

Christmas Newsletter 2020

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

After a challenging start for everyone, the countdown to Christmas has begun and it has been a final week of fun filled festivities here at The Meadows School. I would like to reflect on some of our fantastic achievements from both our students and staff.

I do hope that you are able to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones this year, and on behalf of myself, the school and our Governors, I would like to thank our students for their continued hard work and positivity, and to our families for the ongoing support and encouragement during this difficult period. You have been so understanding and flexible in your approach when there have been enforced changes during this time. You have all been amazing, it is heartening to see us all working as one community.

I would like to send a **BIG** thank you to West Bromwich Albion FC for the hot food and food parcels they have provided for our students, and Five Star Taxis Company for delivering them. Nisa Local on Londonderry Road, Oldbury for their generous donation, Full Support Group for the facemasks and Green Destination Taxis Company for the eight sensory packs. And one of our families for helping us improve our sensory equipment and area. Thank you so much for your generosity, it has been overwhelming.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their continual dedication, commitment and the energy they always give to the hard work they do.

I wish you all a happy and restful festive period.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Term Dates 2020-2021

Last Day of Term:

Friday 18th
December 2020

Inset (Training)

Day: Monday 4th
January 2021

Students Return:

Tuesday 5th
January 2021

Students' Last Day:

Friday 12th
February 2021

Parliament Week @ The Meadows

Each class held its own vote on something that they felt was important to them. Here are some of the classes ideas.



Drama Therapy

Class 3:3 were involved in 'Drama Therapy' with Alex.

Great performances!



**Student
Council**

The Student Council made thank you boxes and sent them to the doctors and nurses at the QE Hospital to say thank you to the NHS staff for their amazing work and dedication.

The Meadows staff kindly donated hand cream, toiletries and chocolate to fill four shoeboxes.

The staff at the hospital were very grateful and especially enjoyed eating the chocolates to 'get them through' their night shifts!



Book Sale – The Student Council held a mini book sale with books donated by Lalli & Co Solicitors. They raised £35 to spend on new resources.

Two councillors sold poppies to staff and the whole school. We observed the minute silence in honour of all the people who have fought in wars.

What's been going on in school?

Swimming Sessions

Some of our students have made fantastic progress in their swimming sessions.

Brandon walked up the steps to exit the pool with a little assistance. We are hoping that this will lead to him being able to do this independently over time.



Mehd swam confidently on his tummy with assistance and hopefully will soon be able to do this with just his armbands and vocal guidance.

Maisy adores the water and enjoys floating. She has shown more interest in the light show and interacted with it and us more, responding to our voices and laughing with us during her water sessions.



Joey is always happy and relaxed with the water being trickled over his body. He has shown less anticipation when the water falls onto his skin.

Super Swimming Everyone!

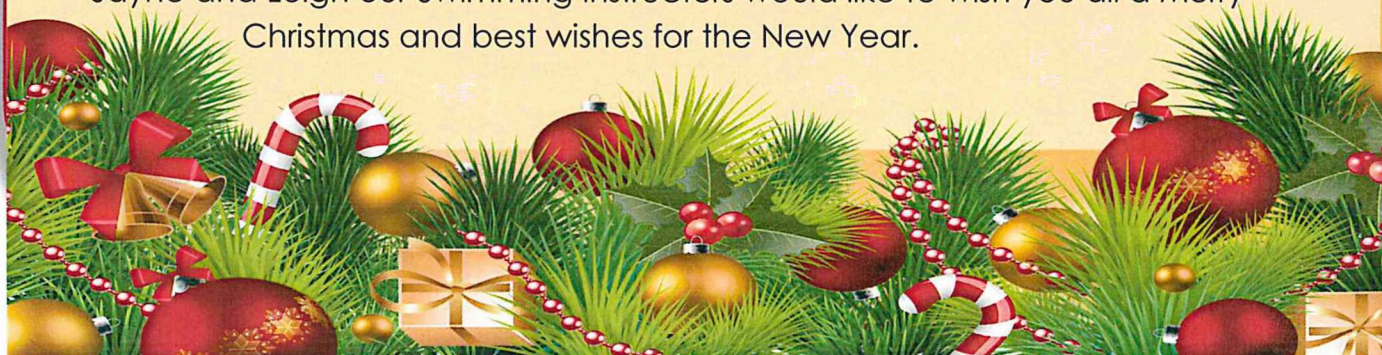
Prior to Sarah's swimming sessions, she was very excited and over enthused about the pool, but since having extra sessions she has relaxed and become at ease, making more progress with walking around the pool and exploring the area independently.



