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Diary Dates

Half-Term

Monday 16th - Friday
20th February

**Annual Memorial
Service**

5.45pm 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

Parents Evening

Thursday 18th June

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

This has been another successful half-term and our students have continued to be successful in their learning.

We are delighted to let you know that we were awarded the IIP (Investors' In People) GOLD Award which is an outstanding achievement for any school. This award followed quickly on the heels of us gaining the Basic Skills Award last term.

Over the half-term break we hope to start some small refurbishments to the school. These include the reception area and our corridors. We hope you like the new improvements when completed. It is so important to keep the school in tip top decorative order and to ensure that our learning environment in all its forms is kept outstanding.

The school is now 11 years old and our Adventure Playground has been identified by the Student Council as need of a total revamp. Last year we installed 2 new wheel chair swings which have been highly successful with our students.

To start the fund-raising, I will be doing my Annual Sponsored Race in Oxfordshire on Sunday 15th March. I have started my training for this 10Km (6.3 mile race) against members of RAF Brize Norton and other athletes. A sponsor form is attached and we invite you to get as many sponsors as possible to support us. You can also hold your own raffles in your place of work, ask pubs to do a collection etc.

Non-Uniform Day; Friday 13th February

We would like to remind all Staff and Students that on Friday 13th February, the day before Valentines Day, we are holding a Non-Uniform Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear either Red, Purple or Pink. If you could also wear hearts that would be fantastic. We are asking that each family gives a voluntary contribution of just £1 and that this money will go towards Mr Phillips' 10km Sponsored Run Collection to help improve our adventure playground as identified as an area for improvement by our Student Council.



CONTACT DETAILS

It is vital you inform the school immediately if any of the numbers of emergency contacts change. Unfortunately one student was at school until after 5pm recently because the emergency contact details had changed without the school being notified. If there are any changes in your circumstances please let the Schools Administrative Staff know so that they can update your details.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Gino The Giraffe

The Student Council have now got a mascot Gino the giraffe who goes out with staff and students on school trips and family holidays. His first holiday was with Mr

Phillips to Scotland. Gino then went to Australia with Tracey Shinton and her family over Christmas and new year.

With the classes he has been to the German market, on a gruffalo hunt and the cinema. He will continue to go out with other staff and students.

Summer Scheme

At the time of writing it does not appear we will be receiving a grant. Should this be the case, then Sandwell will not be able to have this important scheme which The Meadows organise on behalf of Sandwell. We continue to seek lottery and other funding streams. If you can help in any way, please get in touch.

Phase 3 Team Enterprise

Over the last few weeks Class 3:2 have been providing a Health Snack Shop at the school on Monday and Tuesday mornings. This service is provided to both Staff and Students as part of the Team Enterprise work and will continue to run after Half Term. The snacks are priced between 10 pence and 50 pence. Your support in this service is greatly appreciated.

Our next Parents Evening



The next parents evening will be held from **5pm- 7pm on Thursday 18th June**. As always, it will be lovely to see you there to share in the many successes of your child. Please note this date in your diaries

E Clubs

E-Clubs are a special time for your children to do something a little different. Please remember it is the responsibility of parents/carers to arrange transport home for E-clubs. It is essential your child is picked up at 3.45pm prompt. If you are delayed by an emergency then please ring school to keep us informed. Do remember that staff need to go home for their own children and personal commitments. Therefore, they are not available to stay on to look after your child if you are delayed. If you are late 3 times we may have no option but to withdraw this privilege as a very last resort. So please help us to help you. Thank you so much to the majority of you for ensuring you are always there on time to pick up your child. It is deeply appreciated.

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.

Our School Governors

We have parent, LA and Co-opted Governors. To date these include:

Mr Andy Davies (Chair), Mr Simon Whitlow (Vice-Chair), Mr Gordon Phillips (Principal), Mrs Tracey Pitt (Deputy Principal), Mrs Jennifer Priest (Staff), Mrs Caroline Potts (Staff), Mr Ian Anderson (Parent), Mr John Pyatt (Parent), Mrs Donna Pyatt (Parent), Mr Robert Richwood (Parent), Mr Mikail Huggins, Mrs Susan Orlik, Mr Leo O'Toole, Mrs Pamela Brown, Mr Robert Byatt (Co-opted Governors).

In the rare occurrence 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.

Home Learning (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. If you need support in this please contact the class. We need you to ensure homework is regularly completed and recorded in the Home School Diary.



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.**

Save the Children

The Student Council would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who participated in the Christmas Jumper day on 12th December 2014. Staff and students wore either something red, something sparkly or a Christmas Jumper. The school raised £129.55 for Save the Children. Well done.



Internet Safety Day

This was held last Tuesday. Students were made aware of internet safety and made posters etc. to remind them of the dangers.

Sponsor Form 2015

The Meadows Sports College needs to raise funds to further enhance the students learning experience of our students aged 11-19yrs, all with a developmental age of 3 months to 5/6 years.

We need to revamp our outdoor adventure equipment which is very costly, to enhance the learning experience of our students.



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www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk
Principal: Mr G E Phillips
MA BA Hons Adv Dip Ed

PLEASE DONATE WHATEVER YOU CAN AFFORD

WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY TO HELP THE SCHOOL RAISE FUNDS TO RE-VAMP OUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AREA 'EVERY LITTLE REALLY DOES HELP!'

Name	Address and/or Contact Details	Amount	Received

Gordon Phillips, Principal of The Meadows Sports College is competing in his 9th Annual Sponsored 10km run in Carterton, Oxfordshire on **Sunday 15th March 2015** to raise funds for the children.

Our students have severe learning difficulties & complex needs. Some have life limiting medical conditions.

We really want to give the best for our students and you can make a huge difference by sponsoring as little as £1. Every donation is appreciated so much.

YOUR SUPPORT NO MATTER HOW SMALL IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED



We really want to do our best to help improve the quality of experiences for all students in the 11-19 age range, but can only achieve this with your generous help.

Additional forms are obtainable from the school office or downloadable from www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk
We only stand a chance of raising this huge sum if you kindly give copies of this form to all your friends, colleagues, family and neighbours.