

EASTER NEWSLETTER 2026



HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has been filled with rich learning opportunities and meaningful experiences for our students. It has been wonderful to see them engaging with enthusiasm, building confidence and demonstrating resilience in their learning every day. From creative classroom projects to personal milestones, every achievement—big or small—has been a testament to their hard work and determination.

Ofsted visited us and witnessed some of the amazing work being done at The Meadows School. They met students, staff, governors, and parents and were very complimentary regarding their interactions. We will share the final report soon.

We have also embraced important cultural and religious celebrations. Students enjoyed learning about and celebrating Holi, the festival of colour, where themes of joy, renewal, and togetherness were explored. Saint David's Day provided a valuable opportunity to learn about Welsh heritage, culture and traditions. Most recently, we recognised Eid, with staff, students and families successfully observing Ramadan.

Our school community once again showed its generosity on Red Nose Day, where students and staff engaged in various activities to support an important cause. It was great to see such enthusiasm and competitive spirit across both sites.

This term, we have hosted a number of parent workshops. These sessions have been invaluable in strengthening the partnership between home and school. Your engagement, feedback, and willingness to collaborate make a significant difference to the progress and wellbeing of our students. We truly appreciate the time and effort you invest in supporting your children and our wider school community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers. Your continued support, encouragement, and engagement are vital to the success of our school. Together, we are building a supportive community where every child can flourish.

I would also like to recognise the outstanding dedication of our staff team. Their commitment, care, and professionalism ensure that every student is supported to thrive in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

A special mention must go to one of our students, who showed exceptional kindness and courage this term. During a medical situation involving her peers, she remained calm and supportive, helping staff and offering reassurance to her friends. Her actions were truly commendable and reflect the values we strive to instil in all our students.

We look forward to another exciting term ahead.

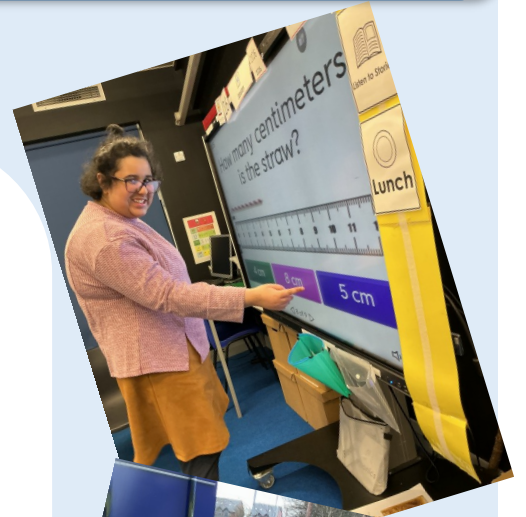
Kindest regards,
James Horspool.
Headteacher.



What's been happening?

Class 4:7

The students in Class 4:7 have had an amazing Spring term. In Maths, they are currently working on measuring length. In Cooking, they have made dishes such as beans on toast, Angel Delight trifle and a sandwich toastie. It is fabulous to see their progress in following simple, adapted recipes. They have been learning the game of football in P.E, working on their team playing skills and tackling the ball. In Science, they had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Think Tank Museum in Birmingham to participate in a Luminous Light show, the students engaged really well during the show and in the museum. They also have upcoming trips to the Jamia Masjid Mosque to support the R.E unit of work-Ramadan and Tividale Park, which links to their Health and Wellbeing unit of work on ways to keep healthy.



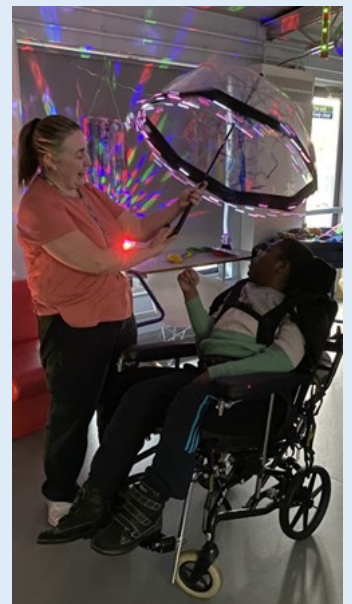
Wings and Wheels in Class 3.6



Lots of concentration in 5.8!



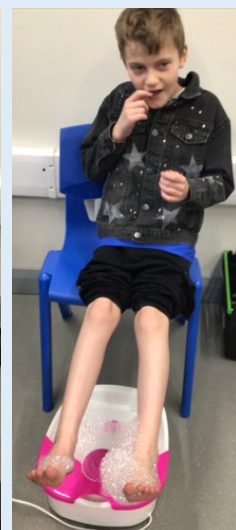
Frolicsome 4.5 freely favouring full sensory fun!



