



JULY NEWSLETTER 2023



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe another extraordinary year has passed and wow what a year we have had with incredible achievements, challenges but also successes. Looking back at the start of the year and seeing how much the children have developed, flourished, and grown is amazing and is so rewarding.

The children have had a fun half term and enjoyed end of year celebrations, which included a disco party, face painting, glitter tattoos, dressing up, party games, a visit from the animal man but also a visit from an ice cream van, which went down very well.

Our Year 14 students had a wonderful graduation and they all looked so smart and grown up! It was so lovely to see all the children and their families enjoy the leaver's graduation and celebrate fond memories of their journey at The Meadows. We are incredibly proud of all our learners have accomplished in their time with us and they will be so greatly missed. Please remember the door is always open, come back and visit soon!

This term we have also been very fortunate to have had a Police Community Support Officer visit the school and kindly deliver a PSHE session to some of our students on exploring concepts of right and wrong through different social context scenarios. This has been a fantastic interactive learning experience which our students thoroughly enjoyed whilst engaging in thought provoking activities and joining in role playing activities.

We would kindly like to remind you that in preparation for the new academic year we have recently shared annual permission and consent forms to be reviewed and completed as appropriate-please remember to fill these in and return to school.

Please also refer to our safeguarding and pastoral updates as included in this newsletter. You may access further information regarding support for parents/carers over the school break on our website <https://www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk/information/statutory-information/safeguarding-at-the-meadows>

As always thank you all for your continued support to all staff members. We enjoy every minute we spend enabling our students to learn, laugh, problem solve, develop positive relationships and grow in confidence.

I hope you enjoy your summer break and that you all have a wonderful and peaceful holiday!

We look forward to welcoming all students back on Thursday 7th September!

Yours faithfully

Theodora Papaspyrou

Acting Head Teacher

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the responsibility of everyone in our school and at all times we consider what is in our children's best interests. We work to ensure our children are safe and cared for and by doing this we are protecting their health and development and preventing them from harm. If we are worried, we will raise concerns, share information, and take prompt action with the aim of ensuring families receive the right help at the right time.

What's been happening?

Class 5.6

Class 5.6 have visited Provision House as part of work experience; having encounters with employers and employees within a different workplace. The class took part in serving different people by selling pots they made at school. A great experience was had by all!



Class 4.1

Class 4.1 have been working hard during P.E. lessons this term. They transition to the hall and complete the P.E. tasks with growing confidence and anticipation of the lesson. The confidence of the students in 4.1 has grown over this term during their weekly P.E. lesson.



Attendance Assembly

At the end of the year, we held an attendance assembly to celebrate the students who have demonstrated brilliant attendance all year or who have shown great improvement since September.

A big well done to the following students for having the most improved attendance:



Kess and Mollie from 3.1,
Saeed from 3.3, Marcel
from 3.7, Tyrese from 4.1,
Adrian from 4.2, Chriblish
and Gaurav from 4.3, Gaga
from 5.1, Sami from 5.3,

Adetola from 5.4, Sienna from 5.6 and Dominic
and Thomas from 5.7

*And a huge congratulations to the following
students for having 100% attendance:*

Casey from 3.3, Ryan from 3.6, Aaron from 3.8,
Marks from 3.9, Maya and Lemuel from 4.4,
Brandon and Husna from 4.5, Remell and
Lauren from
5.2 and
Thomas from
5.4