Bradley followed our hands moving towards him and where the water would be trickled onto his body with his eyes. He has accepted the feel of our fingers on his skin. Its lovely to see Bradley extremely relaxed and enjoying the water.

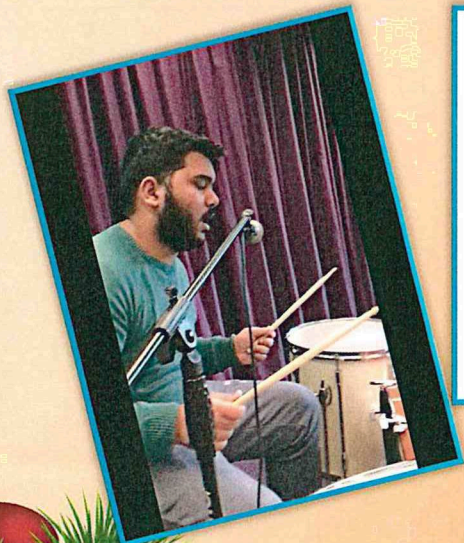
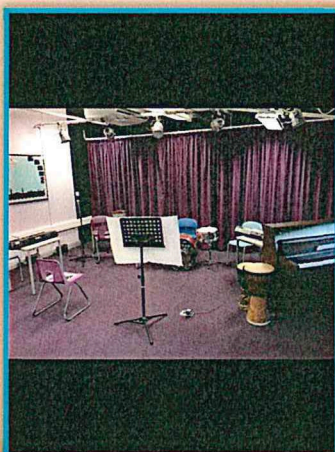
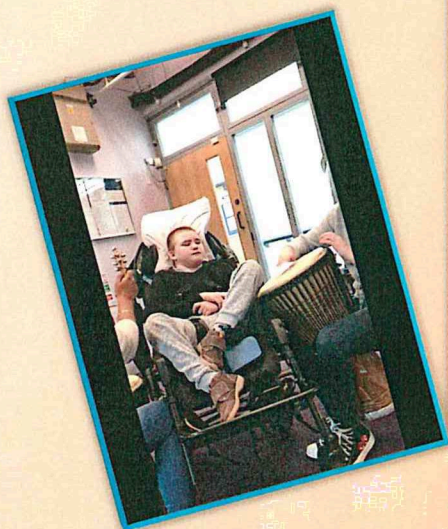


Jayne and Leigh our Swimming Instructors would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



Open Orchestra

Open Orchestra has been a great success for the students to participate in music sessions. The students have made a great progress in multiple areas of their EHCPs. They have gained experience in conducting their own music sessions and looked at different features of music which also linked with the curriculum. Whilst in their sessions the students had lots of smiles, giggles and fun making a great environment for learning.

