

Diary Dates

End of Term

Friday 19th
December

Spring Term 2015

Tuesday 6th January
Students return

Half-Term

Monday 16th - Friday
20th February

Annual Memorial Service

5.50pm Tuesday
17th March 2015.
Please support our
parents & staff

End of Term

Friday 27th March

Summer Term

Tuesday 14th April
Students return

May Day

Monday 4th May

Elections

School closed
Thursday 7th May

Half Term

Monday 25th - Friday
29th May

End of Term

Friday 17th July

Autumn Term

Students return
Monday
7th September 2015



PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL NEWSLETTERS CONTAIN IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION SO PLEASE MAKE THE TIME TO READ IT CAREFULLY. KEEP THIS TO HAND AND HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANT DATES SO THAT YOU DO NOT MISS ANY EVENT.

Message from our Principal: Gordon Phillips

At last another Christmas has arrived to mark the end of another year. Although we are all very tired and looking forward to a good rest, so much has happened to ensure every student is progressing as well as is possible. We have used our Life Skills Centre to help students develop a variety of skills. The student council has organised the annual Christmas decoration competitions. There have been countless offsite visits to ensure learning is fun, to enhance communication and independence skills.

This has been a highly successful term. The school was awarded both the Basic Skills and Investors In People Gold kite marks. We had the same assessors from 3 years ago and they were very impressed on how much progress the school has made since their last visit. These assessments are like mini Ofsted inspections! They are great Performance Indicators for Ofsted when they arrive in the next school year.

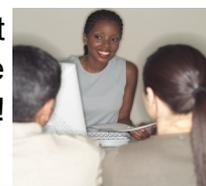
A huge thank you for all the gifts and cards you have sent in. Although this is not expected, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by each one of us. Christmas is a happy and peaceful time to enjoy meeting family members you don't get to see and to have a great time with your friends, neighbours and everyone.

Margaret Beddoes, our Finance Assistant retires this term after a very successful career at the school. We wish her every happiness in her retirement. Thank you Margaret for all you have done. It is appreciated.

On behalf of each member of staff we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015.

**Parents Evening**

Our parents' evening was a great success. As always it was lovely to speak with so many of you. Your collective feedback about the whole evening was excellent! Thank you so much.



School Governors



Mr Andy Davies (Chair),
Mr Simon Whitlow (Vice-Chair),
Mr Gordon Phillips (Principal),
Mrs Tracey Pitt (Deputy Principal),

STAFF GOVERNORS

Mrs Jennifer Priest

Mrs Caroline Potts

CO-OPTED GOVERNOR

Mr Mikail Huggins,

Mrs Susan Orlik,

Mr Leo O'Toole,

Mr Stuart Hadley,

Mrs Pamela Brown,

PARENT GOVERNORS

Mr Ian Anderson

Mr John Pyatt

Mrs Donna Pyatt

Mr Robert Richwood

LA GOVERNOR

Mr Robert Byatt

If you wish to contact the Chair or any Governor, simply address a letter to them at the school. We will then forward it to them. Obviously should you have any concerns you will first need to consult the school and allow suitable time for them to be addressed before contacting the Chair.

Annual Christmas Mince Pie Coffee Morning

Everyone who had a freshly made mince or apple pie really enjoyed it and several people bought some to take home as well.



Homework Reminder

Unlike mainstream schools it is not appropriate to set daily homework. Homework needs to be done each week based on current targets, communication & independence skills. Ideally this should include holiday periods as well. We need you to support all forms of homework that are set by the school and by yourself! Please keep the school informed weekly on how well your child is doing at home by noting all progress in the Home-School Diary. If you need support in this please contact the class team who will be only too delighted to advise. We need you to ensure homework is regularly completed and recorded to help us ensure your child is improving in all areas. Thank you.



Clarification of Sickness & Diarrhoea medical advice

Just a polite reminder that there are strict medical guidelines we need to follow when both staff and children have sickness & diarrhoea. They need to stay at home for a **minimum of 48 hours** after they have had their last bout of **sickness or diarrhoea**. This means they **MUST BE WELL FOR A FULL 48 HOUR PERIOD BEFORE THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL**. This will help to minimise the spread of germs and viruses. Due to the high temperature the school is kept at germs can easily spread around school causing excessive staff and student absence. Please do support this important medical advice. We appreciate it is very difficult to get child care during the day, nevertheless we do ask you to keep your child at home. Due to cross contamination we are *not permitted* to wash soiled clothes. In this instance we may have to simply place them in a plastic bag for you to wash at home. Please do not ring to say your child is well and wish to return until 48 hours have fully elapsed. If in any doubt it is better to be safe than sorry even though we appreciate this will be difficult for many of you. It is also a good idea to send in spare underwear and clothes marked with your child's name. If we send your child home wearing our limited number of spare clothes, please be kind enough to wash and return them within a week. Thank you so much for your co-operation in this matter. It is appreciated.

