uk](http://www.qac.ac.uk)





## ATTENDANCE ASSEMBLY

At The Meadows School, we aim to provide an environment, which enables and encourages all members of the community to reach out for excellence.

For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.



To celebrate 100% attendance and most improved attendance we hold termly assemblies, where students and families can celebrate their achievements.

This term we gave out 47 medals and certificates at a very well attended assembly.

Thank you to everyone who participated and came to congratulate all the students on their awards.

### Class 3:6 Dental Nurse Visit

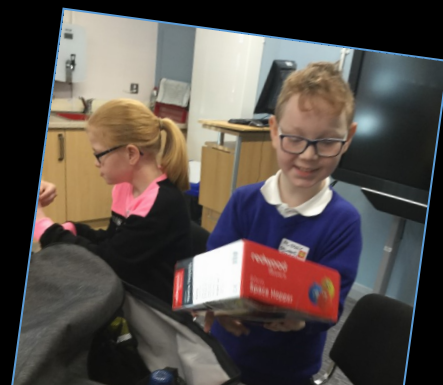
This half term, Class 3.6 have been looking at different hygiene routines. Students were lucky enough to have a dental nurse come into school to teach and review dental hygiene. We took part in a range of activities including teeth brushing, looking at the contents of different drinks and focusing on what food and drinks were good and bad for your teeth. We all had a great time and received a new free toothbrush each. Thank you Kerry Patrick for organising this for our class.



### Winner Education Visit

On Wednesday 12th February, we received a visit from Winner Education, the school's supply agency. We are so lucky to have received brand new specific lunchtime activity equipment funded and ordered by the agency. Thank you to Sheila, Kevin, Cheryl and Ariane for sorting and organising this equipment with them. The students are going to benefit from this so much.

Thanks Winner Education!!!



## Announcements

### Invitation to all families

As part of National Careers Week 2nd – 6th March, we are holding a 'Futures' Coffee Morning and Enterprise Sale on Thursday 5th March, 10.30am – 12.00pm. We would be delighted if you would come and join us for a hot drink and snack, find out what our students have been making in their enterprise challenge and maybe buy something from one of the students' stalls. We look forward to welcoming you!

## **FUNDING SUCCESS**

On Wednesday 22nd January, we had the pleasure of welcoming two visitors from the Richardson Brothers Foundation, who came to take a look at our school and the work we do here. We are delighted to announce that the Foundation decided to kindly offer our school £10,000, which we intend to put towards a number of projects, including sensory equipment and resources and improvements to our garden area.

### **Parents Evening**

The next parents evening will take place on Wednesday 4th March from 3.30pm—5.20pm. Letters and texts have been sent out to all parents and carers and appointments are now being made on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the school if you still need to make an appointment or speak to class if you are unable to attend.

### **Friends of Meadows?**

We are looking for enthusiastic and proactive parents and carers who can offer time and support to our students. This is an exciting opportunity to help the needs of our students. If you are interested in joining or would like any information about this opportunity, please contact the Pastoral Team on our school's number - 0121 5697080

### **New Health and Relationships Education Curriculum Coffee morning**

Thank you to the families who attended the two coffee mornings we ran for consultation on the new statutory RSE curriculum.

If you were unable to attend you can find a copy of the curriculum overview on our school website. We would welcome any feedback. If you have any questions or would like any further information on this subject please get in touch!

### **Staff Updates**

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new LSPs, Amandeep Kaur and Louise Buckley, who joined us in January and will be working in classes 3:1 and 4:3.

A huge thank you to one of our parents, Mr Johal, who is kindly raising money for the school by taking part in the Velo Birmingham. We wish him all the best with his efforts and thank him once again for his amazing support.

At The Meadows school, we work in partnership in Operation Encompass with West Midlands Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident. Sometimes, we get notifications that there has been an incident in the household even though the child was not present at the time, because they are registered as living at that address.

Operation Encompass ensures that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the local authority and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support children. It helps us to ensure 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. Children might seem more withdrawn, worried, anxious, agitated or angry than normal.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved, and may contact you to ask if there is anything we can do to support. If you have any questions, please call school and ask to speak with a member of the Safeguarding Team.



#### **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.

#### **CCTV**

During the half-term break, we will be having CCTV fitted in school corridors for the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

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

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