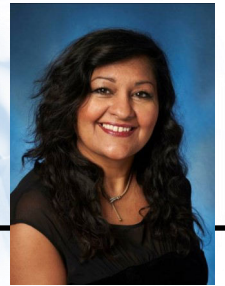


FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



HEADTEACHER UPDATE



As we reach half way in the Spring Term, we have dealt with many challenging situations. We do not underestimate the level of concern and worry on the part of all members of our school community. When we entered this period, I want to reassure you and be very clear about the potential difficulties we faced due to Covid-19.

The government left schools with very little time to put plans in place, but we have now reached a point where we can think more long-term about our management of provision for all students. The government has stated that schools should not fully open to all students after the forthcoming half term break (Monday 22nd February). The school will continue to make onsite provisions for the small number of students who are currently attending. The majority of our students will continue to receive Remote Education from our teachers until the government deems it is safe for us all to return.

The provisions we have made for our onsite students have been working extremely well and I am very pleased to tell you that many of our staff members regularly undertake Lateral Flow Testing, which determines if they have COVID-19. The reason behind this testing method is that up to a third of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. I am also delighted to announce that staff members have been able to have the first dose of COVID vaccinations and therefore, we hope to open up to more students as the weeks go by. We will advise you accordingly.

I have seen many wonderful examples of the learning the students have been doing at both school and home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families who have persevered with getting students on to Remote Learning. We know that it can be very stressful and hope that your child has been able to engage with the learning provided. Should you require any help, advice or support please do not hesitate to contact us. I would like to thank all our staff and students once again for their hard work this half term and wish all our school community a restful break.

Spring Term Dates 2021

Half Term:

Monday 15th February -
Friday 19th February

Students Return:

Monday 22nd February

Students Last Day:

Thursday 1st April

Easter Holidays:

Friday 2nd April -
Friday 16th April

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

Last Day of Term:

Wednesday 21st July

What did happen to the Virtual Christmas Enterprise?

I am sure you would all like to know how successful our first Virtual Christmas Enterprise was, how much we raised and what's going to happen with all the funds that were raised?

Our very first Virtual Christmas Enterprise took place just before Christmas and classes took on the challenge to design, advertise and produce products for the school community. The enterprise was a great success where everyone involved had an enjoyable time to be creative in the products they made. We raised a massive £321 by class groups for future offsite visits or class rewards.

Special prizes have been allocated to classes and they will be received when we all return to school.

These are the classes that won prizes.



Most Profit - Class 3.1 - They sold Light Up Bottles and Marshmallow Snowmen.

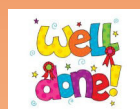


Viral Video - Class 3.3 - For the Salt Dough Christmas Tree decorations.

Entrepreneurs - Class 3.2 - Who sold Filled Baubles.



Best Advert - Class 5.5 - Who made Christmas Calendars.



Thank you all for supporting this event. It was great to come together in spirit, even when we can not all be together onsite at the Meadows.

To help us with future events, we ask if you can fill out a short **questionnaire**, which will be sent separately to help us identify the aspects you enjoyed and suggestions for the future.

What's been happening at home?

Blended Learning!

Our students have been very busy with their home learning. They have produced some outstanding work and got 'stuck in' with all the house work too! Here are some examples of their wonderful work. Thank you to all our parents and carers for the hard work and support you have made to help with the home learning, the success of the students well-being and education.

Students in **Class 3:7** have been producing fantastic work at home, here are some examples of their amazing work, well done everyone!



Absolutely brilliant!

What are you up to at home?

Class 3:1 would like to share some of the amazing work they have been doing at home. Ameerah made a Mayan mask out of chocolate and was so enthused by all the chocolate that when she was told to break the chocolate in to pieces, she decided to eat a piece instead!



Loving the mask!

Ellie and her dad on their way out for a healthy walk.

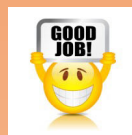


Ellie sorting out healthy and unhealthy foods for her science home learning.



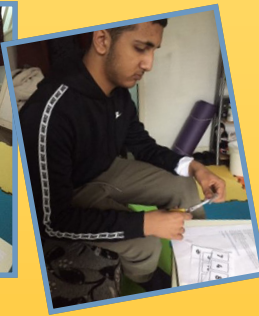
Josh is doing his PE

lesson at home and demonstrating that he knows how to wash his hands at home.



Super Work Everyone!

Students in **Class 5:3** have been busy home learning about money, making toast and other life skills. Well done all, we are so proud of you.



**Great work
Sahil and
Mohid.**



Louis Aspinall from **Class 3:3** is showing his great understanding of his literacy lesson on Chocolate, from the comfort of his sofa.



