



# MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### A Message from Mrs Hewitt

Wow, what a rollercoaster of a year it has been for our children, our families, governors and our staff team! We started by thinking that the disrupted school year of 2019-20 was long gone, and we could return to school with some normality, only to be thrown into new lockdowns and periods of self-isolation! Whoever would have thought that we would be greeting our children wearing masks, sanitising at every opportunity, having tight toilet rotas to allow cleaning between each bubble.... the list goes on. Despite all these alterations from the norm, the upset and uncertainty thrown in their way, our children have been truly wonderful throughout it all! They have shown all the Meadows Mouse qualities of determination, focus, enthusiasm and organisation! More importantly they have developed resilience and shown a caring attitude to each other! Our children have been remarkable and should be very proud of all that they have achieved. I am sad that they have not been able to have all of the usual experiences that Meadows is proud to offer, but the teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure they have had some fabulous learning experiences whilst also trying to make up for key areas of lost learning. The nurture and care that they have provided as part of the teaching day has been fantastic to see, and it has amazed me how calm and happy the school has been throughout the unsettled 18 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff team who have worked tirelessly to keep our children and their families safe throughout the past year whilst also providing an excellent educational experience, in some extremely difficult circumstances. They have adapted from teaching in the way they were trained, into teaching online and creating home learning, while keeping the school open for the children of our key workers! The office staff have kept the cogs in the Meadows machine going smoothly throughout it all. They have been so dedicated and I cannot thank them enough for their support throughout the pandemic. I also would like to thank the members of our Governing Body who have been there to support me throughout this year, and I appreciate everything they have done for our children. We are very lucky to have such a committed, hardworking, and enthusiastic team of people (staff and governors) that care our school.

We are saying a sad farewell to some of our staff who are leaving to either retire to start new ventures. Mrs Halfpenny, Mrs Glover, Mrs Probert, Miss Vickery and Mr Archer – you have all been wonderful members of the Meadows team; we will miss you. We also have 2 members of staff who are getting married this summer. Mr Brooke is getting married and will be known as Mr Wilbrooke on his return. Miss Datson is getting married and will be called Mrs Barry on her return. We wish them both every happiness for the future.

We have all found the past year difficult, at some point, and I know that some of our procedures have caused families inconvenience but please be assured that everything that we have done has been in the best interests of our school community. I have had to make some difficult decisions along the way, some at extremely short notice, but your support throughout has meant a great deal to me! Thank you to everyone for your patience, support and for the extremely kind messages we have received over the year. You have been amazing! I hope that all of you can make up for lost time with your families and friends, and that you can take some time to support your own mental health and well-being. **On behalf of the staff at Meadows, have a lovely summer and 'Thank You!'**

I wish our year 4 children the very best of luck for their new adventures at Middle School. I know that you are all ready to move on to the next stage of your learning journey, but we will miss you! Say hi if you see us and let us know how you are getting on. Thank you to the year 4 parents for your support over the last 5 years- I have enjoyed getting to know you and your families; your children are a credit to you.

#### **Cards, gifts and videos**

On behalf of the staff I would like to give our thanks for the very kind gifts, cards and messages that have been sent into school; they are all very welcomed and greatly appreciated.

#### **September return**

All children will begin school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. We envisage that all our normal/traditional routines will be back in place if the Government agenda stays the same. Information will be sent out regularly if changes are needed due to DfE and PHE guidance.

### Uniform for September

If you are getting prepared for September, here is a reminder of the uniform that your child needs:

- grey trousers/ skirt/ pinafore dress,
    - a white polo shirt,
    - school sweatshirt/Cardigan
    - black school shoes.
  - For summer, green and white check/striped dresses and grey shorts can be worn.
- We will continue to allow children to come to school in their PE kit on PE days. The kit is black shorts or jogging bottoms, a yellow t-shirt (there are some available with a logo at <https://www.shopkeepeasy.com/meadows-first-school/p-e-kit> or the school shop in Bromsgrove) and trainers (outdoors) and pumps (indoors).

Pupils who develop **COVID-19 symptoms up to and including Friday 23rd July** will need to inform school if they subsequently test positive [office@meadows.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@meadows.worcs.sch.uk). Pupils who develop COVID-19 symptoms after Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and test positive will not need to inform school but will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and their close contacts will be identified through the national contact tracing service.

There are lots of summer maths activities on the White rose Hub website for children to access over the summer holidays if they wish. [https://whiterosemaths.com/morrison/?fbclid=IwAR3psyW-jh2U5vPXGo03kxB71R0ArzW0g05NaLhkES30nWWXNcg\\_nmcAl8s](https://whiterosemaths.com/morrison/?fbclid=IwAR3psyW-jh2U5vPXGo03kxB71R0ArzW0g05NaLhkES30nWWXNcg_nmcAl8s)



**Thank you to everyone who has had their vaccine.** You are protecting our community.



**Thank you to everyone who has had to self-isolate.** We know this has been really hard, but it makes a huge difference in reducing the number of people getting COVID-19.



**Thank you to everyone who is using the rapid COVID-19 tests at home.** You are helping to stop the spread of the virus.



**Play your part and keep Worcestershire safe**



**Happy Summer Holidays to everyone!**

