



JULY NEWSLETTER 2024



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Welcome to our final newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year. It has been an amazing Summer term with a whole host of exciting events and updates to read about.

Students have been out and about on some fabulous trips to a wide variety of exciting places and we would like to congratulate our cohort of students who completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition as part of achieving their Bronze Award.

Lots of fun and entertaining sessions have also happened on site including our first well-being afternoon for students, where they had chance to take part in drama, trampolining, massage and even visit the beach. There were also opportunities to make slime, build tents, read stories and design henna and glitter tattoos.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents, carers and visitors who joined us for some spectacular events including coffee morning, sports day and our leavers prom and graduation. Our very best wishes go out to all our leavers – congratulations everyone and we hope you enjoy your next set of adventures.

The Meadows School has welcomed some new colleagues and we wish others well as they embark on new challenges. We also fondly remember Taran Mall, who sadly passed away this term – our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all stakeholders for making my first term as Head Teacher so memorable. I look forward to sharing many more positive experiences with you all and supporting the Meadows School through the next stage of its development.

We would like to congratulate all our students on their wonderful achievements this year and hope you enjoyed reading about them in our new annual reports – any feedback is welcomed.

All the staff and governors from The Meadows School would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Summer holiday. We look forward to seeing all our returning students for the new term when they return on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

James Horspool.

What's been happening?

Class 5.3

Class 5.3 recently enjoyed a trip to Bridgnorth on the steam train. They travelled from Highley to Bridgnorth via Hampton Loade. The students enjoyed the ride and lunch in private compartments.



Class 4.4

Class 4.4 have continued to enjoy their weekly trips to Malthouse Stables where they got involved in the different activities on offer, including archery and getting out in the canoes on the canal!



Class 4.1

This year, Class 4.1 have enjoyed many adventures, including forest school, canoeing through the seasons, visits to shops and swimming offsite. It has been a fabulous year, and they have all enjoyed it. For those students leaving 4.1, we hope you continue your adventures in your new class and for those staying, look forward to many more.



Brilliant Brushers—updates, interviews and Quality Assured!



In April, Stacey from the Oral Health Improvement, Dental Division and her team came and helped us launch our Brilliant

Brushers Programme. In May, Stacey and Miriam from the Oral Health Improvement returned to carry out a Quality Assurance Visit. This is what they had to say:



We would like to congratulate you, the teaching staff and the children for your tremendous efforts to implement and engage with the supervised toothbrushing programme at your school. Following the Quality Assurance visit, we are delighted to inform you that Brilliant Brushers is being delivered safely and effectively. We cannot praise you all enough for your commitment to improving the oral health of the children that attend The Meadows. Please continue with the amazing work that you are doing.

As a Rights Respecting School, Brilliant Brushes impacts positively on our wellbeing, especially preventive care:

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



12 I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously

12

I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously



When adults are making decisions that affect me, I have a right to say what I think and be listened to.



I have a right for my views to help inform decisions about what happens to me, at home, in school, in my community and in my country.



Adults should support me so that I can give my views in a way that is best for me to do so.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



24 I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food

24

I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food



I have the right to good quality health care and to clean water.



I have the right to nutritious food and a clean environment so that I can stay healthy.



Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

Students were asked to give their opinions on Brilliant Brushers. Some students were able to answer independently using a Touchpad Talker, while other student responses were given by their class teams who acted as advocates for them. See their photos and what they had to say:

Class 3.4



"My teachers let me know it's toothbrushing time by letting me smell the OOR – a tube of toothpaste!"



"I love having my teeth cleaned because it makes my mouth so nice and fresh!"

