



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 2

September 18th 2020

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

Please do check the website regularly

Half Term 26th – 30th
October

Monday 2nd November Staff INSET
Day
Closed to pupils

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

Next week we welcome our new Reception class to The Meadows full time. The phased transition has really helped them develop a sense of belonging to the school gradually and enjoy afternoon sessions, which they would normally have had in July. They will join Key Stage 1 with their school day arrangements, arriving at 9:00am with a 3:15 collection.

The staggered times are working well and I know from speaking to parents that you are certainly finding the parking easier. I do ask that you keep to the allocated times and ensure your waiting time on the playground is kept to an absolute minimum. It is important that parents continue to socially distance on the playground also.

With the newly introduced measures of 6 per household, I also ask that you take this into consideration when making arrangements for children to mix outside of school.

We are experiencing first-hand, parent frustrations regarding the delays in testing procedures which are causing entire households to isolate until the negative test can be confirmed. As per the government guidance, parents will only be informed about

positive confirmed cases. Thankfully so far, we have not been in this situation. I know that there is a great deal of social media attention concerning cases in schools. In the event of a positive test being confirmed from either a child or a member of staff, the school will adhere strictly to the direction given by Public Health England. We will be instructed directly what measures to take concerning the closure of year groups. Communications will be as rapid and clear as possibly.

The school is trying to provide parents with as much useful and factual information concerning Covid symptoms and the absence procedures that must be followed. There is a further information leaflet attached which we hope will be a point of reference. If you do inform us that your child is going to be absent, we must document the symptoms in detail. If you detail a high temperature or a continuous cough, then the Covid process of testing and household isolation must be complied with even if you ring and let us know a couple of days later that your child has recovered. There is a specific Covid section on the school website where you will find information and the school risk assessments.

School Crossing Patrol



We are really pleased that there is a temporary replacement now in place. It is such a busy road and junction. However, I continue to be very concerned about the number of families who do not use this service and choose to make a quick dash from the school car park instead. You will only have seconds to make it across! Please do make the most of the service, otherwise we will lose it.

A few extra minutes to leave the school building through the designated pedestrian gate will keep you safe and ensure you set a good example of road safety to the children.

Staffing News

Some of you may be aware that Mrs Fowler has recently changed her name to Ms Bill, so we are all trying to get used to the change here in school. It's going to take time and as ever the children will be far better at remembering than the adults.

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. Crackers, fruit and cereal bars are amongst the ideal choice.

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.

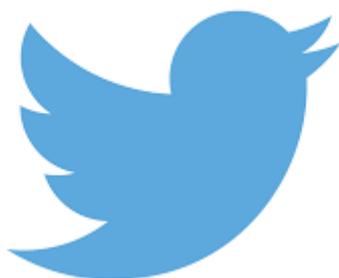


Unfortunately, the current restrictions concerning parent access to the school building remain in place. Contact to the school should be made through telephone or email. The class emails are the best way to contact the teacher directly, however, please be mindful that they have been advised not to access 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.

Online Safety

This is a useful resource for parents, reminding them of how their role as parents, is crucial in keeping their child safe online.

Twitter



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

ONLINE CONTENT
10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**
Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**
Understand what's being shared or what seems to be trending at the moment.
- 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS**
Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.
- 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP**
Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**
Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**
Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**
Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**
If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday
www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @natonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @NationalOnlineSafety
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.09.2020

Data Collection

Next week we will be sending out data collection forms to ensure our records are up to date. It is essential that at least two contact numbers are provided for each child. The numbers provided must be able to receive calls during the working day. This is a statutory safeguarding requirement.

In addition, the photo consent form will also be sent home for you to complete. We do need to do this annually so you will need to reconfirm permissions. Please do consider carefully the implications if you choose for your child's image not to be used on the website or our Twitter page. It will mean your child will be asked to stand aside from staged shots and children often find this confusing.

In our Newsletters I would like to share with you information and useful resources to support our "Meadows in the Moment" journal project which is very much underpinned by the Growth Mindset approach. We are

currently developing resources for our website which will enable our families to reinforce this resilient approach in your conversations at home too.

HOW TO EMPOWER CHILDREN WHEN THEY STRUGGLE

1 LISTEN AND EMPATHIZE

Practice listening when your child vents to you about a problem.

- Provide **choices**
- **Validate** your child's feelings
- Ask your child **open-ended questions**
- **Prompting** with questions like,
- You can also **ask**, "What do you need from me?"

"What do you think would happen if you tried ____?"

2 MODEL THE ATTITUDE YOU WANT TO SEE

Big Life Journal

Practice listening when your child vents to you about a problem.

- Use **phrases** like, "This is hard. I need a break," or, "This is hard. I'm going to keep trying."
- **Ask** your child to help you brainstorm solutions.
- **Avoid** expressing negative opinions of yourself or making comments like, "I can't do this."
- Focus on the **positive**. Was a lesson learned? Did you improve? Did you overcome the struggle--and how great did it feel?

3 BUILD UP CONFIDENCE WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE TASKS

Boost your child's feelings of confidence and capability by allowing him to do age-appropriate tasks on his own.



4 REMIND THEM OF PAST STRUGGLES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Remind your child of tasks that were once difficult and became easier with time.



5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Teach a simple process like the following:

- **Step 1:** What am I **feeling**?
- **Step 2:** What's the **problem**?
- **Step 3:** What are the **solutions**?
- **Step 4:** What would **happen** if...?
- **Step 5:** What will I **try**?

6 KNOW WHEN TO LEND A HAND

Step in when:

- There is a **safety concern**.
- When a task that is **not developmentally appropriate**.
- A **skill(s) needs to be learned** before your child can succeed.
- Your child has tried multiple strategies and persevered, but is **still struggling**. In this case, offer guidance and help. Then, discuss what your child learned and praise the effort/progress.

BIG LIFE JOURNAL - BIGLIFEJOURNAL.COM



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.



We believe, you achieve

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