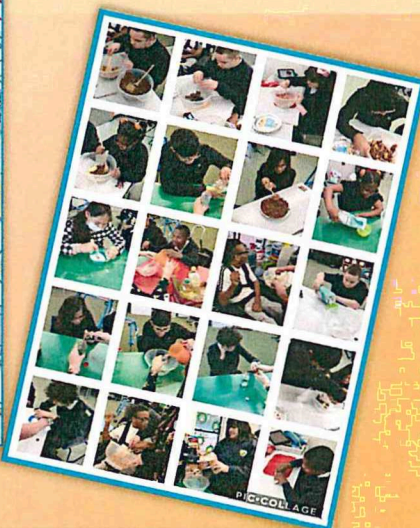
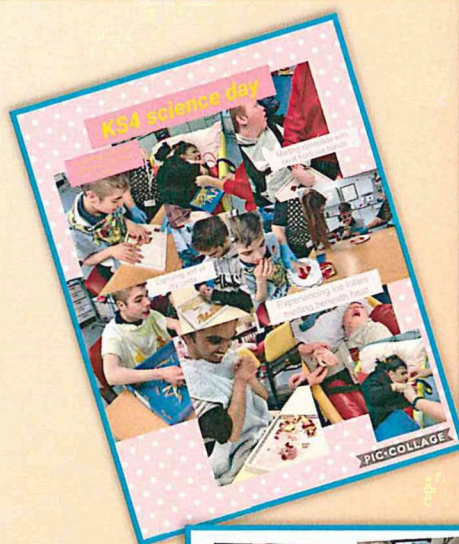


'Let the music begin!'

What's been going on in school?

KS4 Science Day

On Wednesday 2nd December, students from KS4 took part in a special Science Day. They engaged in various experiments. All students had been learning about different materials and their properties during the Science Theme Day. We looked at the 3 different areas: Changing States, Irreversible Changes and Reversible Changes. We explored solids and liquids - gloop and other interesting things. We watched the coke and mentos experiment, the students showing great anticipation. We watched lollipops melt and chocolate solidify, which really engaged us. All students had lots of fun, it was a very exciting day, full of lots of learning opportunities.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Everywhere you go...

Staff from 3:4, 4:3 and 5:1 decorated the corridor in a 'Christmas Sensory Theme', for the students to enjoy and feel the different textures.



'Walking in a winter wonderland!'



Virtual Christmas Enterprise Week

This year our Christmas Fayre was delivered through an Enterprise Week that comprised of our very own 'click and collect' virtual network. Students from all classes worked together to plan, make and sell a product online/mail order. They worked extremely hard in making, organising and delivering the goods to designated outdoor areas around the school. There were various goods sold from handmade craft gifts to delicious 'hot chocolate cones'. Thank you to all our outstanding staff and students for an enjoyable and very well organised week of 'clicking and collecting'.

Class 3:1

Class 3:1 were selling Light Up Bottles and Marshmallow Snowmen.

Amazing job, well done!

Class 3:2

Class 3:2 were selling Filled Baubles.