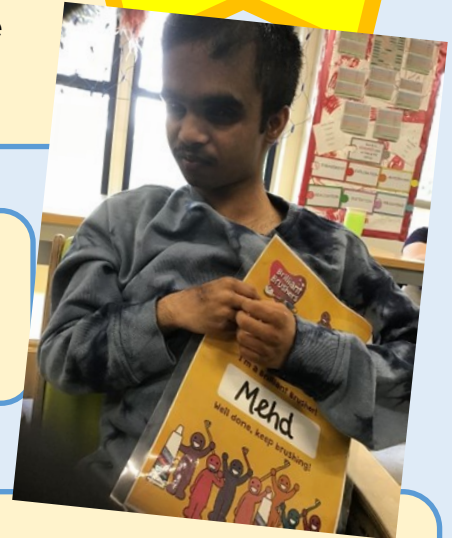
Class 4.3



"Even though having my teeth brushed is not my favourite activity, I have co-operated with staff to get the toothbrush onto my teeth."

"I am pleased with myself for getting a certificate. I have been practicing at home!"

Brilliant Brushers
Stars with their
Toothbrushing
Certificates.



"I really enjoy cleaning my teeth with my special toothbrush. With help from staff I am getting really good at it."



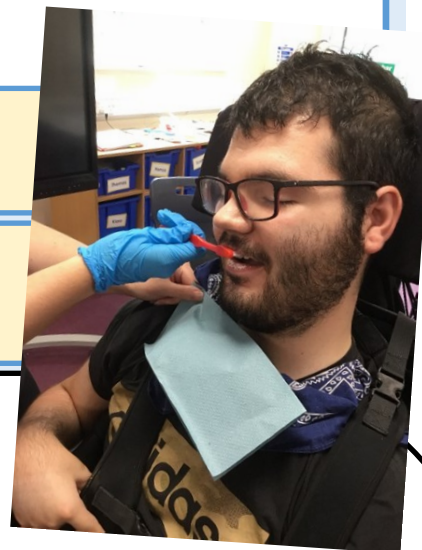
Brandon's dad kindly gave us some great feedback too, saying, "Brandon has his teeth brushed twice a day every day. I can't say he is a massive fan (and we sometimes have to wrestle, lol!) but without fail they are brushed."

Class 5.4

Scott is one of our leavers this year, and loves to talk and ask questions. He was asked to speak with parents and Justin Drew, our Speech and Language Therapist, about the importance of the Brilliant Brushers scheme and how this has helped their children and students in the school. A big thank you to our two parents Mrs Adrian and Mr White, and to Justin (SaLT) for agreeing to be interviewed by Scott – and a huge well done to Scott for thinking about, writing and asking the interview questions.

Scott using his Touchpad Talker to interview parents and Justin.

Scott still brushing on with his red Manchester United



Scott: Why do you let Brilliant Brushers brush your child's teeth? Why don't you let them do it themselves?

Justin Drew: Brushing teeth removes bacteria and improves health

Mrs Adrian: I think the same. My daughter cannot brush her own teeth.

Mr White: My son is not able to clean his teeth. The brilliant brusher programme allows them to be brushed in the day.

Scott: Brilliant Brushers can apparently make everyone's teeth white, but are you sure you trust them?

Justin Drew: Teaching staff have had the training to make sure they brush the teeth in the correct way to maintain and improve the health of the mouth

Mrs Adrian: I trust the teacher. I know that they know her and look after her.

Mr White: I agree. I put trust in the teachers. I know they are with him all day and would not harm or hurt him.

Scott: Justin, why do you think Brilliant Brushers would be good to clean the children's teeth at The Meadows?

Justin Drew: It will help improve the health of the mouth leading to better oral hygiene

Scott: Can any kid at any age stop Brilliant Brushers touching their teeth if they don't want to do it?

Justin Drew: If they do want to, that's ok. The more brushes the better. In school, brushing after food can help remove bacteria in the mouth.

Mrs Adrian: I agree, if my daughter is having a bad day, and she is upset, she doesn't have to have it done. This is extra.

Mr White: That would be ok. I do them in the morning and in the afternoon.

Scott: If your kid does not want their teeth done by professional, then it doesn't matter. What do you think about that?

Justin Drew: I think the more teeth than can be brushed across the day, at least two times, will lead to happy children and families.

Mrs Adrian: The Brilliant Brushers is great for all children with special needs. It is great for their families.

Mr White: I am very happy with the programme. Not all families are able to brush their child's teeth.

