



The Meadows
Primary School

Meadows Newsletter

Issue 3

October 7th 2020

Forthcoming dates

Please do check the website regularly

Friday 16th October	Flu Immunisation (nasal spray) All classes
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Half Term	26 th – 30 th October
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Monday 2nd November	Staff INSET Day Closed to pupils
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Christmas Holidays	Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January Staff INSET 4th January Closed to pupils
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With the autumn term now well underway, it is time to reflect on how the children are adjusting to being back in school and following the usual routines once again. We continue to be so impressed by their eagerness to learn and their ease at once again interacting with all of their peers. For children, those many, months at home do seem a very distant memory. I can tell they do miss the excitement of birthday parties and the usual after school social activities. To be honest most of our children are used to a very busy and varied social life!

They also talk with ease about the government's decisions and how they apply to their lives at home. They really are knowledgeable! For myself being at school is a welcome day of normality and social interaction. Our school environment is a safe place where we can focus upon just being a school and as much as possible getting on with the job we do best and that is learning! This week a new parent said the most special comment which just will remain with me forever. She said that her daughter already refers to us as her Meadows family. What a wonderful appreciation of our school and everything that makes our small school so very special.

Morning Drop Offs and COVID 19 Precautions

In these times when we must all adapt to new ways of doing things, the staggered drop off times have been working really well and have ensured that we are able to avoid parents congregating on the playground. As you will be aware this is a directive from the government. I know lots of parents have commented that it has eased traffic congestion too! However, our risk assessment is continually reviewed and responsive to guidance and our context. From tomorrow we ask that those children in Classes 1 and 2 arrive from 8:55 to 9:00am rather than from 9:00 to 9:05am. Having observed the morning routines, we are assured that this is entirely safe and will not compromise our social distancing arrangements on the playground. Those with older siblings should continue to arrive in the KS2 slot, which is 8:45 until 8:55am. Please do make sure you only arrive on the playground in time for the morning bell, rather than arriving early. We must avoid any form of congregation on the playground. A huge thank you for your cooperation in following our school COVID procedures— what you do really does help us here in school and makes things much easier and safer for us all.

If parents or other family members feel more comfortable wearing a face covering whilst dropping off or collecting at school, please do so. Some primary schools have made this mandatory, although we have not felt in our context that this is necessary. However as with all of our risk assessment processes, this is kept continually under review. You can read our risk assessment and other COVID 19 documentation on our website in the designated section.

Recently the school received an unannounced telephone call from the HSE. They are selecting schools at random to discuss their COVID secure arrangements and the additional measures being taken to minimise the risk of transmission. The questions asked, posed no challenges to our arrangements and no areas of concern were identified.

You will undoubtedly be aware that several schools in our local area, have had to close a bubble, or year group due to a confirmed positive case. As a school we must be ready for such an event here from either a pupil or a member of staff. In such an event the school will contact the Department for Education and adhere to the advice given completely. They will instruct us on the steps that must be taken in school in terms of closing particular classes. We will be swift in communicating these actions to you, but ultimately any closure will take effect with no prior notice. Those children who have been deemed to have been in close prolonged contact will

be required to self-isolate at home for a fourteen day period which I know will cause significant challenges to working parents.

As part of our preparations to respond to any partial/full closure or indeed situations where particular children need to self-isolate at home, we have comprehensive remote learning plans in place. In response to recent government advice concerning expectations placed on schools in these circumstances, we have reviewed the content and delivery of our provision during the full school closure period. We will continue to use the White Rose materials in Maths but will direct children to specific tasks on the Oaks National Academy. This will ensure that children receive video explanations in all the activities. As before there will be a daily expectation for the children and supportive communications with the class teachers.

Catch Up Funding and Learning Recovery

You will be aware from media coverage that the government has awarded schools with additional funding aimed at supporting pupils' learning recovery after such a prolonged absence from school. This totals £80 per pupil, so as you can see the school's allocation is minimal. After careful research and reflection, our school will be investing in catch up resources and additional resources specifically for Reading and Maths. Following assessment of all the children, small groups of children will receive short bursts of additional teaching during the afternoons. These will typically take just 15 mins, but the short-targeted teaching will have high impact. Rather than it being a set group of children each time, the groups will be fluid according to the particular content that week. It is an opportunity for many of our children to receive high quality, and specific targeted teaching, to close any gaps in their understanding. Please do not be alarmed or overly concerned if your child comes home and tells you they have been involved in one of these groups. It certainly does not mean they have fallen behind or are causing concern. Over the course of the next few weeks there will be a large group of children selected at varying points, according to the particular content taught that week. We are very much looking forward to launching the fresh resources next week.

