



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 4

November 10th 2020

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

Please do check the website regularly

Virtual Parent Consultation Meetings Monday 23rd to 26th November

Christmas Holidays Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January
Staff INSET 4th January
Closed to pupils

The return to school has been very welcome for us all. The children have once again brightened our days with their smiles, enthusiasm and resilience to adjust to new routines.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for co-operating with the request to wear face masks. The children are very accepting of the staff wearing their masks too. With the revised national lockdown measures, all our lives are once again impacted greatly by the COVID pandemic. We all have our different circumstances and anxieties. Our strong partnerships with the parental community are a noted strength here at The Meadows. With the current necessary restrictions, we do miss welcoming parents into school. We are now reliant on either a brief chat on the playground or communication via telephone or email. It's very easy in such stressful and uncertain times, to enter into communications with staff which are not respectful or appropriate in their tone. I remind you all that such communications, written or

verbal are not productive or accepted. Of course, we continue to receive lots of lovely comments which are helping our staff team to remain resilient in the face of adversity. They mean a great deal and make an almost impossible job at times, a little easier.

COVID 19 Precautions

The new systems at lunchtimes are working well, although we have had to make a lot of adjustments which require more staffing. As working parents ourselves, we are also experiencing situations where our own children are being impacted by school bubble closures. It really is a fragile situation in schools currently, but as always, we are agile in our planning and responses.

The installation of more toilets is still being explored, but currently the drainage issue is proving to be a considerable barrier. We are solution focused and continue to work with the surveyors and the building teams within the Trust.

Quite a few children have come to school in their fleeces. They look great and are ideal as we continue to ensure our classrooms are well ventilated. The wearing of PE kits has been really successful too. It's stopped so much time being wasted and most importantly reduces movement around the school. I'm sure you also are finding it easier with items of clothing not going missing. It is something we may consider retaining post Covid. It is very important though that the children do wear the Meadows PE kit rather than general sports clothing.

A further reminder of the expectations can be found here:

<https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/school-uniform>



Parent Consultation Appointments

Thank you to those who have already embraced the new way of organising this. Lots of you have already booked your appointments online. As you know this will be a virtual event via Teams. If for any reason you experience difficulties booking your appointment, please telephone the office. Both Mrs Cooper and I have completed our training to manage this new application. The information and the link have been sent to you via Parent Mail.

Playground Improvements

The half term saw a great deal of activity. Not only has the surface been replaced, but there has been significant drainage work too. The old one was very soggy and worn indeed. We are experiencing a great deal of sand residue currently which will settle over time. This project was entirely funded by The Shaw Education Trust.



Flu Immunisations

These went very smoothly today despite all the additional precautions. We have received such a lovely email from the Immunisation Team which I would like to share with you below:

"Thank you once again for welcoming the immunisation team into your school.

I would like to give you feedback on the session which went incredibly well despite the restrictions that Covid 19 has brought to all sessions.

Mrs Cooper was so very well organised knowing the children so well that we were able to give the session a personal touch, after being informed of which children may need more encouragement.

Myself and my colleagues have agreed that both this year and in previous years the children's behaviour was excellent, so very well-mannered and also well informed about the health and the need for vaccines.

The Meadows has an incredibly warm feel and all the staff were very welcoming.

Many, many thanks for all you and your school do to encourage and promote the flu vaccine hence helping to protect both your children and the community."

Competition Winner

Before half term, Class 4 celebrated their love of reading by creating reviews of their favourite books. They were then entered into a competition across our Multi Academy Trust of Schools.

A huge congratulations to Maisie, in Class 4, who won the Primary category of the competition. She will shortly be presented with her special certificate and a shopping voucher.

I'm sure you will agree how creative her entry was.

Social Media

A reminder that as part of the code of conduct, staff are prevented from communicating with parents via social media. I am aware that a few staff have been approached by parents through friend requests, Messenger etc. I appreciate that in a small village there are lots of connections, however for safeguarding reasons this is not possible.



Children in Need



This year has been a tough year for all of us. In particular, the lives of many children across the country, including our own, have been very difficult. According to a YouGov poll on behalf of the BBC, ninety four percent of children and young people asked, have had cause to feel worried, sad or anxious in the last six months. Addressing such worries has been a focal point of our 'Meadows in the Moment' project here in school. However, we also know that there are many children in our country who need extra support; they rely upon the support of charities for their own

physical and mental wellbeing.

As a result, on Friday we will be celebrating the BBC Children in Need's 2020 fundraising appeal, 'Together, We Can'. Children in Need currently funds 1,294 local charities and projects across the UK who are supporting children and young people affected by poverty and deprivation, as well as those who are struggling with their mental wellbeing. It is a most worthwhile cause, one that reflects our own motto at The Meadows, 'Learning by Caring and Sharing'.

As a result of the pandemic, we won't be able to raise money with the usual cake sales or activities we normally undertake. However, we do ask that children come in to school in their own clothing on Friday. **If your child has PE, please ensure that they wear suitable clothing to allow them the flexibility of movement. Leggings or track suit bottoms would be ideal.**



We'd like to share this new app designed especially for children to help make a difference to their emotional wellbeing. It's created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need appeal.

Take a look, we are sharing it in school too.

[youtube.com/watch?v=SUan1K...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUan1K...)



Donations to such a worthwhile cause can be made via Parent Mail. All donations will be sent directly to Children in Need. We will set this up tomorrow. We can't accept any cash donations unfortunately on this occasion.



Personal Possessions

I would like to remind all our school community of the following:

The storage of any personal property or possessions or, where pupils bring in personal property or possessions onto the school premises it is at the pupil's and parent's own risk and the school will not be liable for any loss or damage to personal property or possessions.



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