Edible face painting in 3.11

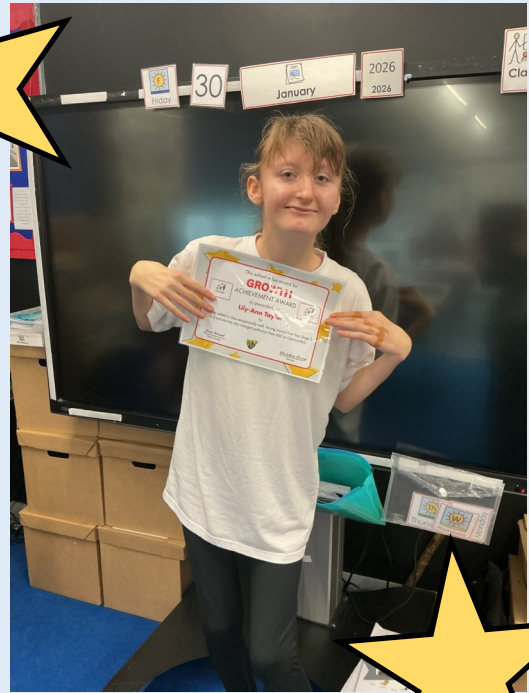


Class 3.9 having fun, relaxing and exploring with bubbles



Autumn Achievement Stars

Every term, teachers have the opportunity to nominate members of their class who have gone above and beyond in their achievements in school; whether that be demonstrating great progress in a particular skill or for their general attitude whilst at school. Well done to all the students who received an award this term!



Great Birmingham Run Fundraising

Leanne Carey is one of our fabulous parents who will be running the Great Birmingham Run in a couple of months time. Leanne and her family have chosen The Meadows PTFA charity to raise money to support the school in funding additional opportunities for our youngsters.

Please find the link to her fundraising page: <https://ajbellgreatbirminghamrun2026.enthuse.com/pf/leanne-carey>

If you are able to support Leanne to reach her target we would be very grateful. Thank you Leanne, we appreciate you choosing us as your chosen charity and we wish you the best of luck!

Temple Shop



The students in 5.7 visited the temple shop as part of their shopping topic. This gave us the opportunity to practice road safety skills, communication skills and using money. Every single student was an asset to our school and demonstrated excellent manners and behaviour whilst visiting the shop.

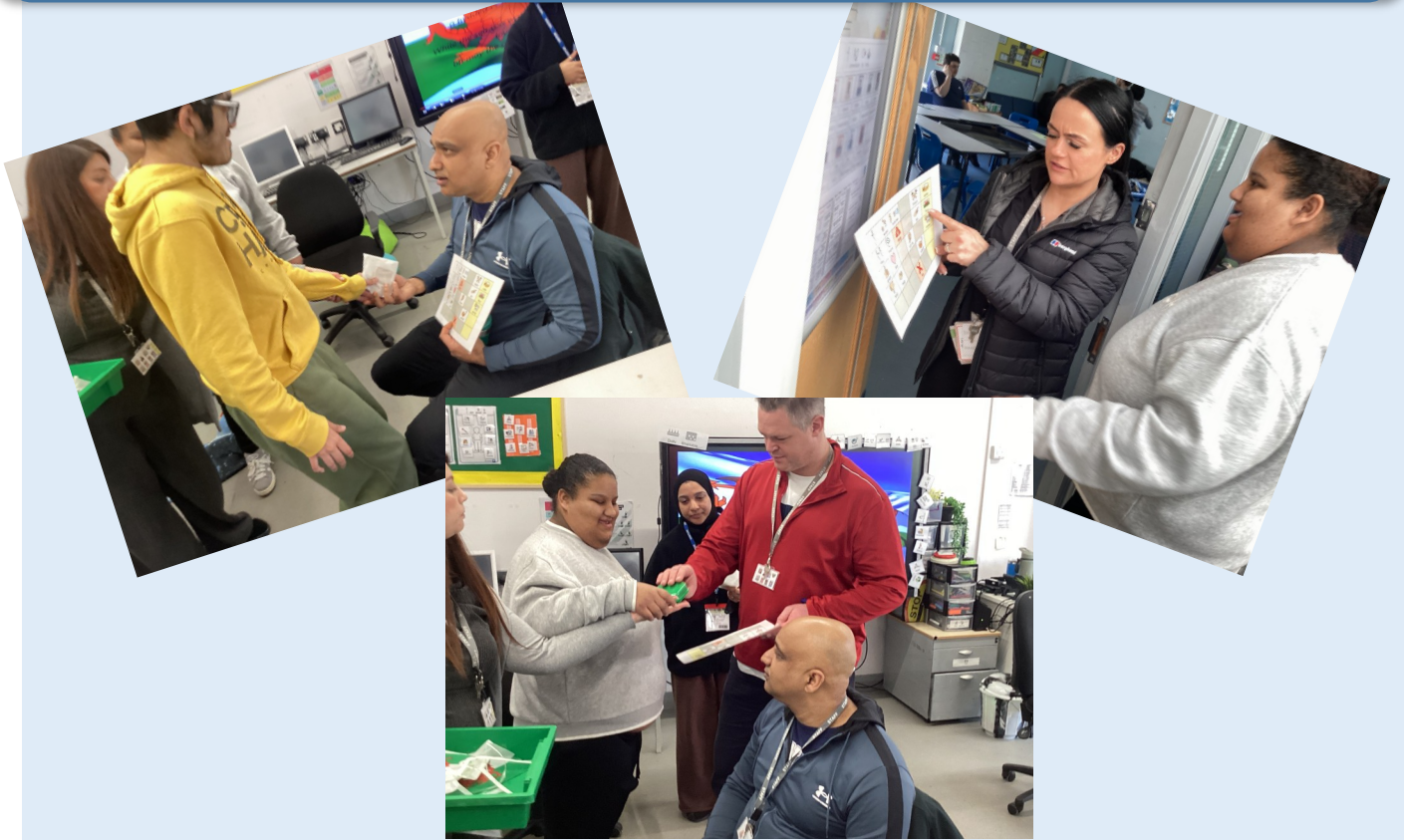
Holi Festival



We celebrated the Holi festival across school.

