

Newsletter



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL

Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Today has been a positive end to what has been a busy but productive year. When I reflect on 2023 I am very proud of what we have achieved as a school and I am sure that many students will also have good memories of the year. During the course of 2023, as a school, there were notable achievements including a fantastic results day in August captured by the BBC; sporting achievements in basketball, football and darts; the launch of our new Business and Innovation 6th Form Centre; being recognised by the Department for Education as one of only two schools nationally to showcase best practice for uniform branding for our new Meadow Park uniform; the Winter Showcase; student leadership; workshops and visits for students, to name just a few.

Our achievements and rapid improvement have been recognised officially. This term we were inspected by Ofsted and whilst I have seen the draft report, I am still waiting for the official final report which I will be able to share with you once it has been released. I was hoping that they would have it ready before Christmas, but I can assure you it is worth the wait. As soon as it is released, probably now in January 2024, I will send it to you.

Students and staff were invited to wear a Christmas jumper today over their uniform as part of Save the Children's Christmas Jumper campaign. Thank you to all staff and students who donated to this charity. Thank you to all students who had the pleasure of sitting together in the dining room for our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday. It was really moving to see the students and staff enjoying the food and singing along in the Christmas spirit. I would like to thank Mrs Black, our Catering Manager, and her team for putting on such a wonderful lunch.

On Tuesday, Year 11 students received their mock results based on their performance in the most recent mock exams. Students will receive personalised

feedback from their teachers to allow them to make the expected progress to reach their targets and beyond. For some students, the results were a real testament to the hard work and commitment that they have shown in their studies. Well done.

As we finish today I know that there will be many staff and families, just like myself, who will be getting the final preparations ready for Christmas. I am looking forward to spending some time with my family over the Christmas break and also an opportunity to visit Iceland (volcano permitting!). Staff return on Monday 8th January for a training day at the Finham Park MAT offices, with a school training day on Tuesday 9th January. All students should return to school at 8:45am on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

Please can I remind parents and students of the importance of wearing the correct uniform, particularly the requirement to wear a grey pleated skirt or grey school trousers (leggings or black trousers / skirts are not permitted). Students should also wear the blazer and tie they were provided with; footwear should be black shoes. If you experience any financial hardship and are unable to provide the correct uniform, please do let us know to see if we are able to support you with this.

I would like to thank you for your support during 2023 and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Best wishes

Mrs Pettman
Headteacher

Nurturing Excellence, Growing Aspiration, Thriving Together



Free School Meals

Whether your child is eligible for free school meals depends on their age, where you live and your income. Your child may be eligible if you are claiming any of the following benefits:

Income support

Income-based jobseeker's allowance

The guaranteed element of pension credit

Income-related employment and support allowance

Working tax credit run-on – paid for four weeks after stopping work

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Child tax credit, as long as you don't also receive working tax credit and earn no more than £16,190

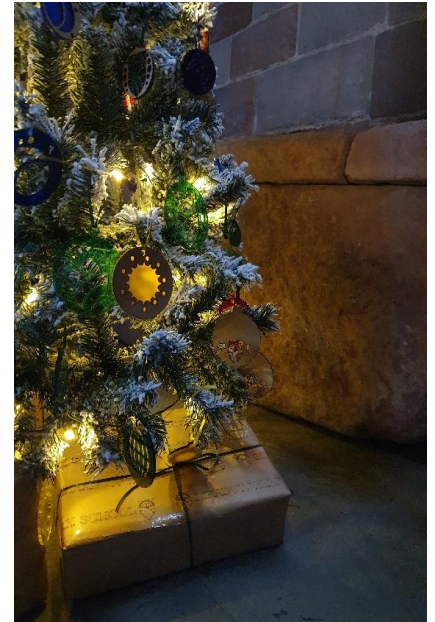
Universal credit, if someone applied since April 2018 and their income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including benefits). If someone applied for UC before then, there is no income threshold.

If you think that you might be eligible, or if your circumstances change, please use this link to sign up at: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/2>

Mrs Secker
Assistant Headteacher

Christmas Tree Festival

This week, students at Meadow Park school were invited to take part in the Christmas tree festival at Holy Trinity Church in Coventry city centre. This competition is run by the Rotary Club. The design technology department made some custom tree decorations celebrating Meadow Park. Baubles were made to showcase the school logo, the school values and the different houses within school. Competition winners from the calendar competition and Christmas card competition visited the church to help decorate the tree. I think you will agree that the tree looked fantastic! The tree will be displayed in the church until the beginning of January.



Enrichment Clubs - Autumn Term

	Break	Lunch	After School
Monday	Basketball Sports hall	Chillout Monday Library	Netball Courts KS4 Football Field Rugby Field MPTC Rehearsals G18 STEM Club S04 Dungeons and Dragons Library
Tuesday	Basketball Sports hall	Rowdy Tuesday Library	Girls Football Field KS3 Football Field Badminton & Table Tennis Sports hall Year 11 English Recap G02 Photography Club T03 Memrise Club F09 MPTC Rehearsals G18
Wednesday	Basketball Sports hall	Geeky Wednesday Library	(STAFF TRAINING)
Thursday	Basketball Sports hall	Sporty Thursday Library Knit and Natter G04	KS4 Sports Coursework Catch-up Basketball Sports hall Art Club T04
Friday	Basketball Sports hall	Creative Friday Library Chess Club F05	Robotics and Upcycling Club F18



We are proud to launch this year's Meadow Park school art calendar, produced in house displaying work created by our students in KS3 & KS4. A great way to make note of upcoming school events and keep track of school holidays and teacher training days. A useful tool to help your son/daughter organise their schedule or makes a great gift for family members. Calendars can be purchased though parent pay for the price of £5.00.