From September, more classes will be invited to take part in Brilliant Brushes. Further details to follow soon!

Sports Day

On Thursday 27th June, the school held its annual Sports Day and for the first time in many years, we were fortunate enough to be joined by families who came in to spectate the day. Students took part in a range of activities with their class including relay races, javelin, archery and even an assault course bouncy castle! The sun shone as the classes represented different countries and a brilliant day was had by all!

Well done to the winning teams, Australia, USA and Japan who all received trophies!



Ormiston Forge Award Ceremony

During the Summer Term, three Sixth Form students and one teacher from Ormiston Forge Academy have visited Class 4.6 every Friday. They have worked with our students mainly delivering P.E. activities and these sessions have been amazing. The visitors from Ormiston Forge Academy have developed really positive relationships with all our Meadows students and both sets of students have benefitted greatly from the opportunity to interact with a wider peer group.

On Tuesday 25th June, the students of Class 4.6 and their families were invited to an annual Prize Giving Event, where they received a certificate and a voucher. It was a fantastic event, recognising the partnership between the two schools and celebrating their hard work.



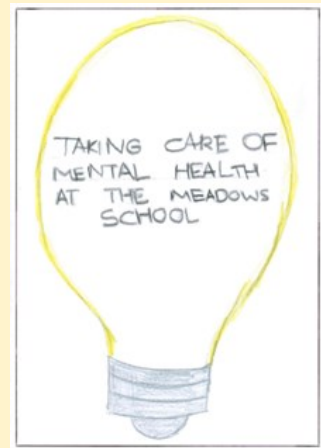
Launch of Student Wellbeing Afternoon

<p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</p>  <p>12 I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously</p>	<p>12 I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously</p> <p>When adults are making decisions that affect me, I have a right to say what I think and be listened to.</p> <p>I have a right for my views to help inform decisions about what happens to me, at home, in school, in my community and in my country.</p> <p>Adults should support me so that I can give my views in a way that is best for me to do so.</p>	<p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</p>  <p>31 I have a right to relax and play</p>	<p>31 I have a right to relax and play</p> <p>I have the right to play, relax, and join in a wide range of cultural, artistic, and other recreational activities.</p> <p>Adults should think about what I need to make sure I have opportunities to play and relax in my local community and should involve me in planning.</p> <p>I have a right to play and be with other children in a safe, supportive, stimulating and stress-free environment.</p>
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This academic year at The Meadows, a number of staff have come together to support student and staff Mental Health and Wellbeing and formed The Meadows Together Team.

Members from the Together Team – Louise and Karla - asked one of our amazingly talented students, Liam, to design and draw a logo to represent Student Health and Wellbeing at The Meadows.

In an interview with Louise and Karla, read what mental health means to him, and what was his inspiration for the logo:



What does Mental Health mean to you?

How you're thinking about things . What you're going to do about it. Things like that.

Why did you choose a lightbulb image?

I saw the image from Google and liked it but I changed the colour and switched it up a little by adding The Meadows School name

How does a lightbulb represent mental health?

Light brings positivity to pure darkness

The Meadows had their first Student Wellbeing Afternoon on Friday 12th July – and it was a huge success! Students were given the opportunity to eat ice cream at the beach, relax and meditate, bounce on the trampoline, have snacks at the cinema, create tealight holders from clay and much, much more. Take a look and see!



Graduation

Where has the year gone?! On Friday 19th July, we wished farewell to 23 students from The Meadows, in readiness to start their new adventures after leaving. All our students started the day with a professional photo in their cap and gown that families could take away and cherish. In the ceremony, happy memories were shared, celebrating the time here at school. Families, staff and students laughed and cried, looking back at the time here at The Meadows. We wish our leavers all the best in their next steps at their colleges, day provision and community settings.