And his super art work on making a Mayan mask.

**Excellent Louis,
keep it up!**

Home Learning Continued...

Maya from **Class 3:3** made a hot chocolate at home with her mums help.

Delicious!



Class 4:4 have been working on many different activities using resources sent home to them. They have been following their timetable and sending their amazing work back via Evidence of Learning and Google Classroom.

4.4 Timetable (Landscape).docx

Class 4.4 weekly timetable (WC 11/121)			
Monday [Teams]	Good morning Kim's games, making choices Either have a go at playing the game, or engage in an activity where you must make a choice	Art Session Using things around your house	Out and about: exploring Drinks, snacks, or the bank picture, but bring on the list
Tuesday [Teams]	Good morning Bucket attention game Watch the video, then find 3 of your favourite ingredients and engage with them, sharing with an adult	Following instructions One key word instruction or follow me make 2-3 of the items then a 4-6, jump, read or sit with a page video	Shared reading time Read a book or magazine you prefer to the teacher, you can read the story once a 4-6 then you can read any part of the book if you prefer to read more than one story, you can be the teacher and the listener
Wednesday [Teams]	Good morning Kim's games, finding familiar items around the house Either play game or listen to instructions and familiar items around the house, eg. Find the same as... Find me the cup etc	Independence skills Make a simple sketch of items with minimal support	Out and about Drinks, snacks, or the pattern's exercise and reading from list
Thursday [Teams]	Good morning Bucket attention game Watch the video, choose an activity to have a go at, that lasts for up to ten minutes	Working together Play any turn taking game, or build Lego or any building items	Take off day Any baking or making of snacks, bread etc show and tell
Friday [Teams]	Good morning Yoga/Relaxation Watch videos, kids page video One for all of the family	Art Session Using things found from list	Family film Get ready with some pictures, use picture choice to choose film

Instructions Student work

Due tomorrow
Wednesday's 3/2/21 Assignment
100 points

1. Have a go at making your breakfast, it might be cereal, or toast or something else! What do you like to drink with it, can you find what you need? Can you show me you are doing it safely, how much support do you need?
2. Have another go at "Kim's Game" can you remember what to do? Can you remember from a choice of 3 items, from a choice of 4, is it easier to use the pictures that came with the items?
3. Go for a walk around your local area, take some pictures whilst you are out and about, lets see what you can see around your local area.

You have 3 assignments for today, have a go at as many as you can. Please attach evidence of what you have been doing.

Good luck!

Class comments

Add class comment

10:25 Tue 19 Jan Cloud Evidence

SHARED with Parents
Photos/Videos ONLY

EVIDENCE FOR:

LEARNER(S)
Jace Khan
Yesterday

PHOTO(S) / VIDEO(S)

COMMENTS

Timetable links for use with technology (tv, internet etc)

	Good morning	Communication skills	Creative	Out and about: exploring
Monday	Link	Link	Link	Link
Tuesday	Link	Link	Link	Link
Wednesday	Link	Link	Link	Link
Thursday	Link	Link	Link	Link
Friday	Link	Link	Link	Link



Superb Work Everyone!

Students in **Class 3.4** have been working hard with their home learning and have shown some lovely consistent responses to familiar and unfamiliar stimuli. Our star of the week was Tin!



Well done Tin!

Tips for home learning



- Create routines and stick to them - set the alarm, get up and dressed, this creates the right mindset for school work
- Clear a space to work - could be sitting at a table, like school
- Charge up devices the night before
- Minimise distractions - turn TV and mobile phones off
- Break the work down into smaller chunks
- Lots of physical exercise breaks - get outside as much as possible
- Take regular breaks - try work for 20 minutes, play for 5 minutes
- Eat healthy snacks and drink water - feed your brain!
- Use timers to help with focus - "Lets work for 20 minutes then stop."
- If your child gets frustrated, take a break, give time and space to calm down - don't try to talk about the problem too soon
- Provide calming activities like mindful colouring or belly breathing
- Make time for fun! Bake something, make something, play a game, go for a walk, look after a pet, talk about your child's interests with them
- Work together with school - ask for help if you are struggling with anything

Remember: home school is not the same as school, do your best together and be kind to yourself!

What's been happening at school?

For some of the classes, the topic this term was 'chocolate' and the students were reading the text 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory'. They learnt about the process of how chocolate is made and took part in activities to make a 3D chocolate bowl. They produced artwork in the style of the artist, Jackson Pollock, using chocolate and creating a Mayan mask.

In Science, the students demonstrated the different ways to move and identify different forms of exercise. Watch out Joe Wicks, we have our own PE coaches!

During Breakfast Club, the students identified the items needed to make their own snack, they came up with some really delicious and extraordinary combinations.

