



# JULY NEWSLETTER 2022



## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would first of all like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the school in allowing us to provide the best provision possible for our young people. It has yet again, been another busy year and one in which we have had to come together to move through some difficult times. We remember those who are sadly no longer with us and once again, send our love to all their families and friends.



This July, we bid farewell to seventeen of our Year 14s who are leaving The Meadows. We will sorely miss these students but wish them all the best of luck in their next steps. We look forward to September with a new intake of students, who we have already welcomed through our successful transition days this year. Our new building is now complete for our increased student numbers as well as a modular building to offer more learning space to our PMLD classes. We are excited for what the next academic year will bring but for now, thank you again for your support and I wish you all an amazing summer!

Take care and see you in September!

### Term Dates

Students return: Thursday 8th September

Last day of term: Friday 21st October

*Half Term: Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October*

Students return: Monday 31st October

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 16th December

# What's been happening?

## New ramp in Forest School

During the last half term, a new ramp was added to our Forest School site. This ramp has improved accessibility for many of our students who can now make use of the meadow area of the forest.



## Class 3.3

This term, Class 3.3 have been participating in different sports to celebrate the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. So far, they have had a go at boxing and basket ball and had lots of fun!



## Class 4.2

This term, Class 4.2 have been exploring 'Light and Sound' for their Key Stage 4 Science Day. Students enjoyed playing sound bingo followed by making their own musical instruments and kaleidoscopes using junk modelling and creative resources we found around the classroom.



## Class 4.1

Class 4.1 have also enjoyed taking part in the Key Stage 4 Science Day. Here are some pictures of them exploring light and enjoying using the different resources in class.



## England Amputee Football Junior Camp

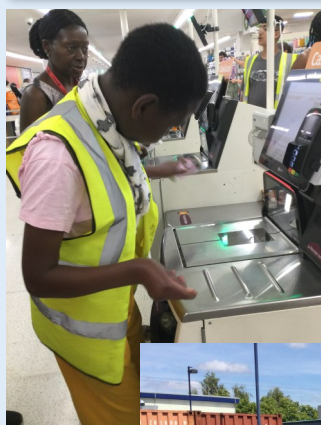
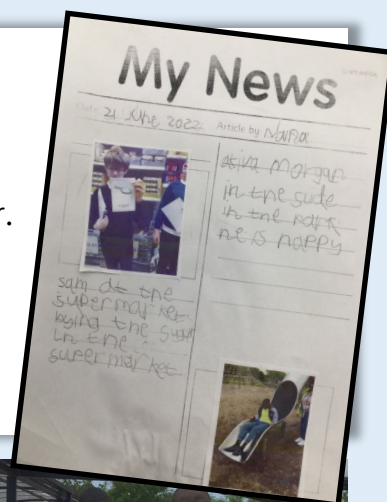


Our P.E coordinator, Harry, has represented The England Amputee Football Association this month at the European Amputee Football junior camp in Georgia. Harry currently works with the England National NXTGEN team and Junior programme which aims to develop young athletes in the sport and provide them a pathway towards the national team in the future.

This year's EAFF camp took place in Georgia which young amputees will be attending across 6 different countries. The camp aims to provide young amputees a greater opportunity within the sport and experience it on an international level.

### Class 3.7

In our last term, Class 3:7 have been very busy. They visited the Outdoor Gym and Fitness Suite to increase their fitness levels, along with playing Cricket in P.E. In English, the students contributed to a class newspaper, summarising events this year. In the Nature Trail, the class have been using their independence skills to plant seeds and tidy up. They visited Sainsbury's to locate items and use a self-service till to pay for items to make a simple snack.

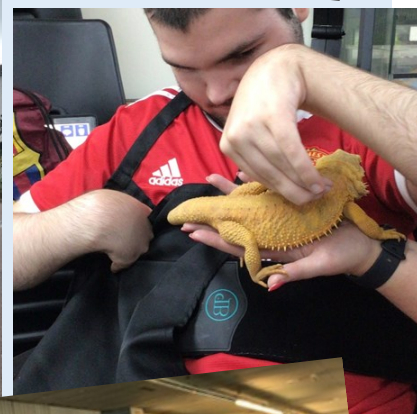


## Class 5.6

Class 5:6 have been very busy this term. They have been working hard out in the community on work experiences including Hugglepets, where students have been caring for the animals and seeing what it is like to work with animals in a shop environment. The class spent time making things to sell in Dudley, at the pop-up shop before spending three days selling them to members of the community.

Some of the class visited Minehead in June for their first Residential and time away from home. They had great fun, learning new skills and using money in real life scenarios to put into practise what they have learned in class.

Class 5.6 have also been working hard with money and have completed many different mini enterprise projects. To celebrate all their hard work, they visited the local restaurant for lunch.



## Class 3.2

Class 3.2 have been enjoying their offsite trips to Malthouse Stables this year!



# Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

## Have you heard of 'Patterning'?



Patterning is the humiliation of a young person which is filmed or photographed and then shared on social media. It is forwarded on and on, shared across different social media sites, multiplying the embarrassment for the victim.

It is a form of online bullying and child-on-child abuse and sadly is experienced by many young people.