Prom

Following graduation, staff and students dressed to impress and celebrated with an end of year party. As always, we welcomed DJ Brett to get the party started. There were many dance moves on show and shapes being made. For students that wanted a quieter time, we had Hugglepets to provide animal therapy with a selection of animals. Everyone had the chance to have their photo taken, sensible or silly, in the photobooth provided by Snaptastic. For people that wanted to add a bit of colour to the celebration, glitter tattoos brightened up the look and all were cooled off with an ice cream from Tony's Ices.

We all had a great time and are looking forward to next year!

Class 5.5 recently went on a trip to the local Harvester and received some fantastic feedback from the staff at the restaurant. "Your staff were amazing with your students, a credit to you all. Welcome here again at any time. Also your students were fantastic, all well behaved and polite. Team Castlegate!"

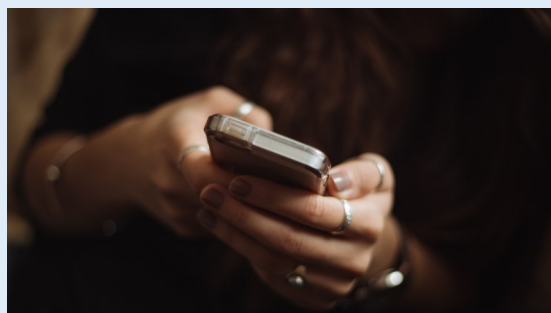


Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

Sextortion

You may have heard in the news that for the first time, the National Crime Agency have issued a warning to all schools about the risks of Sextortion following a big rise in young people being affected by this crime.

Sextortion is essentially when children and young people are forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand (such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card) after an offender has threatened to release nude or semi-nude images of them. This is a form of child sexual abuse.



Financially motivated sexual extortion is usually carried out by organised crime groups (OCGs) based overseas who are typically motivated by money. These groups target all ages and genders however, a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18

Could my child be at risk?

Sadly, it is important to remember that ANY child could be affected and therefore, monitoring their activity online is really important. Children with SEND could also be vulnerable due to perhaps being more trusting of people, believing people when they make threats or try to persuade them or simply not being able to recognise the risks.

What to do if it happens



If this happens to your child, it is important that you DON'T blame them as the offenders prey upon the child's sense of shame. Instead, let us know at school so we can support you and your child. You need to report to the police on 101 as this is a crime. Don't delete messages and images immediately as they could be needed as evidence. You can also report on the CEOP website (www.ceop.police.uk) and can use the Childline Report Remove Tool if you are concerned that images have been sent or posted online.

Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates

Free School Meals – and support over the holidays

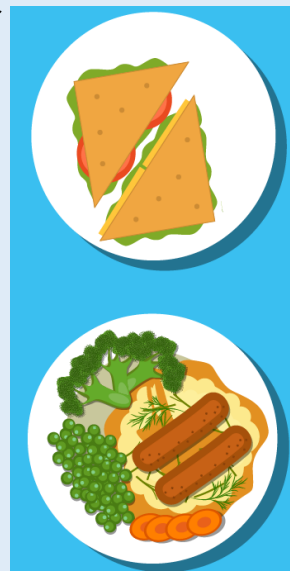
If your child is eligible for free school meals, remember that you may also be eligible for vouchers or financial support to purchase food for your child, over the school holidays. The article below from Money Saving Expert explains:

How to find out if you're eligible for FSM (about halfway down the page) how to apply for funding for food for the school holidays

[Free school meals \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](http://moneysavingexpert.com)

Remember, if you do find you're struggling financially over the school holidays, you don't have to suffer in silence! You can find your local food bank here:

www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk or here: [The Trussell Trust - Stop UK Hunger](http://www.trusselltrust.org)



Are you aware of Sibs?



Sibs is a national charity working to support the siblings of children with a disability. Their website is www.sibs.org.uk and they have some fantastic advice and resources.

You can click on the button below to find advice for parents and carers on how to support their child as well as a helpful downloadable booklet:

[Top tips for supporting your sibling child - Sibs](#)

Remember: The Pastoral Team at The Meadows are here to help you. If you would like some support or are concerned about your child's safety, give us a call on 0121 5697089.

During the summer holidays when the school is closed, support is still available to parents and carers. Please see poster below:

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS

When school is closed, there is still support available to you for a range of issues! See below for contact details and links.



CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

- Sandwell MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub): 0121 569 3100
- Birmingham MASH 0121 303 1888
- Dudley MASH 0300 555 0050
- Walsall MASH 0300 555 2866
- Wolverhampton MASH 01902 555392
- Staffordshire MASH 0300 111 8007

You can also google these and find their websites. Contact the MASH for the area the child you are worried about, lives in.

OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

- Black Country Women's Aid 0121 553 0090
- Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid 0808 800 0028
- RSVP (Rape and Sexual Violence Project) 0121 643 4136
- Galop (Domestic Abuse charity for LGBTQ+) 0800 999 5428
- To find your local NHS services (e.g. GP, Sexual Health Services, Urgent Care Centre) www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/services-near-you/
- CEOP (if you are concerned your child is being groomed or sexually abused online) – www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
- Forced Marriage Helpline 0207 080151
- NSPCC FGM Helpline – 0800 028 3550
- Advice around Online Safety for your child:
– www.internetmatters.org/
– Childline Report Remove Tool (if your child has sent a nude or semi-nude image of themselves)

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – 0800 144 8848
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – Debt advice and support: www.capuk.org
- National Debtline 0808 808 4000
- Money Wellness 0161 518 8282
- Food banks – The Trussell Trust www.trusselltrust.org
- Warm Banks – www.warmspaces.org
- Support regarding housing and homelessness issues: www.england.shelter.org.uk
- Homeless support within Sandwell 0121 368 1166 (option 2).

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- Samaritans 116 123
- Carers UK 0808 808 7777
- MIND 0300 123 3393 (infoline)
- Young Minds
- Childline 0800 1111
- SIBS UK (support for siblings of children with disabilities)
- CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) – Suicide Prevention 0800 58 58 58
- Sandwell CAMHS 0121 612 6620

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Police – 101 (for non-emergency) 999 (emergency)
- Fire Service – 999
- Ambulance – 999
- NHS 111 for non-emergency medical advice
- RSVP (Rape and Sexual Violence Project)
- Remember you can report a crime using the chat function on the West Midlands Police website



Staff Updates

With the end of the school year upon us, we must unfortunately bid farewell to a number of staff, leaving for pastures new. We wish our LSPs, Kerrie Cheatle and Georgia Price and our HLTA, Leanne Norton, the best of luck in their next ventures and say a big thank you for all their hard work during their time here at The Meadows!

We also wish the best of luck to Lauren Bicket, Stacey Mountford, Sam Edwards and Georgia Barham, who will all be going on maternity leave in September.

In the new school year, we look forward to welcoming a number of new staff to the team; Alice Pickering and Emma Richards-Higgs, as fixed-term teachers, and Natasha Morris as an LSP. We also extend our welcome to Angela Cooksey, who joined us this half term as an LSP.



Schoolcomms

As you may be aware the school is going paperless. can we kindly request if you have not done so already to access School Gateway App on the app store and use the payment system.

If you have any issues please contact the school office.

We will be holding a coffee morning in September, for any parents that wish to get help and navigate the app.

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

Term Dates 2024-25

Autumn Term 2024

Inset (Training) Days: Monday, 2nd September 2024

Tuesday, 3rd September 2024

Students Return: **Wednesday, 4th September 2024**

Half Term: Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Students Return: **Monday 4th November 2024**

Last Day of Term: Friday 20th December 2024

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term 2025

Students Return: **Monday, 6th January 2025**

Inset (Training) Day: Friday, 24th January 2025

Half Term: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

Students Return: **Monday 24th February 2025**

Students Last Day: Thursday, 10th April 2025

Inset (Training) Day: Friday, 11th April 2025

Easter Holidays: Monday, 14th April 2025 to Friday, 25th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Students Return: **Monday, 28th April 2025**

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025

Students Last Day: Friday 23rd May 2025

Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Students Return: **Monday 2nd June 2025**

Inset (Training) Day: Monday, 23rd June 2025

Last Day of Term: Monday, 21st July 2025