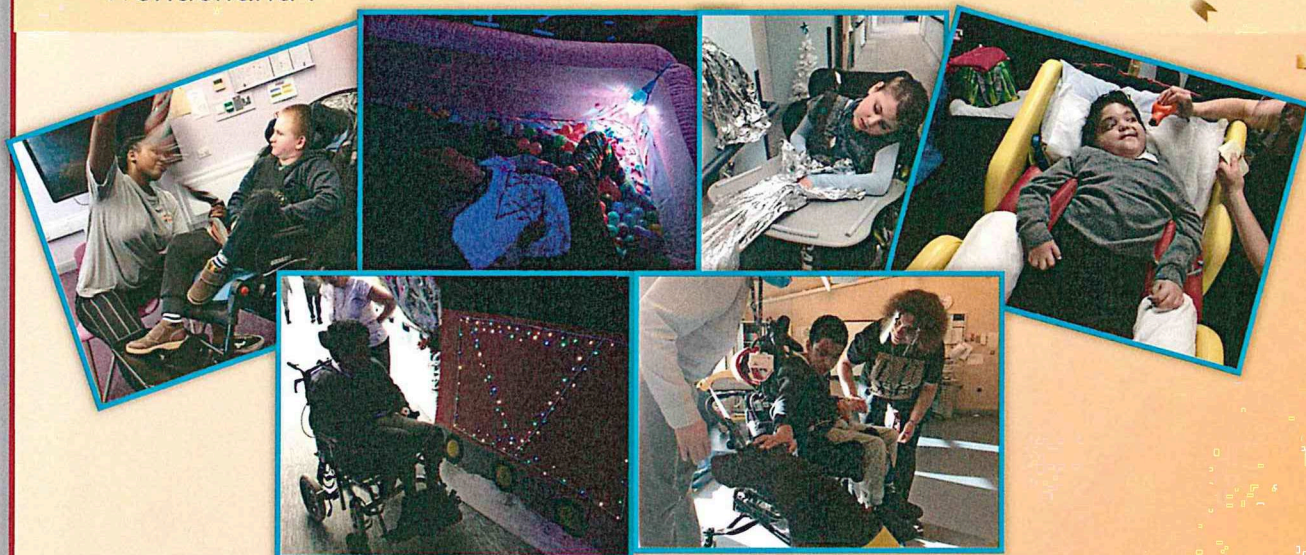


Class 3:3

Class 3:3 were engaged in making 'Salt Dough Christmas Tree' decorations in preparation for the Christmas Virtual Fayre.

Class 3:4

Class 3:4 had enjoyed different activities and experiences this term, with visits from both Open Theatre and Simba, our very own therapy dog. Class 3:4 also participated in the celebrations for Christmas, by experiencing our 'Festive Winter Wonderland'.



Class 3:5 were selling Gonk Christmas Tree Decorations.

Class 3:5

What wonderful creative people we have at the Meadows!

Class 3:6

Class 3:6 were selling Hot-Choc Christmas Cones.

Class 3:7

Class 3:7 were selling Personalised Tree Decorations they enjoyed painting and decorating lolly sticks to create their decorations.



Virtual Christmas Enterprise Week continued...

Class 3:8

Class 3:8 were selling Reindeer Finger Print Christmas Card.



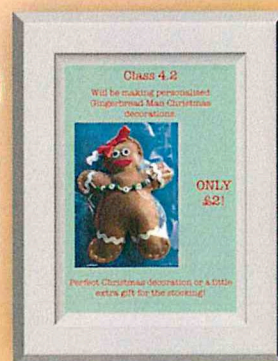
Class 4:1

Class 4:1 were selling Christmas Samosas and dip.



Class 4:2

Class 4:2 were selling sewn Gingerbread Tree Decorations.



Class 4:3



Class 4:3 were selling Christmas Choccies.

"Absolutely scrumptious!"



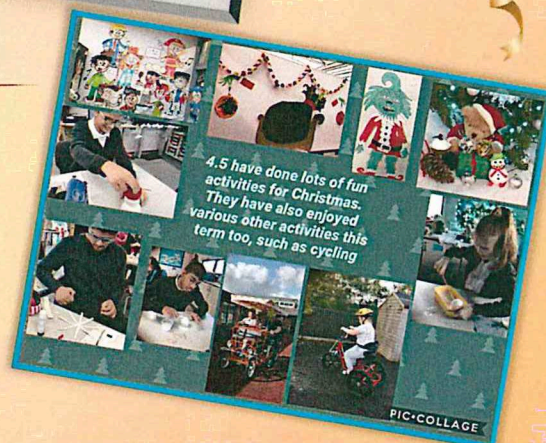
Class 4:4

Class 4:4 were selling Pine Cone Christmas Tree Ornaments.



Class 4:5

Class 4:5 were selling various Christmas Tree Decorations. They also have been doing lots of other fun activities for Christmas and enjoyed learning and experiencing how to cycle.



Class 5:1 were selling Decorative Snowmen.

Class 5:1

Well done everyone!

Class 5:2

Class 5:2 were selling Pine Cone Wreaths.



Class 5:3 were selling Christmas Bags.