In R.E, some of the students looked at Sikhism and the meanings behind some of the 5 K's, the 'Kanga' meaning comb and the 'Kara' meaning bracelet. The students designed a comb and made their very own friendship bangles.

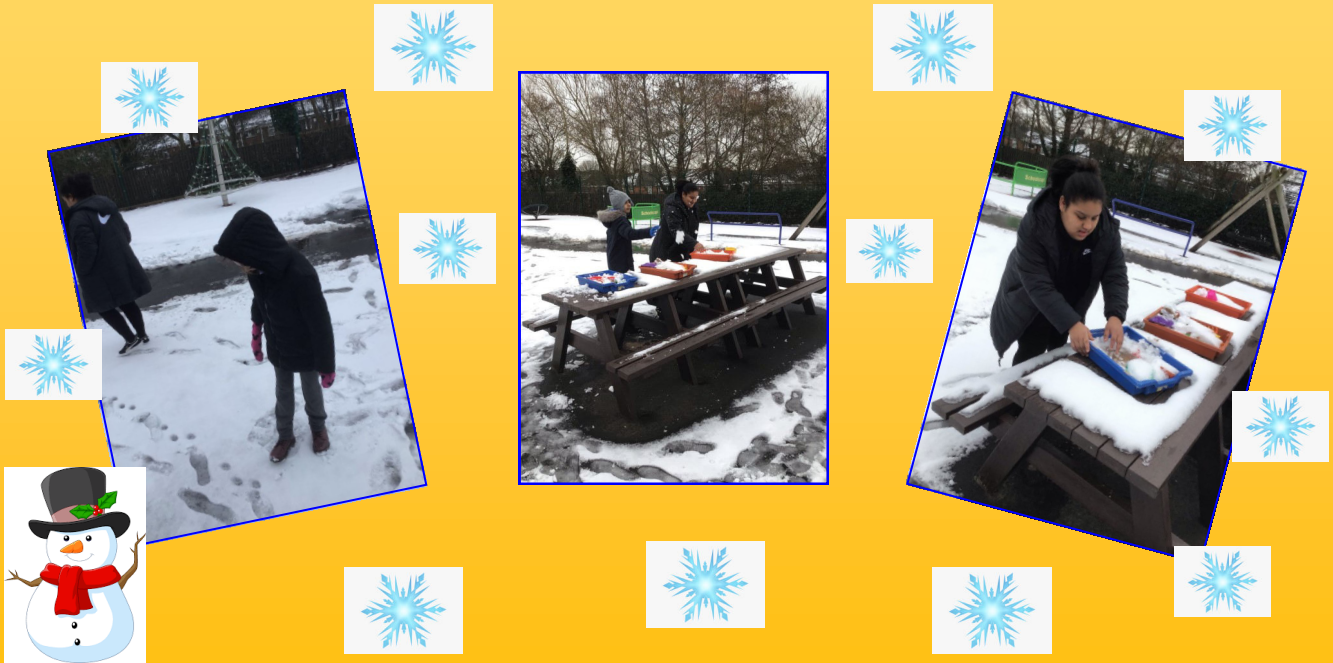
Here are some examples of their beautiful work.



Great Work Guys!

Green Zone.

Some of the students in Green Zone explored the snow. Mollie discovered some fox footprints in the snow! While Layla and Ryan did P.E in the snow, throwing snowballs at a target.



In other classes, in the Green Zone, they made chocolate drip art, a hot chocolate portrait and Mayan masks.



Children's Mental Health Week

1st - 7th February 2021



At the Meadows, Children's Mental Health Week

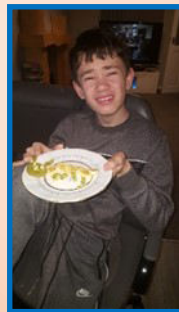
has looked very different in comparison to previous years. All staff have been putting the students' mental health at the forefront of everything they have been doing. Trying to find ways to show who we are, how we see the world and what we can do to help us feel good about ourselves during these difficult times for all of the Meadows community.

Here are some the things we have been learning and the challenges we set our students to do.

Key Stage 3

Made a real push on 'Healthy Eating' and looking at the fun ways they can improve their diet.

Liam has made a fruit caterpillar.



Key Stage 4

Have been working on their independence skills, especially helping out with jobs around the house.

Here is Jace helping with the vacuuming.



Key Stage 5

Have all been really busy with different accreditation, whilst making time to look after themselves with walks around the local areas, making different things from our sensory books and doing jobs around the house to help out.



Students also made a collage each, choosing symbols of what they liked and the different things that made them feel awesome. They had so much fun participating in the different activities that made us all feel happy and good about ourselves.