Class 1:2 visit to The Snowdome—Tamworth

Students in 1:2 Miss C Aston class enjoyed a visit to the Snowdome in Tamworth Shropshire. All the students enjoyed the visit, playing in the snow, smiling and laughing during the Santa show and behaved well.

They also enjoyed seeing some reindeer & were able to touch them too.



Thank you

We would like to thank Mr Womack (father of Connor Womack) & his family for their kind donation of £75.00 we received recently. This donation will help to enrich our students lives.



Poppy Appeal

This year with your help The Meadows raised £76.37 towards this worthwhile charity making the district total in excess of £22,000.00. Thank you from the Royal British Legion.



Contacting the School

The best way is to use the Home-School Diary. Please note that the best times you can speak to class staff on the telephone is during a break, and immediately before or after school. It is our policy not to ring the classroom during lesson time simply because it can often disturb the children's learning. *Many thanks for your co-operation.*



Farewell

We say farewell to Rachael Hughes, LSA and wish her every success in her new job.

We congratulate Margaret Beddoes on her retirement and wish her every happiness! She has had a successful career at the school during some difficult times. She has always proven herself to be efficient and hard working. We will miss her.



Poem Published in the SPDC Annual Report for 2013/14

“Disabled Life” - by Claire Wherton (parent of Phoebe Wherton)

Disabled life is different. No two days are the same. Only chosen people are selected to play this game
The ignorance of people is one thing to expect. But there are lots of others who learn to love and respect.

These are special children who give us pleasure and joy. It doesn't matter if they're a girl or boy.

Each one is unique in their own special way. A little smile or giggle can brighten up your day.

Our children are always happy and live life to the full. It's thanks to loving parents who make them wonderful.

Class 1:1 have had an exciting start to the school term, Just look at what they've been up to!



Brunch morning

1:1 has had a great first term we have had lots of opportunities from having a brunch morning to going to see Santa at the Safari Park. We would like to thank the parents for all of their support through the term.

From 1:1 staff.



Santa Safari



Sainsbury's



Balaji Temple



Shri Park

The students in 1:1—Miss R Weeks class have had an exciting start to the school year, visiting many interesting places and doing many exciting things in school and while out on their visits.

These are just a few of the things they have been up to this school year so far.

I wonder what exciting things are in store for the class during the next term!!

Enjoy the rest over Christmas, you probably all need it!!!

Christmas Events/fund raising



Staff and students wore their Christmas jumpers, hats, socks and badges for 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day 2014. In total we raised £129.55.



The Christmas Fair was well supported & a total of £191.34 was raised, £123.00 was raised from the raffle. The winners of the Christmas raffle are, Abigail Tandy student in 1:1, 1st prize of the hamper. Kim Brookes supply Teacher, 2nd prize—cake. Donte Venables student in 2:5, 3rd prize—toiletries.

Thank you for all your kind donations & your support.



Winter Weather School Closures



Just a reminder, next term usually means snow will be upon us. Transport will often decide it is unsafe to bring or take students home. Regrettably school will have to close for students on those days. You will be notified by the radio and information will be posted on the Sandwell Website, the address is, www.sandwell.gov.uk/schoolclosures

Information is also posted on the Sandwell Facebook page and also Sandwell Council Twitter.

Class 2:2 & 2:3 visit to Showcase Cinema & McDonalds



Classes 2.2 and 2.3 enjoyed a very successful offsite visit on Tuesday 16th December to the Showcase Cinema and McDonalds at Castlegate, Dudley. We were accompanied by Gino the school mascot who enjoyed The Penguins of Madagascar as much as the staff and students!

Special thanks to the PTA for their financial support which enabled the trip to go ahead.



Thank you to WMSNT

We would like to extend a huge **thank you** to the WMSNT Drivers and Escorts for their hard work with our students. It has been a successful year with them making students a priority and going out of their way to support them.



All Drivers & Escorts have been invited to a "Christmas Coffee Afternoon" on Friday 19th December, so we can say thank you to them all personally.

Students spare clothes

If your child has had to have their clothes changed in school and the spare clothing used, please could you ensure that there is replacement spare clothing with your child's name clearly marked on sent in for your child as soon as possible. Thank you.



Phase 2 & 3 "Hosanna Rock" Christmas Performance



Thank you to all Parents & Carers from all staff & students for supporting us in our Christmas Production.

