

Diary Dates

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

**Term Dates for
2015/2016 are at
the end of this
newsletter**



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

I am delighted to let you know that we recently appointed three new Teachers for next September: Mr Kevin Hurcombe, Mr Christopher Coombes and Miss Sioned Lewis. We congratulate them on their success and wish them a long and happy stay with us. Congratulations to Mr Furness who will be in charge of Computing for one year commencing next September. We also appointed Fay Bedford and Sheila Pollock as HLTAs and Alison Gardner as a Cover Supervisor. In addition we also appointed four new LSPs Kelsie Hooper, Clare Fitzgerald, Rebecca Clifford and Paula Bullock.

Thank you to everyone who supported me in my 9th annual sponsored run to raise money towards some new adventure playground equipment for your children to use. I can now confirm we raised **£826.27**. This will go in a fund towards purchasing play equipment.

We are delighted to have received yet another Kite Mark – the ROSPA Award at **GOLD** level! This Health & Safety Award adds further weight to the school becoming outstanding in all it does. Robert Richwood, (Parent Governor) is leading well on the Governors' Mark which we also anticipate receiving at the end of term.

We have had some lovely events this term including our highly successful Celebration events which were well supported by parents/carers. Thank you so much for your wonderful comments and for taking the time to be with us. Your children have had a great experience jammed pack with plenty of enrichment activities.

Special Congratulations to Miss Weeks who is getting married during the half-term. When she returns she will be called Mrs Jaggard.

On behalf all the staff I wish you a very happy and enjoyable half-term break!

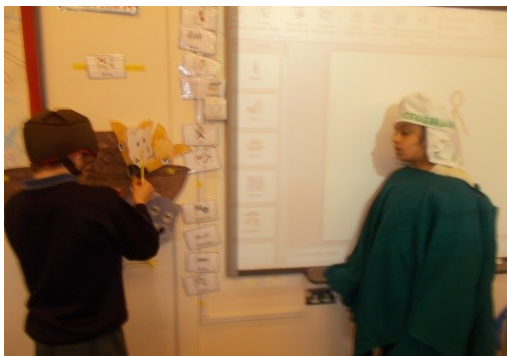


Website

Our website www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk contains a wealth of information for you particularly on the Parents' tab. If you need anything else added please let us know and we will be happy to assist you.

Noah's Ark fun

Class 1:2 have been exploring the story of Noah's Ark and participated in role-play. They also performed the story in their class assembly. Students have been able to identify some characters and sequence parts of the story. WELL DONE !



Contacting the School

The best way is to use the Home-School Diary. Please note that the best times for you to speak to class staff on the telephone are 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 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 put this date in your diary!

Successful Trips

Class 1:1 would like to thank parents and carers for their support in making the amazing trips so successful throughout the year. 1:1 has enjoyed educational trips to Dudley Zoo, Sainsbury's, Gurdwara, Park, Safari Park, Black Country Museum, China Town, Oldbury Library and Merry Hill. We are also looking forward to the trip to Cadbury World and the cinema followed by a meal at Pizza Hut.

Class 2.1 Spring Term 2015

During the Spring Term, we have focussed on developing our key skills around the topic of Our Body. We have also participated in activities for red nose day, Shrove Tuesday, Mothering Sunday and Easter. We have been using our brand new facility and carrying out our personalised sensory diets in the sensory processing suite.

Class 2.2 Spring Term 2015

Class 2.2 have learnt about the Victorians. The children have covered a variety of aspects around Victorian life. These included education, toys, children, jobs and the monarchy. Everyone enjoyed learning about the differences between the past and the present. We will be concluding this topic by going on a joint offsite visit to the Black Country Living Museum next month. The students will have the opportunity to learn more about Victorian life, and to gain some first-hand experience of the Victorian era.

More Successful Trips

Class 2.3 Spring Term 2015

We have been learning about saints associated with our Country this term. Students have learnt about Saint Patrick, Saint David and Saint George through a cross curricular approach. In English, we used visual literacy and symbol text to learn about the life of a saint and re-enacted stories associated with them. We made artefacts in DT and looked at the places saints visited in Geography. Independently the classes presented to Phase 2 and 3 in our weekly Act of Worship about Saint Patrick. Then in traditional Meadows style, held a party to celebrate each Saint's day.

Phase 3

As a Phase, we have been building upon the skill-sets that are essential for independent living and life in the community. We have been able to enhance skills previously learned and extend them into new contexts along with additional skills. Both the School Values and British Values have been reinforced throughout our learning opportunities.

Class 3:2

Will be attending Portway Leisure Centre each week on a Friday morning this term. There are 7 students in the class aged 16 to 19. Six students are wheelchair users and one is ambulant. We have a one-hour sensory room session in which we can access an interactive mat, bubble tube, fibre optic lights and a waterbed. Students can use a control cube to change the colour of their environment. The class is split into two groups. This enables some students the space to explore the sensory room while other students can explore and use the outside space at Portway. Students have access to a sensory garden and an outside gym specifically designed for wheelchair users.

The students use the café facilities at Portway to enjoy their morning break. Students can buy a snack and a drink to develop their numeracy skills. The opportunity to interact with each other and members of the public further develops social skills and communication.

The learning outcomes of these offsite activities are many. As well as experiencing fitness and leisure facilities in the local area, promoting communication and independence, students can explore new environments independently. Students also enjoy the opportunities presented to engage in group activities and interact with people and peers in the community.

Class 3.3

During the Spring Term our learners have been continuing to work on their enterprise and work place skills. We have been running a business within school preparing and selling lunches to members of staff. The meals that we have been making have used our skills in the following ways:

- ⇒ Collecting named items;
- ⇒ Following hand hygiene routines;
- ⇒ Preparing fruit and vegetables with support as appropriate;
- ⇒ Use of the hob and oven with adult support to cook different meals;
- ⇒ Presenting the food for members of staff;
- ⇒ Collecting money from members of staff.

We hope to be able to continue developing our skills more in the future as we would like to take this enterprise to a wider audience.

Class 3.4

In the spring term pupils had the opportunity to go and play Mini Golf at Birmingham 'Star City'. Whilst there we had the following learning objectives:

Keep score in a game/know the need for rules in a game and work in a small group as a team;

Pupils were also able to follow safety rules and remained safe throughout the trip at mini golf.

It was clear to see that pupils had been able to transfer the skills learned in school into another environment. These skills demonstrated previously at Portway, around school and the sports hall. Pupils have shown that they are able to keep



score in a number of different ways.

The Meadows Sports College



Term Dates 2015 / 2016

Autumn Term 2015:

INSET DAYS:	Thursday 3 rd September and Friday 4 th September
Students Return:	Monday 7 th September
Half Term:	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October
Last Day of Term:	Friday 18 th December

Spring Term 2016:

INSET DAY:	Monday 4 th January
Students Return:	Tuesday 5 th January
Half Term:	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February
Last Day of Term:	Thursday 24 th March

Summer Term 2016:

INSET DAY:	Monday 11 th April
Students Return:	Tuesday 12 th April
Polling Day	Thursday 5 th May
May Day:	Monday 2 nd May
INSET DAY:	Friday 6 th May
Half Term:	Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June
Last Day of Term:	Friday 22 nd July