What can you do to look after your Mental Health?

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

New Well Being Free Activity Resources:

Please find details below of free activities to do with your child/children from TTS Group. Type in the link below for free activities and much more.

<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html>



FREE

**Early Years
Activity Book**

[Download now >](#)



FREE

**Primary
Activity Book**

[Download now >](#)



FREE

Wellbeing Collection Activity Book

- Perfect to use at home or at school
- Activities can be adapted for any age
- Talk about and explore feelings and emotions

[Download now >](#)

At TTS, we know Coronavirus is affecting thousands of schools with closures and we want to help...

We have created a curriculum-focused independent learning resource with over 120 home learning activities all planned and all prepared!

- Free download so print and share it with your pupils or send it electronically
- Created for teachers by teachers
- Includes activities for all curriculum areas
- Easy to use with all tasks explained clearly
- All activities help to revise and embed curriculum learning at home
- It is also mobile friendly

With a combination of independent and collaborative learning activities, the home learning books provide a great opportunity for parents to learn with their children.



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

Operation Encompass report to schools, prior to the start of the next school day. This is when a child or young person is exposed to, or involved in any domestic incident. Sometimes, we get notifications 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
- or involved in a domestic abuse incident

Children might seem more withdrawn, worried, anxious, agitated or angry than normal in these circumstances.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our students 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; Simon, Rupe, Nia, Fay and Bekki. Thank you for your continued support.

What is Children's Mental Health Week? Why is it important?

Children's Mental health week is a chance to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. It is really important to learn how to express yourself and find ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

Announcements



You are invited to join the **Albion Foundation**, part of **West Bromwich Albion FC**, for some enjoyable fitness session, for all ages and abilities **Free of Charge**.

A. Dads and Daughters:

A free of charge 13-week online programme (free t-shirts and free sports packs for all families).

The aim is to leverage the influence of fathers to increase physical activity levels of girls and their families from lower socioeconomic groups. Through education and physical activity, the programme aims to:

1. Encourage fathers/father-figures to play a greater role in supporting their daughters to develop physical confidence and competence.
2. Challenge gender stereotypes by teaching parenting strategies to encourage gender equity and empowering girls.
3. Teach social and emotional skills to help overcome barriers to being physically active.
4. Give fathers/father-figures confidence to become role models.
5. Support girls/families to design physical activity sessions at home and become physical activity advocates to motivate their families to become more active.

Dads and Daughters via this link - <http://bit.ly/TAF-DAD>

B. Baggies Boing Zone Family Fitness - Funded by the Premier League:

A free of charge twice weekly session for KS1 and KS2 children, families/carers/teachers and staff.

Two sessions a week through a private YouTube channel, a fun and enjoyable fitness session for all ages and abilities.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 am - Via the below links.

Baggies Boing Zone Family Fitness

Tuesday Live session link for Schools - <http://bit.ly/TAF-BZFS>

Tuesday Live session link for Home Learners - <http://bit.ly/TAF-BZFH>

Thursday Pre-recorded session link for Schools - <http://bit.ly/TAF-BZFPS>

Thursday Live session link for Home Learners - <http://bit.ly/TAF-BZFPH>

Announcements

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Local Authorities SEN Transport providers, Five Star, Akaash Travel, Green Destinations Ltd, One 4 U and Lee Richards Transport Company for helping and supporting The Meadows community in transporting homework packs, food parcel and free school meal vouchers.

FEED WELL FOR LESS!

FEED A FAMILY FOR £40!



A Feed Well for Less food box contains seven brilliant and easy recipes to follow such as rainbow fried rice, stuffed peppers & sausage and bean casserole.

PLUS...

Useful hints and tips on saving money, managing your food budget and more!

**ALL INGREDIENTS PROVIDED
FREE OF CHARGE!**

Do you know a family affected by COVID-19, struggling to make ends meet, who would benefit from this support?

The aim of this project is to help our families create healthy balanced meals whilst managing their money more effectively.

To make a referral (one box per family) or for more information please contact Debi Madden or Ruth Ellis.

Debi: debi.madden@actionforchildren.org.uk
Ruth: ruth.ellis@actionforchildren.org.uk



Please contact the school and ask for the Pastoral Team.

Staff Updates

Congratulations to the following members of the Meadows School:

Eileen Pace who has been appointed as our new Assistant Head Teacher.

Kevin Hurcombe with an extension to his role as Assistant Head Teacher.

Gavin Robinson has been appointed a permanent position as a LSP.

Karen Moore a new member of the team as a SSP.

Well done to you all!



Further updates



The Meadows School

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





Final thought

*"The world is full of
kind people.
If you can't find
one. BE ONE!"*

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

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

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

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