### What can you do about it?

1. If your child uses social media, try to encourage them to talk through with you before they post any images of themselves or others.
2. Try to talk with your child about what online humiliation can look like and that they need to tell you or another adult they trust if this is happening to them
3. Work out how to block, delete and report on all their social media platforms
4. Remember that if your child is being bullied due to their additional needs, this could constitute a hate crime so you have the right to contact the police.

## Water Safety

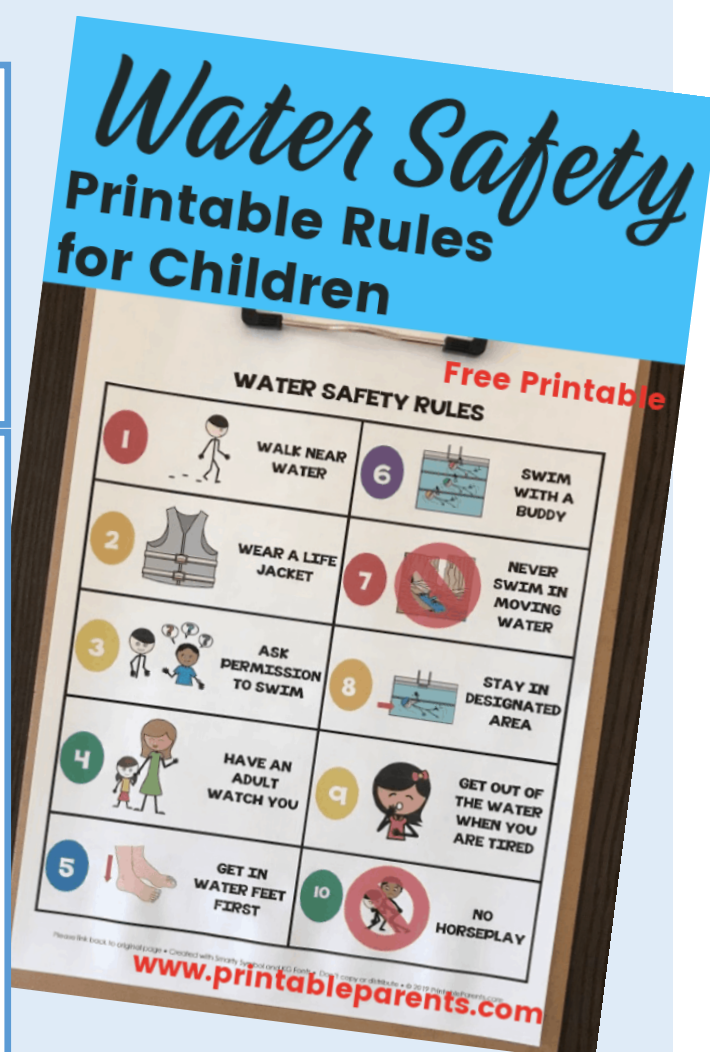
Ahead of the Summer, it can be good to remind your child how to keep safe near water, especially if they love going swimming or splashing in the paddling pool! See below for some simple yet helpful water safety rules:

## Free Food

Finances can be tight at this time of year, but even more so currently. Therefore, you may be pleased to know that lots of food outlets are offering free and reduced meals for kids this Summer!

Find cheap places to eat this summer holidays by visiting the link:

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/places-where-kids-eat-free-or-cheap-this-summer-holidays/>



# Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

## Childline Support

Many children seek support from Childline (0800 11 11) for all manner of concerns but did you know they have a video explaining how they work, for deaf young people?

You can find the link below and it may be worth a watch with your child, if this is suitable for them:

### Contacting Childline Using Sign Video

Here is how your child can contact Childline via Sign Video:

Contact Childline with SignVideo

SignVideo lets you contact a counsellor through a BSL interpreter. You can use it between Monday – Friday, 8am - 8pm and on Saturdays, 8am - 1pm.

How to use SignVideo:

Open SignVideo and click "allow webcam"

- when you're connected, an interpreter will appear on your screen
- you can chat to the interpreter in BSL
- they'll translate your conversation to the counsellor.



## Coming to School on time!

Please ensure you are bringing students to school on time at **8.50am** and collecting them at **3.00pm**. If students persistently arrive/leave out of these hours, school has a duty to inform Attendance and Prosecution and Sandwell SEN service (responsible for Personal Transport Budget).



## Other Information

### School Comms

From September, all lunch payments must be made using the SchoolComms App. The app will also allow you to communicate with school and we are eventually looking for all payments including trip money to be made using the app.

In order to download, search School Gateway in your App store.

**Apple iPhone users, download the app here: <http://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload>**

**Android phone users, download the app here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](http://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload)**

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information The Meadows already has, so please make sure the contact details we hold for you are up to date.



We recently ran a competition for parents/carers to be in with a chance of winning a hamper by installing the App. Well done to the family of Dylan Collins who were our winners!

### Staff Updates

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to some highly valued members of staff this year; two of our teachers, Gill Chambers and Sion Lewis, our HLTA, Zoe Jackson and three of our LSPs, Elisha Benain, Michelle Turner and Jaime Thorpe. We wish all of them the best of luck and know they will be missed by both staff and students.

We will have a host of new staff joining us in September, including our new Deputy Headteacher, Theodora Papaspyrou. We look forward to welcoming all of them on board.

*Please can you ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details. If you change your address or telephone number, it is imperative that school is made aware in case we need to contact you and in case of emergency.*

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