



## Half-Term

Monday 27th - Friday  
31st October

## Parents Evening

Thursday 20th  
November

## Last E Club this term

Wednesday 10th  
December

## KS3 Carol Service & Christmas Fair

9.30am Thursday  
11th December

## Y10-14 Carol Service

10am Monday 15th  
December

## Christmas Mince/ Apple Pie Coffee morning

11am Monday 15th  
December

## KS3 Carols & Christmas Fair

Thursday 11th  
December. 9.30am

## 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

**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**

Although it has been a long half-term, here we are once again. You will be delighted to note that the students have done well and we have already had several off-site visits.

A great end to this half term for everyone at The Meadows Sports College as we recently were awarded the Basic Skills Kite Mark once again. This lasts for another 3 years. This award provides strong evidence that the school is knocking on outstanding in providing a first class education for our students. *Special thanks to Mrs Pitt, parents/carers and all staff for supporting the school to gain this award.*

We all want to be outstanding next year so please help us to help you with your constructive criticisms and support. Thank you to the majority of you who sent back your Ofsted questionnaires. Please be assured that we have analysed them carefully and are taking on board your suggestions. If there is something you think we need to improve for you to know that we are outstanding, then please tell us so that we can ensure all areas of the school are outstanding before Ofsted arrives next year. I know Parents & Carers also want the school to be outstanding, so now is the time to pull together and ensure we are robust in all we do.

Our whole school targets this year are to increase the rigour in all forms of Assessment, develop personalised learning and the new EHCP (Education, Care & Health Plans). In addition we are striving hard to achieve outstanding in Teaching & Learning which is a strong challenge for us all. With your great support and a relentless staff drive, we will do our utmost to get there. Thank you so much for all you do and will do this year to ensure The Meadows Sports College will be outstanding in every single area!

I am delighted to let you know that the governors have appointed Mr Zilu Miah as our School Business Director. He is a very strong appointment who will ensure that Finance, Personnel and Health & Safety will remain as outstanding elements of the school. We hope he will have a long and happy career with us.

## **Poppy Appeal**

We will once again be supporting this worthwhile charity on behalf of The Royal British Legion and ask for donations. Please send your donations from 3rd November in an envelope with your child's name on marked "Poppy Appeal" your child will then receive a poppy sticker (no pins are used). Thank you for your support.



## Parents Ofsted Questionnaire

We had a great response from Parents/Carers. Thank you so much for making the time to give your views. Please be assured that they have now been summarized and will be used to evaluate our SEF (Self Evaluation Form). The overwhelming majority of you were very happy with all aspects of the school. However we need more of you to tick the highest value box if we are to be judged as outstanding by Ofsted next academic year. We now need your suggestions on what we need to do (within our remit) to 'put the icing on the cake'. Clearly we can do little about school transport and post-19 providers. However we do liaise well with transport and we do have good links with many providers, therefore we 'will go the extra mile' in order to support 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.**

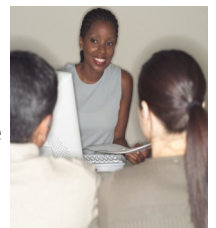
## Annual Christmas Mince Pie Coffee Morning. NEW DATE: 11am Monday 15th December

Please note the **new date** above. This will follow the Phase 2/3 Carol Service. You are welcome to attend this highly popular annual event. All parents/carers are invited. This year you will receive one complimentary home made mince or apple pie. Once again these will be made by Mrs Phillips – our Principal's wife. Additional pies may be purchased at £1 each or 5 for £4 for our school funds. Everyone who has eaten one in the past knows this is an experience not to be missed! Choose a traditional minced-meat or apple pie in tasty puff pastry!



## Parents Evening

The first parents evening for this year will be held on Thursday 20th November from 5pm –7pm. Due to the great turnout we have it is crucial to keep within your time allocation appointment.



## 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 than 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 last resort. So please help us to help you. Thank you so much to most 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.*

## What do our School Governors do?

Arising from the Ofsted questionnaire a few parents needed to know details about our governors do etc.

