



17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

# MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## A Message from Mrs Hewitt



We have come to the end of the Autumn Term, and although school life has been very different to our usual lead up to Christmas, we have had lots of fun, whilst staying safe! Santa made a visit to forest school this week; we kept the campfire burning to keep him and the children warm during their visits. We have made mini videos for parents to see; these should be on the website soon (we have experienced some technical issues 😞). Parties and Christmas dinners have gone ahead with the usual noise and excitement. A big thank you goes to one of our mums, who is a professional actor, who gave us the rights to show her pantomime from last year (Peter Pan). We hope that the children have enjoyed all the activities on offer.

This term has been quite a challenge in the current circumstances, but I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and how well they have adapted to new routines. They have worked tirelessly to keep the children both happy and safe, whilst continuing to provide a high quality of education. Having over 350 children onsite (alongside more from Parkside) has kept us on our toes, along with the last-minute Government directives! I am also very impressed with our children who have responded so well to all that we have introduced. A huge **thank you** goes to the parents and carers of Meadows. I cannot thank you enough for adapting to the changes so willingly, and for supporting us throughout the term. Your kind words, your messages (and gifts) of appreciation and thanks have kept us going in these unprecedented times.

We say a sad goodbye to Mrs Archer and Mrs Fisher who are both retiring. We will miss them both, and thank them for their dedication to Meadows for over 20 years. We are sure that they will come back to visit us! We are receiving daily updates from Mrs Tromans about her twins, who are doing well. Hopefully they will be able to come home in the New Year.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors at Meadows, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe!

### A message from Catshill Food Bank:

Unlike other years we will be providing a limited emergency service between Christmas and New Year. We will be offering normal service until then, and we will offer a further collection day of Wednesday, 30 December, for emergency food parcels. To access this help please text your "Name" and "food request" to 07452 102649. We will respond with a text message, with a collection time for 30<sup>th</sup> December. Appointment times will be sent, by text, on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December and the phone will not be manned at other times. Please note that deliveries will not be possible - it will be collection only. Also emails and telephone calls will not be accessed during the Christmas break

## Memories of the last week in school



Santa comes to visit



Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas mini-productions



Christmas art including making calendars and cards



### Friends of Meadows

Thank you to Friends of Meadows who provided the children's Christmas presents this year and also organised the Christmas Raffle. This raised £638.10. Friends would like to say a huge thanks for everyone's support.



We were asked to collaborate with North Bromsgrove High School on their Community Christmas video. Here is the link, and you can see our reception children during the Hallelujah song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H91RPvgL3RU&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you to NBHS for asking us to join in with this project.

### Key messages for parents re COVID over Christmas break:

- Parents of pupils who are symptomatic at any time should arrange for immediate testing: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/condition>
- Pupils who have COVID-19 symptoms starting on either Friday 18<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December will need to inform their school if they subsequently test positive.
- Pupils who develop COVID-19 symptoms and test positive after Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December will not need to inform the school but will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and their close contacts will be identified through the national Contact Tracing Service (CTS).
- Pupils who need to continue their self-isolation into the new term (January) should inform the school of their absence in the usual way.
- Parents should be reminded that under no circumstances should any pupil return to school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms (however minor) or are unwell in any other way. They should arrange for a test and inform the school

**The school will text you if there has been a positive case in your child's bubble and you are required to self-isolate. I am hoping that this will not happen but I have to keep in contact with Public Health England for 6 days after the end of term.**

### **Meadows Mouse Awards**

***these were given out today in a 'Zoom' assembly across school. Well done to the children listed below:***

Goslings	-	Bobbi A - trying hard with her writing. Oliver P - being a good friend.
Cygnets	-	Kyron H - amazing pencil skills. Ollie C - working so hard in phonics.
Caterpillars	-	Olivia B - trying hard with her reading at school. Finnley J - brilliant computational skills.
Dragonflies	-	Jessica - great improvement in writing. Leo - super maths work, particularly with money.
Owls	-	Harrison T - being determined with his reading. Blake M - being enthusiastic in everything he does.
Hedgehogs	-	Jessica T - positive attitude at breaktimes. Leo F - improved maturity & his constant enthusiasm.
Dolphins	-	Izzy W - contributing lots of great ideas in class. Riley J - fantastic art work.
Sharks	-	Mason W - creating a lovely quilling Christmas card. Alan D - always being so enthusiastic.
Jaguars	-	Theo & Stanley - great attitude to learning in all lessons.
Tigers	-	Henry S - being a wonderful member of Tiger's class with a great sense of humour. Betsy - always being a determined & focused pupil in lessons & always being kind to her friends.