



# The Meadows School

## October Newsletter 2023



### Headteacher Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the first half term!

We have achieved so much since September, and it is great seeing the children doing well in their classes and enjoying their learning.

Highlights this term have included:

Students campaigning for school council elections which have taken place this week. At The Meadows, our School Council is an integral part of our whole school and local community. A new school council is elected every year which allows our students to experience the full democratic process which is an important part of British Values. Our newly chosen School Council Representatives are: Alistair (4.6), Scott (5.4), Demi-Leigh (4.6), Liam E (4.6), Liam W (5.4), Marks (4.6), Luke (3.7), Brooklynn (3.4), Nathan (5.6)

Our Student Council meets every half term to:

- Update peers and highlight upcoming events.
- Celebrate successes.
- Bring ideas for improvements.
- Speak to visitors.
- Represent the school at various events etc.

This half term, we have also had representatives from Trinity College visiting the school and leading short presentations about their college to some of our Key Stage 3 classes. Students across all Key Stages have also enjoyed visiting the Queen Alexandra College (QAC) to gain an insight of the provision and offer.



We are also delighted to share with you that we have been awarded the first stage of UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), Bronze: Rights Committed. We are always striving to create the best possible learning environment for our children and young people and this achievement shows that we are committed to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children, and young people to respect the rights of others in school.

We have an action plan to ensure that:

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) underpins our values and decision making in school.
- The whole school learns about the CRC and respects the rights of others.
- Children are empowered to become active learners and active local and global citizens.

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights, and we will be joining a community of over 4,500 schools in the UK working on the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Right Respecting Schools across the country have reported that the Award has many positive impacts including improved relationships, wellbeing, and self-esteem, leading to better attendance and improved learning.

You can find out more about UNICEF, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Rights Respecting Schools Award from the RRSA website: [www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa)

We will be using the RRSA logo on our letters and will keep you informed about our rights respecting journey through our website, newsletters, and events.

We hope that you will further enjoy some of the highlights further shared with you within this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for a great start to the year and for your continued support. I wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to Autumn Term 2 with children back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours Sincerely

Theodora Papaspyrou

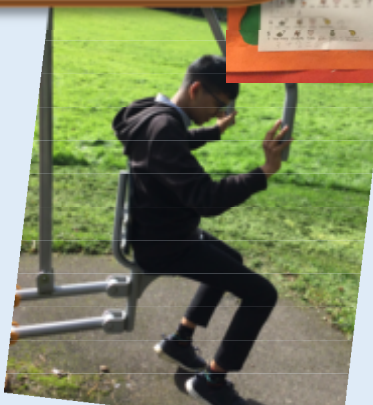
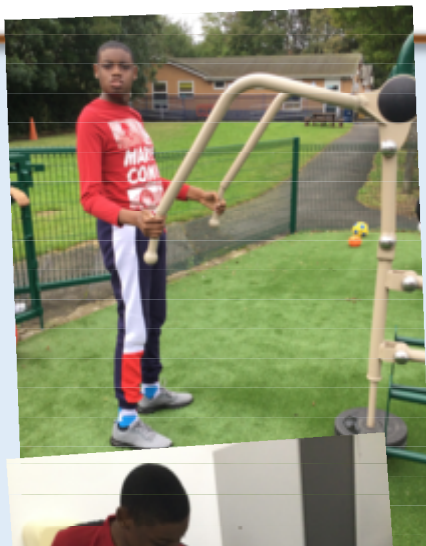
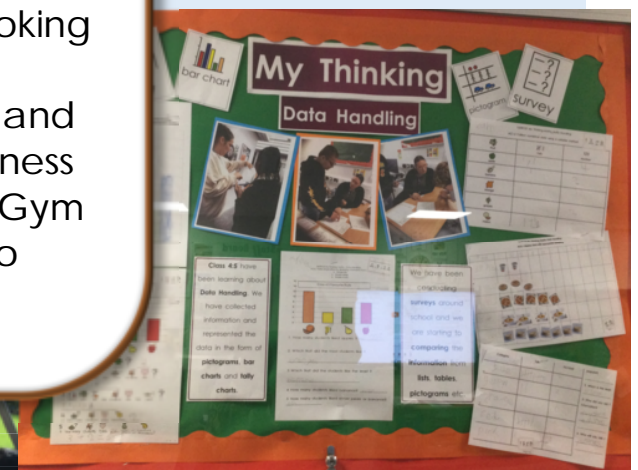
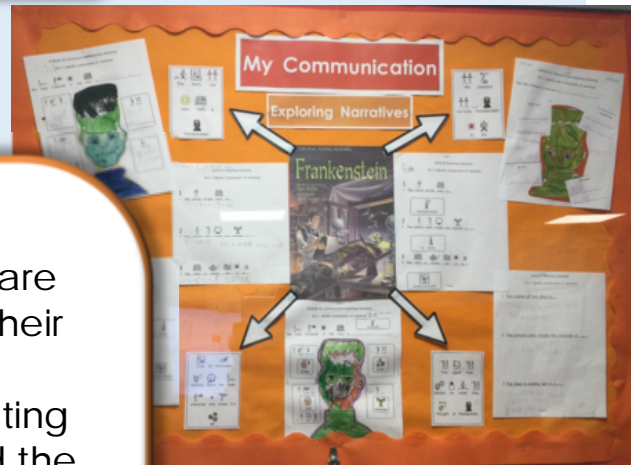
Acting Headteacher



# What's been happening?

## Class 4.5

This has been a fantastic start to the new academic year in Class 4:5. In English, they are looking at the text "Frankenstein", creating their own version in Art and describing the main character. In Maths, they have been collecting data and carrying out surveys in school and the local park. They created bar charts, pictograms and compared some data. In the Basic Cooking sessions, they have made dishes such as vegetable noodles, pasta bake, pitta pizza and chocolate cheesecake. To increase their fitness levels, they have been visiting the Outdoor Gym and Fitness Suite every week. They have also been navigating around school safely.





