



# The Meadows Sports College Newsletter Autumn Term 2015

THIS TERM'S HIGHLIGHTS

**Principal: Mr Gordon Phillips**

MA BA Hons Adv Dip Ed (Mgt) Adv Dip ED (SEN) Cert Ed CCRS Dip (ICT) CNAA Cert (Structured Mentoring)

## Our Principal's Introduction



Christmas is with us once again, although it did start early with our popular Christmas Mince/Apple pie morning at the start of December. My wife, Diana has now made 1,200 mince/apple pies over the 10 years I have been at the school. As we both retire in the summer, we are looking for future volunteers to make them next year. Diana will be happy to let you have her tasty recipe!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas events. Thank you so much for your great support.

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. Our students have enjoyed their learning and have made excellent progress. They are a credit to you!

I know you would want me to congratulate and thank each member of staff whatever their role for their individual and special contribution to the school. Together each one of them makes an effective team, second to none.

On behalf of us all we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016.



## Diary Dates

### Autumn Term

#### End of Term

Friday 18th  
December 2015

#### Spring Term 2016

Students return  
Tuesday 5th  
January 2016

#### Half Term

15th-19th  
February

#### End of Term

Thursday 24th  
March

#### Summer Term 2016

Students return  
Tuesday 12th  
April

Farewell to our  
Principal Coffee  
morning 9.30am  
Monday 18th  
July 2016



## Children In Need

With your kind generosity the school raised £300.00 for this extremely worthwhile cause.

Thank you to everyone who either helped organise or made a donation to the event.



## School money Cashless Pay System

The results from the questionnaire sent out in November asking parents and carers if they would use this system on a regular basis are as follows:

Number of letters sent out	—	<b>124</b>
<b>Yes</b> they would use the system	—	<b>16 (12.9%)</b>
<b>No</b> they would not use the system	—	<b>8 (6.5%)</b>



As a result we will not purchase the system as it would not be value for money for the school.

Thank you to everyone that took the time to express their views, as always it is greatly appreciated.

## Class 1:3 Visit to The German Market

Pupils from class 1:3 visited the German Market to see how Christmas is celebrated in Birmingham. They looked at the different stalls, tasted some of



the delicious delights and as part of their work in Maths and

Geography identified big and small objects; counted how many Santa's there were and recognised several landmarks.



# BOOGIE NIGHTS DISCO



# Learning Disability Disco

The disco is held every Monday evening 7.30-9.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm  
Ticket price £3.00 per person and is held at:

Blackheath Coronation Club  
George Avenue  
Rowley Regis B65 9BD

Drinks and snacks available at the bar, for more information please ring  
07917842797

## Academy Ballot—results

The results from the ballot papers sent out in November are as follows.,

**School to remain unchanged**    Staff—67%  
Parents/Carers—29%

**School to become an Academy in the future**

Staff	20%
Parents/Carers	31%

**No preference**      Staff—13%  
Parents/Carers—41%

**Total percentage returned**      Staff—82%  
Parents/Carers—40%



At this moment in time due to the appointment of a new Principal the Governors will not be making a decision in the near future.

**100% FREE**



## MEADOWS FIT CLUB

Lead by Mikail Huggins – Commonwealth Gold Medallist 2014  
London 2012 Silver Medallist



**Are you ready to invest 4 weeks to give your physique and health a boost?**

Do you want to get your body moving and get going with your exercise?  
Do you want fast results? If you go all in with us with our 4 week  
FIT CLUB you will get fantastic results.

**STARTS: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6pm–7.30pm**

@

*The Meadows Sport College, Dudley Road East, Oldbury, B69 3BU*

*Pre-registration required:*

*Call Mr Zilu Miah on 07860 945248 with your name, age & any  
medical issues*

*Maximum of 20 spaces, over 18's only*

**SUPPORTED BY**



**REMEMBER THE MEADOWS FIT CLUB IS  
100% FREE**



## Class 1:1 Christmas at Sandwell Valley Park Farm

As part of our topic lead learning for this term, the students in class 1:1 had the opportunity to visit Sandwell Valley Park Farm. The aim of the visit was for the children to obtain an understanding of the type of animals reared in this country so that they can contrast this to the animals that are found in the Brazilian rainforest.



All the children had a great time and enjoyed seeing an enormous pig and a talking goose. As an added bonus the children all got up close and personal with a certain person (SANTA).

Finally, all the student's and staff in class 1:1 would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# Merry Christmas



# FIRE ENGINE VISIT

**Class 1:2 Enjoyed taking part in the recent visit from the fire service**



The fire engine came to visit us at school. Class 1:2 went out to explore it. We met the firemen and got to climb up into the truck. We really enjoyed the visit and hope to see them again.

## “LOAVES AND FISHES” Food Bank Appeal



The Student Council would like to say a big Thank you to all the families and staff who donated food, toiletries and chocolate treats for the food bank. At this time of year it is so lovely to take time to think of others. The people at the foodbank were overwhelmed with the kindness of The Meadows family. They said what a difference it will make to families who rely on this source for food to be

able to put a chocolate treat or bubble bath into their children's stockings on Christmas Eve. We do not always think how confused and upset children can be at Christmas when even though they have done their best all year Santa does not bring them a gift. There are many young children who do not understand that these gifts have to be paid for. So once again Thank You all for your kind donations and Merry Christmas.

The Student Council.







## Class 1:4 visited Harry Potter Studios

### Our Mystical Journey to;



This December we had the opportunity to take a trip to the Harry Potter studios just outside London.

We set off from school on our adventure in the school minibus, watching the Harry Potter films as we went. We were greeted by very helpful staff who assisted us with everything we could possibly need.

