

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this half term's newsletter- the weeks are flying by, and we can't quite believe that the end of this half term, marks the halfway point in the school year!

I have thoroughly enjoyed all the excitement and challenges of leading this great school in my first half term as an Acting Head Teacher at the Meadows School. It has been a busy but so rewarding half term, as so much has been happening.

At the Meadows we aim to provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment where everyone is valued and encouraged to do their best at all times to reach their full potential. This truly is a great community with fabulous staff, supportive parents and absolutely amazing children.

I hope that you will enjoy reading all about the wonderful opportunities our students have enjoyed participating in over the course of this half term and we are looking forward to sharing news, insights and successes over the rest of the year.

I wish everyone- the governors, staff and families- a peaceful, restful and well deserved half term holiday and I look forward to another great half term.

If you have any concerns or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely

Theodora Papaspyrou

### **Spring Term Dates**

#### **Half Term:**

Monday 20th February - Friday  
24th February

#### **Students Return:**

Monday 27th February

#### **Students Last Day:**

Friday 31st March

#### **Easter Holidays:**

Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th  
April

### **Summer Term Dates**

**Students Return:** Monday 17th  
April

**Inset Training Day:** Friday 28th  
May

**May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday  
1st May

**Student Last Day:** Friday 26th May

**Half Term:** Monday 29th May –  
Friday 2nd June

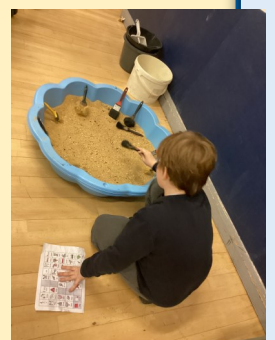
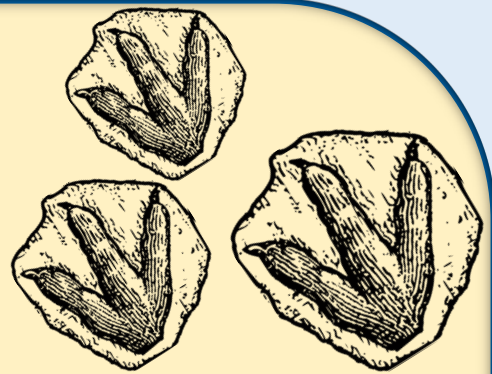
**Students Return:** Monday 5th June

**Last Day of Term:** Tuesday 25th  
July

# What's been happening?

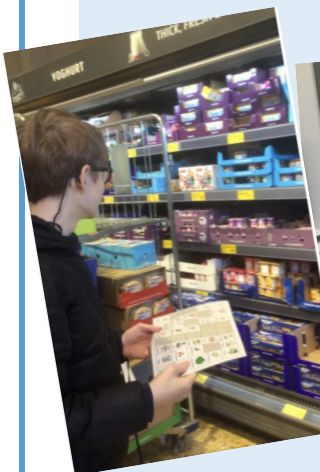
## Dinosaur Day

As part of the unit of work on dinosaurs, Key Stage 3 took part in a dino workshop where they experienced and explored the size and scale of these fantastic beasts. Here are some pictures of Class 3.3 and Class 3.5 enjoying the workshop.



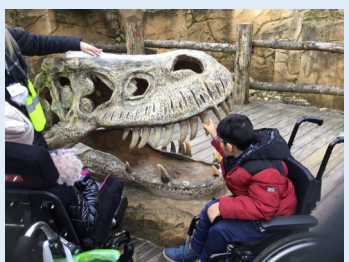
## Class 4.5

Class 4.5's theme this half term has been "Food Glorious Food". They have been out and about visiting Aldi to buy ingredients to make a healthy snack and also visited the Balaji Temple to taste the local dish "Pangal", which is made from rice, ghee (butter), red lentils and mustard seeds. In Maths, they have been busy measuring the length/height/weight/capacity of the food items they used to make pizza, salad and pasta bake. They are looking forward to visiting to Birmingham Food Market on the last day of term to see the local produce.