Morning Snacks

For those children who bring a breaktime snack from home, rather than having toast from school, I would like to remind you that crisps and cereal bars comprising of chocolate are not allowed. These items need to be saved for a packed lunch. One item of food is plenty and should be easily accessible to the child for example wrapped in foil. Children are expected to have eaten their snack when they return to the classroom after their break. Crackers, fruit and cereal bars are amongst the ideal choice.

Water Bottles

We are delighted by the children's attitudes towards drinking water, they really do understand why it is so important for their bodies and their learning to stay hydrated. A reminder that due to the COVID measures we have in place; the water fountain remains out of use. If children need to refill during the day, they can do so using the chilled water cooler. However, they should bring a freshly filled bottle to school each day.

Children are able to drink from their bottle throughout the day and are strongly encouraged to take their bottles out with them onto the playground. I know some parents are frustrated that they do not drink a great deal of water during the day, but all we can do is remind and model such healthy habits ourselves.

A reminder that in line with the government guidance, children should only bring water to school in their bottles, apart from their lunch lunchtime drink.

Please can I urge all water bottles and items of clothing to be clearly named. Felt tip in the clothing does quickly wash off too.

Community Fundraising

We would like to share this local fundraising with you. We know some of our families are already involved with the sanctuary.

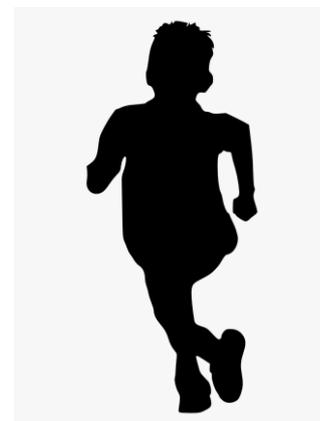
<http://footprintsanimalsanctuary.co.uk/store/Virtual-run-p240565157>

Medals will be posted when you've ordered and we'd love to see pics of your run as we've a hamper of goodies to be picked at random for one lucky winner, and 2 goody bags of footprints merchandise and sweeties 🍬

Tag us in your pics and use #FootprintsFiveK 🏃



This is an opportunity for families to get involved in a 5K run, for which medals are available to purchase. The £10 is donated to the animal charity and will help them cover their running costs over the winter period in these challenging times. Members of staff will be taking part, as lots of us have discovered our running legs over the lockdown period. We would love to see photos of children who take part and celebrate in school.



Parent Appointments

As you will be aware around late October/ November, we normally hold our pupil progress meetings with parents. Unfortunately, with the evolving situation and further restrictions concerning contact, we will be unable to hold these as face to face meetings. We will therefore hold virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams wherever possible. As a school we have become accustomed to meeting in this way and feel it provides the very best option in such challenging circumstances. We will send out dates and appointments later in the term, but I urge you all (if you haven't already) to download this free app to your phone or other device. The school will send out the links to join the meeting, as these are arranged. Due to our limited use of devices in school and broadband capacity, these will be spaced across the course of a week.

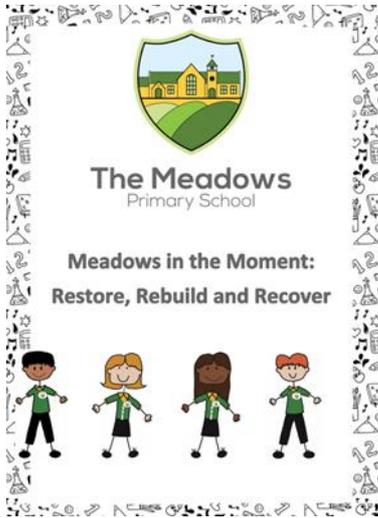


Unfortunately, the current restrictions concerning parent access to the school building remain in place. Contact to the school should be made through telephone or email. The class emails are the best way to contact the teacher directly, however, please be mindful that they have been advised not to access these emails outside of working hours or during teaching times. If it is an urgent matter, please do contact the office. We really do appreciate how supportive you have been in adjusting to the new way of doing things.