Firstly we went in to the big cinema and watched a short story about the making of the films... Then we entered the Great Hall, WOW... Amazing!

There was so much to see, smell, touch, but we didn't get to taste the 'Butter Beer!', we had the most truly amazing day out.

We have to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who supported us on the trip and made it possible.

**Class 1:4 and friends**



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS AT THE PORTWAY LEISURE CENTRE



On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, over 30 students from The Meadows attended the launch event of the Special Olympics at the Portway Leisure Centre. During the morning the students had the chance to experience what an opening Olympic Ceremony would be like and they welcomed individual students from The Meadows, The Orchard School and Making Tracks, who provided a showcase of their sporting talent as others cheered them on. After lunch, there was a wide range of activities for the students to get involved in, including curling, skittles, boccia, parachute games, sensory crawling tunnels, handball and there was even a game of snakes and ladders for the students to enjoy.



During lunch, the students were visited by Father Christmas who took time out of his busy schedule to come and watch their sporting skills



“The students dig in Santa’s sack”

“The students enjoyed the gifts from Santa”



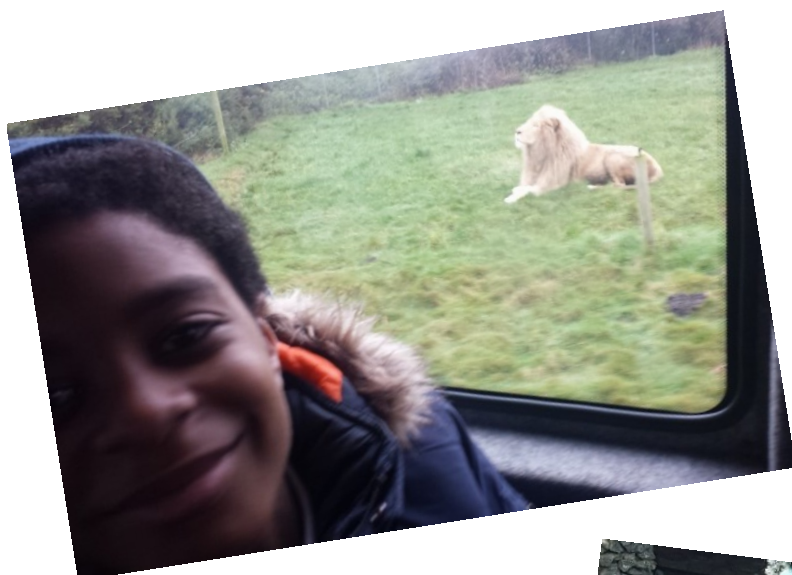
The student's were well behaved, engaged in all the activities, enjoyed their day and they all went home sporting a well deserved **Gold Medal** for their excellent efforts. Well done to all who took part.



## Class 2:1 Visit to West Midland Safari Park



On Monday 14th December class 2:1 visited Father Christmas at the Safari Park. Students enjoyed seeing all the different animals then visiting Santa in his grotto. After choosing a present each we all had a festive hot chocolate and mince pie.



Merry Christmas everyone from the Student's and staff in class 2:1



## e-safety for Parents—December 2015

Helping you to keep your child safe online

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearly at the end of term and I hope you are looking forward to your Christmas break. Your children will have more time to spend online, so to help you, I am delighted to share some tips to keep them safe. If you are buying new technology, set the parental controls up before you give the new device to your child. If you are unsure of how to do this go to your search engine and type the name of your child's device/games console (eg "PlayStation", "Nintendo", "Wii" or "Xbox") + "parental controls".

Showing interest in what your child is doing online is the best way to support them, making a long list of rules may encourage them to take risks. If they ask for help, don't answer with "I know nothing about technology". This could be a barrier for children and they may not come to you for help if they are worried about something. Look at what they are doing to try to help, if you are unable to help phone a friend, or look for a solution through your search engine.

Encourage your children to use technology in moderation, balancing on line activities with real-world activities.

Turn devices off at least one hour before they go to sleep, there is something called the 'blue light' effect. This blue light is the frequency of light that comes from LED devices and in very basic terms fools the brain into thinking it is day time, research has shown that this can result in a significant reduction in the production of the sleep hormone, melatonin. This reduction means that children (and ourselves) may find it difficult to fall off to sleep, may have a restless sleep, resulting in tiredness the following day.

It is very important that your child uses the internet in a positive and creative way and "thinks before they post online", encourage them to think of someone important in their life, Gran, Uncle, Auntie and always think of that person before they click, this will help to keep them to be in control of their digital footprint (online reputation).

Talk to your children about what they do online in the same way that you would ask them about their day at school.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Principal

### Useful links

<http://parentinfo.org/>

[Parental Control Links Childnet](#)

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/parental-controls>



[UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls>



[Microsoft](#)

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/set-parental-controls#1TC=windows-7>

[Think U Know](#)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Primary/Tools/Parental-controls/>



[CEOP \(Child Exploitation on line Protection Agency\)](#)

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

## Results of the Best Decorated Classroom



Phase 1 - Class 1:4

Phase 2 - Class 2:3

Phase 3 - Class 3:3

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated.



## Results of the Best Decorated School Office



The Business Support Team Office were the winners

This was a close competition with only one point between the winners and Mr Phillips office decorations.



Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who participated.

## Results of the Best Decorated Home/School Minibus



1st Prize - Meadows bus 10

2nd Prize - Meadows bus 6

3rd Prize - Meadows bus 12

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated.



THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes to the members of The Student Council for taking the time to judge all the categories and deciding on the winners.





**All the Students, Staff and Governors would like  
to wish you all a very Happy Christmas  
and  
a very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2016.**