## Class 3.3

To complete their unit of work on dinosaurs, Class 3.3 enjoyed a trip to West Midlands Safari Park. The class enjoyed some time interacting with the interactive dinosaur exhibits and also had fun with the lorikeets. The students also enjoyed naming the animals from the bus as they went round on the safari.



## Class 5.2

### ASDAN Shopping in the Community

Students have been going shopping to the local retail park and choosing items to purchase using money. They have all been amazing staff are so proud of them.



## Student Council

The Student Council has been very busy working with the Community Dental Service to promote good oral health and tooth brushing.

The Council has signed up to the 'Brilliant brushers' scheme, and all the students are being provided with a new toothbrush, toothpaste and a chart to log toothbrushing.

All students who complete their chart will be given a 'brilliant brushers' certificate.

So don't delay – get brushing today!



# Safeguarding and Pastoral Update

## Online Safety



It is not something any parent wants to think about but just this week, The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published data showing that since 2019, it has seen a 1,058 % increase in the number of webpages showing sexual abuse images and videos of children aged 7-10 who have been recorded via an internet connected device, often by a predator who has contacted them online.

The full article can be read here: [Online sexual abuse of primary children 1000% worse since lockdown \(iwf.org.uk\)](https://www.iwf.org.uk/online-sexual-abuse-of-primary-children-1000-worse-since-lockdown)

It is therefore more important than ever to monitor your child online. If you are not sure where to start, consider the following:

- If your child uses social media, having access to the passwords and supporting them when they post anything.
- Check who they are speaking to or gaming with online. If they don't know them in real life, talk to them about deleting them
- Remember when YOU post images of your child on social media, they can be accessed by anyone and in many cases, the social media platform then automatically own the rights to those images.
- Do not allow your child unsupervised access to the internet and keep all devices in a family room where they can be seen and overheard



If you are worried your child may have been targeted and groomed online, please do contact us at The Meadows for support and report your concerns via the CEOP website: [www.ceop.police.uk](https://www.ceop.police.uk)

It is Safer Internet Day on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. A good way to get chatting to your child about Online Safety is by completing this quiz together: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/quiz-for-7-11s>  
(you can choose the age group that best fits your child's developmental age)

Did you know that Youtube has a separate platform that is safer for children and young people called Youtube Kids? It filters out adult content and anything it considers to be inappropriate for children to watch. Although it is still vital to monitor your child when they use Youtube Kids just in case something inappropriate slips through the net. For a helpful tutorial on how to install Youtube Kids, click on the attached link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKI7WxkbD\\_ZQY4483VYyuYfWF86hg52p](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKI7WxkbD_ZQY4483VYyuYfWF86hg52p)

**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.**

# Parents and Carers Coffee Mornings



Please come and join us for our coffee mornings which take place at the school on the dates listed below. Our mornings are a great way to meet other parents and carers, engage with members of the school community and gain more information about specific topics linked to your child's learning.

Date	Time	Focus
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and Carers Social
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am-11.30am	<b>Communication</b> <i>A chance for parents and carers to find out more about the different forms of communications which are used in school depending on students' individual needs. The school's Speech and Language Therapists will be on hand to give more information about this and answer any queries you may have.</i>
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and Carers Social

## Staff Updates

This half term, we bid farewell to four of our LSPs; Pola Tyszkiewicz, Elizabeth Bailey, Rebecca Madeley and Sheila Bailey. We wish them all the best with the future and thank them for all their hard work during their time at The Meadows!

We are thrilled to announce that our Assistant Headteacher, Sam Forbes, welcomed a little baby girl at the end of January. A huge congratulations to Sam and her family and we wish her all the best on her maternity leave.

This half term, we have had some changes to the SLT team. Theodora Papaspyrou is currently our Acting Headteacher and we welcome Sharon Williams as our Deputy Headteacher. We also congratulate Stewart Harris on his successful appointment to Assistant Headteacher whilst Sam is on maternity.