Half Term School Improvements

I am delighted to share with you that over the forthcoming school holiday, the playground surface is going to be replaced. The current artificial surface has become so worn and ripped over the last year. Drainage is also an issue which means that it remains wet and soggy for a long period of time. We have researched and costed various options over the last year. The Shaw Education Trust will be fully funding the replacement as it has proven to be a very costly project which isn't helped by the sloping surface and poor access. We shall all look forward to seeing our playground improved very soon.

Additionally, the sliding doors between Class 3 and 4 will also be replaced during half term. The current doors have not been in full working order for several weeks now and a full replacement is the only option. They will enable us to open up the two classrooms into one larger space and will also ensure there is good sound proofing between the two rooms. Again, SET are fully funding this.



We are really proud of how our “*Meadows in the Moment*” project is developing. This is a whole school approach to the rebuilding and recovery of pupils’ personal development characteristics which enables them to be personally and academically successful.

Each child has their very own journal, which is unique to them, reflecting their own creative style, thoughts and ideas. Teachers facilitate children’s’ thinking through discussion, questioning and provide activities which scaffold their responses.

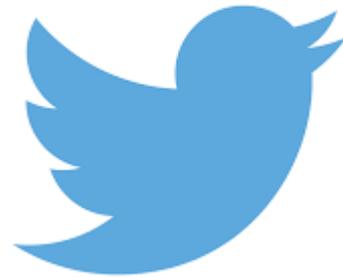
Thank you for being their journal buddies at home. The short discussion tasks are an opportunity for you to share your child’s reflections and become involved in their journey towards developing a Growth Mindset. Please do encourage your child to record their response creatively. A journal is very different to how

we normally encourage children to record their learning in other books. A reminder that you can read more about this project and the rationale behind it on our website: <https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/restore-rebuild-and-recover>

Please also do take a look at our Growth Mindset resources too: <https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/growth-mindset>

Twitter

We are delighted with the attention one of our Tweets has received today! The famous TV presenter and sports personality Ade Adepitan has commented upon our work! The children have been using his inspirational life story to reflect upon their own dreams and how they can make these become a reality. It’s not luck but hard work!



A reminder that the school has a very active Twitter account. We post regularly each week snapshots of learning and signpost to useful resources. Please do follow us @primary_meadows

PE Timetable Changes

We are delighted that we have been able to increase Mr Skellern's time here at The Meadows. Not only will he be delivering our PE lessons in his capacity as a specialised Coach but will also be supporting some children with their reading. I am sure he will be an excellent role model and encourage our reading for pleasure habits.

From next week he will also be joining us on Monday afternoons. Therefore, from Monday the PE timetable will be as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class 1 Class 3		Class 4 Class 2 (Madeley High School)	Class 4	Class 3 Class 2

How to Help Your PERFECTIONIST CHILD WORRY LESS AND DO MORE

EXCELLENCE-SEEKER (GROWTH MINDSET) vs. **PERFECTIONIST** (FIXED MINDSET)

- EXCELLENCE-SEEKER:**
 - has a GROWTH mindset
 - is intrinsically motivated
 - focuses on learning
- PERFECTIONIST:**
 - has a FIXED mindset
 - avoids judgement
 - focuses on mistakes

1. Encourage High Standards, Not Perfection
 Avoid using the word "perfect".
 Help your child set goals and standards that are reachable with effort.

2. Teach Your Child "The Power of Yet"
 Add "YET" to your child's "I can't" statements.
 Use the 3-step strategy:
 1. Ask them to create a DRAFT
 2. Acknowledge what they did WELL
 3. Provide specific feedback for improvement

3. Be an Example of Someone Who's Not Perfect
 Model imperfection by sharing YOUR mistakes.
 Ask your child for ADVICE when you experience a setback or a struggle.

4. Emphasize the Fun
 Highlight enjoyment and learning when you question and praise your child.
 Ask, "Did you have fun today?"

5. Recognize Negative Thoughts
 Use the "balloon technique" to teach your child to let go of self-critical thoughts.
 Play the Five Senses Game to combat anxiety and feelings of doubt and blame.

Finally, as in the previous Newsletter, I shall share with you a useful resource to support the Growth Mindset approach at home. This time it focuses upon children who have such high standards for themselves that they want to be perfect, which of course it just not possible. We do see this in quite a few of our children, which is not good for a healthy wellbeing. We want our children to seek excellence – NOBODY is perfect!



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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