Class 5.7 listened to some Indian music and danced along before exploring a colourful sensory tray where they enjoyed mixing, scooping, pouring and sprinkling colourful oats together.

St Davids Day Celebrations



The students completed 'random acts of Welshness' to celebrate St David's Day, They travelled around the classes and offered staff a choice of gift. They gave out Welsh cakes, Welsh flags and Welsh songs. This was an opportunity to practice communicating with a range of people across school and to learn about a different culture.

A shout out to one of our students who was calm and quick thinking in a medical emergency.

Well done, a real hero!



Red Nose Day Celebrations

Our school came together in fantastic spirit to celebrate Red Nose Day, with both staff and students invited to wear red or dress in their craziest costumes. The two sites went head-to-head in a series of fun competitions, including egg and spoon races and space hopper races, creating plenty of laughter and excitement throughout the day. One standout moment saw a student bravely challenge the headteacher to a Comic Relief quiz—and win convincingly! Alongside a successful morning bake sale and your generous donations, we are delighted to share that we raised over £200 as a school. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported such a worthwhile cause.



Functional Reflex Therapy

Functional Reflex Therapy (FRT) was developed by Lorraine Senior, a UK based reflexologist who, as a teacher for over 20 years, supported children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families. Over a number of years Lorraine delivered regular reflexology as timetabled therapy in the education system, in residential environments, and for a local children's charity.



The routine combines easy-to-learn reflexology techniques, empowering caregivers with positive touch skills to promote calmness and relaxation for children and adults, delivered at a time that suits you.

A unique feature is the rainbow mat, which guides each movement and may offer reassurance to those receiving the therapy. Additionally, objects of reference, symbols, or photographs can be incorporated into the FRT toolkit promoting more meaningful communication and fun.

A number of our students have been given sessions from one of our Assistant Headteachers, who is also a trained specialist. On 10th February, we held a workshop for parents who took part in training; learning a bit of theory, coffee, biscuits and a chat (a vital part of any workshop!) and practical corner with reclining chairs, stools and a few giggles!



CONGRATULATIONS! Some of the lovely parents who took part in the training with their well-deserved certificates.

"Was a really lovely session" was the feedback from one of our lovely parents who attended the **Functional Reflex Therapy Rainbow Relaxation Workshop for Parents** this term.

Safeguarding Updates and Information

It feels like we've only just had Christmas and yet by the time you read this, You may have been Celebrating EID Al-Fitr or be looking forward to Easter. In which case, Eid Mubarak and a Happy Easter

As a little gift, we wanted to make you aware of some fantastic free resources from the NSPCC to support parents and carers with Conversations about puberty and sexual development. The resources are designed specifically for children who have a learning disability and include 9 books for children that use lots of helpful symbols to aid learning about feelings, relationships and their body.

These can be a great place to start if you are unsure of what your child might need or what they already know.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/navigating-puberty-sexual-development>

Whether you believe in the Easter Bunny or not, you may enjoy partaking in the eating of Easter eggs. Remember that just like grapes, some of the smaller Easter eggs that come in multipacks for example can be a choking hazard due to the size and shape of them. As delicious as they are, some are shaped with the perfect dimension for blocking your child's windpipe. In which case, we'd suggest:

- Avoiding them completely
- Cutting them into halves or quarters
- Choosing much bigger eggs that can be broken down into smaller chunks

Grok

We have mentioned before about the risk of Grok but the Easter holidays may be a good idea to "Spring Clean" your images online– or more specifically the images you may have posted of your child/ren online.

Grok is the AI Function on X {the platform that used to be called Twitter} and has been in the headlines due to the unregulated ability for users to create pornographic and/or violent images of people without their consent. Users have been able to take strangers photo and ask Grok to "make them naked" or "cover them in bruises and make them look like they are begging for their life". Its terrifying stuff so it's worth checking which photos are online of you or your child–ant crucially, who has access to them .As always, if you are worried about your child in any way or need some additional support, remember to contact the Pastoral team on 0121 569 7089



Term Dates

Students Last Day - Thursday 26th March 2026

Inset Day - Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holidays - Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026

Students Return - Monday 13th April 2026

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May 2026

Inset Day - Tuesday 5th May 2026

Polling Day at Connor Road - Thursday 7th May (Connor Road Closed)

Students Return - Wednesday 6th May 2026

Students Last Day - Friday 22nd May 2026

Half term - Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Students Return - Monday 1st June 2026