Governors have an important strategic role in ensuring the school meets all legal, educational and health & safety requirements. Governors review and adopt several important policies. They visit the school and complete a visits proforma detailing what they have learned and share their findings with governors sub-committee and main meetings. Governors act as 'critical friends' to the school and provide challenge and support to the school. During Ofsted inspections Governors are questioned on what they know about the school! Governors serve on a variety of sub-committees. One sub-committee also sets the Principal's Annual Appraisal objectives and reviews progress at every main meeting. Main meetings are held on Thursday evenings termly, while sub-committee meetings e.g. 'Personnel & Finance' tend to be held 2/3 times a term on top of the main meetings, normally on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Governors are also involved in appointing new staff.

Governors are not allowed to be involved with the daily management of the school as this is solely the responsibility of the Principal and his colleagues.

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, Mr Stuart Hadley, 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.

## Summer Scheme Awards

A great evening for everyone! Our famous School Governor, Mikail Huggins—Commonwealth GOLD medallist gave out the awards.

Huge congratulations to all our students on their brilliant achievements!

Funding for this wonderful scheme may no longer be available. Please write to your MP and to the councillors asking them to ensure funding is made available so that this Sandwell scheme can be held as normal next year. Without funding it would cost parents and carers far too much, so we are in great danger of having nothing available next year. In the meantime the school will continue to explore all areas to get this vital funding. Please support us in any way you can.

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Our neighbours The Balaji Temple have extended an invitation to all parents, carers & students to attend their Festival of Light Celebrations (Diwali) on 26th October 2014. The programme is:

3.30pm	Reception
4.00pm	Cultural Programme
5.30pm	Peace Walk
6.00pm	Firework display



For further information please ring Dr V P N Rao on - 0121 544 2256

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## 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.

## Family Fun Day

The Meadows Parents Forum would like to thank everyone that was involved in organising, running and attending the Family Fun Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. This was the first event the Parents Forum had put on for several years, and just three months ago the Parents Forum had no Parent members and just two staff members. The Parents Forum was on the verge of folding but fortunately after a successful recruiting process several new parents and staff helped resurrect the Parents Forum and the day was a testament to them all.

The Family Fun Day was a huge success and everyone who attended enjoyed it. The Mayor and The Mayoress were very impressed with the school and the Parents Forum received really positive feedback. Without the help of Parents this and future events would not be possible, thank you all.



On the back of this success we hope to run many other events to raise money for your children. If you would like to join the Parents Forum or are happy to assist in any events please contact the school reception.

## Sandwell Children & Young Adults Disability & Special Needs Register

The register is a database that holds information about children & young people aged 0—25 years, who have a disability or special need living in Sandwell. Each Authority is required under the Children Act 1989 to have a Register & this is strictly confidential & subject to the strict requirements of the Data Protection Act.

### What are the benefits of joining the register?

- ◆ You will receive an information pack providing information specific to parents/carers of children & young people (0-25 years) with disabilities and/or additional needs in Sandwell.
- ◆ Receive information about services, events & activities etc. available locally in Sandwell & nationally that we feel might benefit you and/or your child.
- ◆ Help us to ensure we are providing & developing the right services for children with a disability and/or additional needs in the Sandwell area.

You do not need to register your child as the register is parent led, it is your choice whether or not to register your child, however if you would like to register your child, or have parental responsibility for a child or young adult with a disability and/or a special need who would like to join the Register please contact:

**Sandwell Family Information Service on—0121 569 4914. or  
Email: [family\\_information@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:family_information@sandwell.gov.uk)**

## Great News—Wheelchair accessible swings

We now have two wheelchair accessible swings in place in school, one in Phase 1 playground, the other in the wooded area at the back of the school. A lot of hard work and fundraising has been done to get these thoroughly needed pieces of equipment, a huge thank you to everyone who has helped both in school and in the wider community with special thanks to Grantham Youth Trust who donated £6,450.00 and a resident “Justin” who donated £50.00 from an ice bucket challenge, not forgetting The Meadows Staff.

When you see the look of excitement on our student’s faces, seeing them have that feeling of freedom, allowing them to access something that in the past hasn’t been available is priceless.