Graduation and End of Year Celebrations

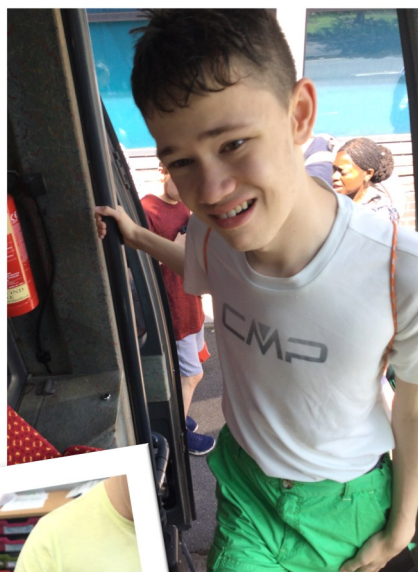
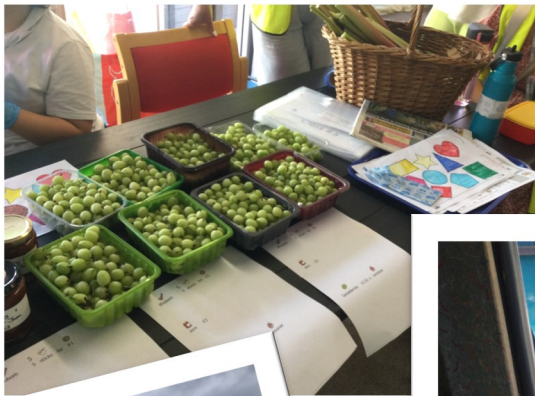
On the 21st July, the red carpet was rolled out and the Class of 23 celebrated their graduation from The Meadows School. The students shared their memories with families and students. It was an emotional event where there was not a dry eye in the house.

In total, we had 24 leavers with many students getting a place at their preferred college and community placement. Students across the entire school have had a chance to celebrate and show their dance move with their friends in the end of year party, music by DJ Brett. Many dressed to impress and had many photos in the Photo Booth led by Snaptastic. It was a day of celebration and reflection. We wish all of our leavers the best for the future and all our remaining students a safe and fun summer holidays.



Class 4.5

This term, Class 4.5 have been very busy! They have visited West Bromwich Albion Foundation Club to complete part 2 of their tour. They really enjoyed it and had a great day out. They also visited the Pop-Up Shop in Dudley town centre to sell biscuits they made in the community for their Citizenship Project. Their last trip will be to the cinema and Pizza Hut on 25th July. In 'My Independence', they have been practicing their cooking skills, making mug cakes, pitta pizza, baked spaghetti and Angel Delight cheesecake. They have all had a fantastic year in Class 4.5



Midlands Metro Bug House Competition

This year, The Meadows worked alongside the Midlands Metro. As part of a competition organised by the company, classes designed and created their very own bug houses. We are pleased to say that 2 out of our 3 entries were winners. On Monday 10th July, students from Class 3.7 and Class 5.7 went to collect their prizes at a presentation event at Dudley College.



Class 3.7 were very proud to receive their 1st prize award for Key Stage 3



Class 5.7 were the proud winners from Key Stage 5



Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

It is hard to believe that it is the last safeguarding and pastoral update of the academic year.

There are of course, a few things to make you aware of as parents/carers, in order to ensure that yours and your child's Summer is as safe and fun as can be.



Firstly, if you are heading away on holiday or perhaps will be visiting any open water (seaside, rivers, lakes etc), it is vital to consider water safety. The Royal Lifesaving Society have created a helpful, free booklet for parents/carers which can be downloaded here:

www.rlss.org.uk/Pages/Category/water-safety-information

Here are some other top tips to consider when taking a child with SEND near open water:

1. Talk to your child beforehand about what sort of water it is. They may view any open water as a chance to swim and not understand that some water is not safe to swim in.
2. Consider walking next to the water yourself, with your child on the other side of you, away from the edge. Ensure that there is enough space between you and the water's edge that if you do stumble, you don't fall in and drag your child along with you.



Remember that water reflects the sunlight so even if the day appears overcast, ensure your child has protective sun wear and high SPF sun cream on.

Secondly, Summer can be a time when children and young people spend more time online. This is a marvellous way for them to keep in touch with friends and family and to watch some engaging content.



The Digiduck Stories, are a series of stories created for children age 3-7 that help them learn about online safety. You can find them on the link below. If you feel your child would be able to engage with these stories, why not have a look through them together and chat through your thoughts afterwards. They are a useful way to start talking about issues such as not sharing personal information, spotting 'fake news' and making online friends.