## Class 5.2



Class 5.2 have resumed their community visits and are developing our skills socially, safety in the community and communication.



## Class 5.4

Class 5.4 are raising money for the British Legion as part of community action and helping charities. With this class project, they will be going to the market to sell at the pop-up shop. Meadows students will also have the opportunity to buy poppy related items with all money going to the British Legion. When completed, they will share this with students and families. They can make to order.



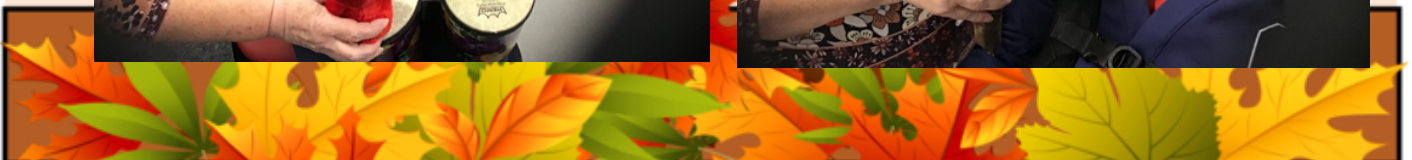


## Class 4.3



4:3 have been working on "The Silent Owl" Sensory story. The picture is showing the students exploring the various animals in the story.

Everyone engaged, explored, anticipated and participated in all sessions this half term.





## Parents/Carers Evening

A reminder that this term's Parents/Carers Evening is on Thursday 9th November from 3pm-5pm. In order to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, please return the slip attached to the letter sent on Wednesday 18th October. If you require a new letter, please contact the school office on 0121 569 7080.



## Parent/Carer 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.

Wednesday 15th November—Parents/Carers Social  
Wednesday 13th December—Parents/Carers Social

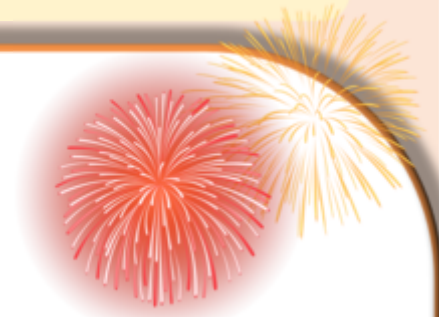




# Safeguarding & Pastoral Updates



It finally feels as though Autumn is here and there are of course lots of things for us to be mindful of, when keeping our children safe.



Firstly, of course this time of year brings Bonfire Night and about a month's time, Diwali. Both of these are special opportunities to build memories and of course, our children may be drawn towards fireworks, fairgrounds and seasonal snacks.

Click on the link below for some tips for staying safe when using fireworks.

[Firework safety advice hub | Safe fireworks for families \(capt.org.uk\)](#)

If your child is a fan, here's a helpful Fireman Sam poster that reminds them of how to stay safe:

[Fireman Sam Fireworks Safety FINAL nouri.pdf \(capt.org.uk\)](#)

Consider swapping out sparklers (which can get as hot as 1000 degrees!) for glowsticks.

Remember, if you enjoy party games to think about choking habits – there was a very sad case in the news recently whereby a woman in Wales died after choking on marshmallows, and games such as apple-bobbing can bring a risk of drowning.

Additionally, your child may enjoy Halloween and trick-or-treating. If you feel it is safe for them to go, try these tips to keep them safe:

- Make sure their costume is safe and comfortable for them to wear
- Consider planning with friends to go to each other's houses so you know what to expect when you get there.
- Don't let them go alone in case something happens and they need your help. Consider joining in the fun and going round with them, or following at a short distance.
- Check any sweets and treats they are given to make sure they are safe and appropriate.



Remember that sadly, many Halloween 'costumes' feature negative depictions of disabilities (e.g. 'Zombies' walking with a limp' or people wearing fake scars to look more scary) which may feel hurtful to your child. Ensure they feel able to chat through these feelings with you and avoid minimising their feelings.

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You may be super organised and have already started thinking about Christmas and/or Diwali presents. Remember, if you do buy technology -toys for your child, to ensure you have parental restrictions and safety settings on them BEFORE you give them to your child.

You can find out how to do this here: [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

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Finally, it has been a difficult year in world events what with the Ukraine invasion and now the Israel/Hamas conflict. Depending upon your child's needs and interests, you may find that they have overheard conversations or spotted upsetting images and content on the news.

When children ask us questions about conflict and war, it can be hard to know how to respond, especially for children with additional needs.

Why not click on the link below, from UNICEF that offers a few hints and tips for how to support and reassure your child:

[How to talk to your children about conflict and war | UNICEF Parenting](#)

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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.





## School Communication

As you may be aware, all lunch payments and consent for trips are now being made using the School Gateway App. Please can we ask you to download to 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](http://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload)**



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

If you require any support in downloading or accessing School Gateway, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 0121 569 7080.



**A reminder that we are a nut-free school.  
Please do not send your child in with anything  
that may contain nuts.**



Please try and label your child's clothing, particularly coats, jackets and things they are likely to be getting changed in and out of.

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

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



# Term Dates

## Autumn Term 2023

Half Term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Students Return: **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Last Day of Term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Christmas holiday: Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

## Spring Term 2024

Inset (Training) Day: Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Students Return: **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Half Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Students Return: **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Students Last Day: Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Easter Holidays: Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Summer Term 2024

Inset (Training) Day: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Students Return: **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Students Last Day: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Students Return: **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

Last Day of Term: Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