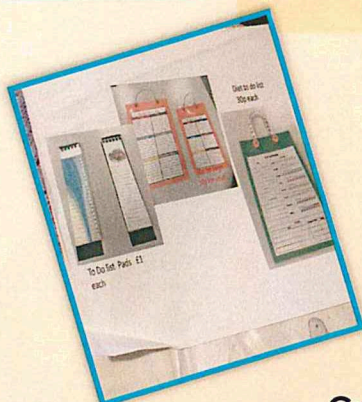
Class 5:3



Virtual Christmas Enterprise Week continued...

Class 5:4

Class 5:4 made 'To Do Lists' and 'Personalised Hand Sanitiser Bottles'.



Great work everyone!

Class 5:5

Class 5:5 made Christmas Calendars.



Festive Christmas Extravaganza

This year the staff at the Meadows took part in a Festive Christmas Extravaganza organised by Kerry Small, LSP. The lucky winner needed to receive a card with a sparkly gold star or a sparkly snowflake on it. The winner was Fay Bedford from Pastoral. Well done Fay!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December, we were very proud to take part in our Christmas Jumper Day. This year rather than raising money for a local charity, we donated food and toiletries to a local food bank. Class 4:2 'helping hands' worked really hard this term to organise the food given. All of the donations were very much appreciated due to the current situation and will be extremely helpful within the community. Thank you all for your contributions.



Father Christmas came to town...

On Tuesday 15th December, Father Christmas came to visit us from the North Pole! He's made his list, he's checking it twice, he's going to find out who's naughty or nice. Father Christmas came to town...



Announcements

Interested in joining our PTA?

We are very keen to re-establish the school PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and are looking for enthusiastic and proactive parents and carers who can offer time and support to our students. This is an exciting opportunity to help the needs of our students. If you are interested in joining or would like any information about this opportunity, please contact the Pastoral Team on our school's number - 0121 5697080.

Interested in becoming a Parent Governor?

Do you currently have a child or children in our school?
Have you an open and enquiring mind?
Are you able to show a willingness to listen and make informed judgements?
Are you able to work well with others?
Are you interested in education generally and our school in particular?
Do you have a desire to play a part in improving our school?
Are you willing to give your time to attend meetings, training courses and visit our school to talk to staff, pupils and parents?
Are you available during school hours to get to know the team?

If the answer is **YES**, then you are the very person we are looking for to become a Parent Governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.

Being a Parent Governor can bring great satisfaction and opportunities of making a difference to the effective running of our school.

All our Governors work as a team, in contributing knowledge and expertise to making collective decisions for our school. Being a Governor you acquire transferable skills and experience that can benefit you both personally and professionally.

If you are interested in joining us or would like any further information about this opportunity, please contact our school's number - 0121 5697080 or email us at headteacher@themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk.



Important Information

Music Mark School

We are delighted to inform you that our school has been awarded as a 'Music Mark School' in recognition for the positive approach to music across the school and being involved in engagements with SIPS Music & Arts Service. The school will be eligible for a number of benefits including a website login to access hundreds of free resources. This will help to improve student wellbeing, listening and focus. We look forward to using the new resources, as a 'musical school' is always a happy school with a positive welcoming atmosphere and high expectations.

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to one of our families for their generous donation to help support our school and students in their learning experience. The generous offer has made a difference to our Sensory Area where we have been able to improve our sensory equipment. Here are some examples of the equipment being used by the students.



Staff Updates

We would like to congratulate Ariane Parcell for successfully completing her 'Newly Qualified Teacher' year and Stacey Mountford in gaining her 'Qualified Teacher Status'. Both our staff members have worked incredibly hard and shown a massive commitment to the school and their students.

Congratulations to Chris Coombes, Georgia Barham, Radeah Fara and Leanne Norton for the arrival of their new babies, we wish you all well.

Finally, we would like to say a big farewell to Michelle Turner and Susan Bridgewater who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Both have been with us for a prolonged period of time and have made a positive impact to our students lives. We would like to thank you for the exceptional hard work and dedication you have provided us, you will be greatly missed.





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