[Digiduck Stories | Childnet](#)

Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

Finally, there has been lots of research into the impact of social media on young people's mental health. Perhaps not surprisingly, the research has found that there is a link between social media use and anxiety and depression amongst young people – but particularly girls. If your child uses social media (including Whatsapp and Youtube) or even uses your social media account, it is worth talking to them about this issue.



The charity YoungMinds has created the following video (which can be found halfway down this webpage) for young people, with top tips on ensuring social media is a positive experience:

[Social Media and Mental Health | Tips and Advice | YoungMinds](#)

Remember, there is lots of support available over the Summer, which will be shared with all parents/carers via the School Website. In case you need it, here is the link to the [Sandwell Local Offer | Family Information Service Hub](#) Take a look at what Sandwell has available to support families including funding, short breaks etc.

The Pastoral Team at the Meadows are here to help you. If you would like to access support in September, give us a call on 0121 5697089. We will be available from 4th September.

Swimming

Please be aware, that due to health & safety and hygiene reasons, if students do not bring their swimming kit into school, they will not be allowed to take part in hydrotherapy sessions.

Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

Inset (Training) Days:	Monday, 4 th September 2023 Tuesday, 5 th September 2023 Wednesday, 6 th September 2023
Students Return:	Thursday, 7th September 2023
Half Term:	Monday 30 th October to Friday 3 rd November 2023
Students Return:	Monday 6th November 2023
Last Day of Term:	Friday 22 nd December 2023
Christmas holiday:	Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

Spring Term 2024

Inset (Training) Day:	Monday, 8 th January 2024
Students Return:	Tuesday, 9th January 2024
Half Term:	Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February 2024
Students Return:	Monday 19th February 2024
Students Last Day:	Friday, 22 nd March 2024
Easter Holidays:	Monday, 25 th March to Friday 5 th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

Inset (Training) Day:	Monday 8 th April 2024
Students Return:	Tuesday, 9th April 2024
May Day Bank Holiday:	Monday 6 th May 2024
Students Last Day:	Friday 24 th May 2024
Half Term:	Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May 2024
Students Return:	Monday 3rd June 2024
Last Day of Term:	Monday, 22 nd July 2024

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
Wednesday 13 th September	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and Carers Social
Monday 25 th September	9.30am-11.30am	Year 9 Careers
Monday 2 nd October	9.30am-11.30am	Year 11 Careers
Monday 9 th October	9.30am-11.30am	Year 13 Careers
Wednesday 11 th October	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and Carers Social
Wednesday 15 th November	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and Carers Social
Wednesday 13 th December	9.30am-11.30am	Parents and Carers Social



Student Council

A big thank you to the Student Council who have worked very hard this year on behalf of the other students at The Meadows.

The Council have been looking at improving facilities for students with visual impairments.

They have also worked closely with the local dental service who have offered monthly top tips for improving dental health and also gave every student a new toothbrush and toothpaste.

The highlight of the year was when they got to attend a meeting with the Senior Leadership Team, where the Council got to voice students concerns and also tell them what is working well.



School Gateway—Trips

As you will be aware, all lunch payments are now being made using the School Gateway app. We will be looking to move all school trips payments onto School Gateway in the new year. Please can we ask you to download the School Gateway app if you have not done so already.

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

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.



Staff Updates

We are pleased to welcome two new Student Support Practitioners to the team; Nikki Lewis and Jasbir Kaur, who have joined us this half term.

A big congratulations to our HLTA, Katie Broadhurst, who recently welcomed a baby girl! We hope she has a great maternity leave with the new addition to the family!

Sadly, with the end of the year, we must bid farewell to a number of staff. Rachel Carter (nee Thomas) has been at The Meadows for 17 years. She has been a positive, hard-working and dedicated member of the school and will be missed greatly by both staff and students. We also say farewell to Leonora Curtis, one of our PMLD teachers and Bubble Leaders. Leo has been instrumental in a lot of positive change at the school and will leave a big mark on all those she worked with. Two of our LSPs; Andrea Oakley and Karen Moore, are also leaving for pastures new. We thank them both for all the hard work and commitment they have shown through their years at The Meadows and wish them all the best in their next venture.

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

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