A4 size ring bound with hook, 350gsm card with blank calendar to input your own dates.

Head of House Award

The Head of House Awards for week ending
15 December were awarded to:



Rubie	
Uche	
Eliza	
Adina	

Head of House Award

The Head of House Awards for last week were awarded to:



Charlie	 FULMEN
Habibata	 LUNAR
Husna	 ORBIS
Martyna	 SOL

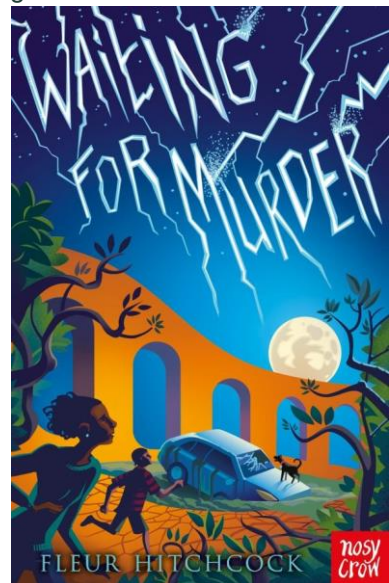
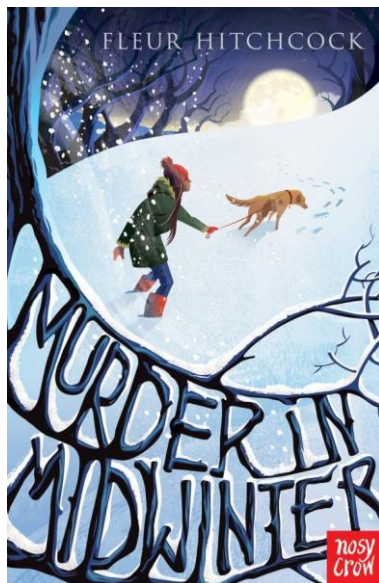
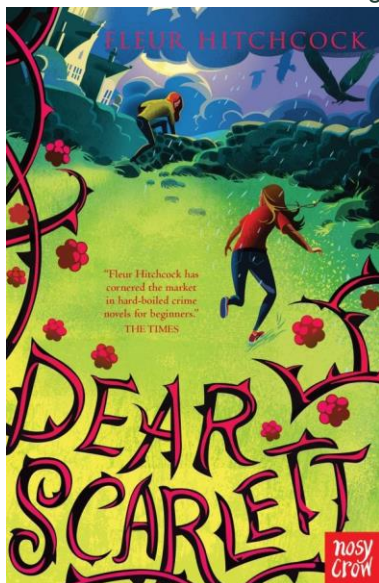
News from the Library!

This week I wanted to focus on one of the authors from the 12 Books of Christmas we have been hosting in the library.

Fleur Hitchcock is a writer who, according to The Times, has “cornered the market in hard-boiled crime novels for beginners.” She has written a number of crime and adventure books for young adults as well as Primary aged children. Fleur also openly admits to suffering from writers’ block, telling readers of her blog that she often finds it “super hard to concentrate” – something I’m sure many of us can relate to!



Murder in Midwinter is one of our 12 Books of Christmas, with an exciting wintery plot. Seated on the top of a bus, days before Christmas, Maya sees a couple arguing violently in the middle of a crowded Regent Street. They see her watching, she looks away, and the woman disappears. Maya goes to the police, who shrug and send her away. Then a body turns up. Now convinced she is a vital witness to a crime, the police send Maya into hiding in rural Wales but she resolves to get to the bottom of the mystery. Then the snow comes and no one can get out. But what if someone can still get in...?



We have Fleur Hitchcock’s books, *Waiting for Murder*, *Murder in Midwinter*, *Dear Scarlett* and *Bus Stop Baby* in the library to be borrowed now; please do come and ask Mrs Dearden or Mr Spencer if you need help finding them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very relaxing holiday over Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed in January!

Mrs Dearden and Mr Spencer
Librarians

MEADOW PARK BUSINESS AND INNOVATION SIXTH FORM CENTRE

WHY JOIN MEADOW PARK SIXTH FORM CENTRE?

You will be joining our newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre.

The subject offer consists of:

- Business T Level
- BTEC Business
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Applied Science
- BTEC Travel and Tourism
- BTEC Performing Arts
- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Law
- BTEC Marketing
- EDUQAS Criminology
- A Level Art and Design
- A Level Biology
- A Level Spanish
- A Level Sociology



This subject offer has been chosen to give our students the best chance of achieving the qualifications that will enable you to thrive in your post 6th form choices. We will offer you more than academic success and you will follow a comprehensive Personal Development and Enrichment Programme that will enable you to flourish both whilst you are with us and after you have left.



STELLAE HOUSE

When joining Meadow Park Business and Innovation Sixth Form Centre you will also become a member of Stellae House, a House dedicated solely to Sixth Form students.



SCHOOL SYNERGY

School Synergy is now live. It is our vision that School Synergy becomes the single access point for parents and carers providing up to date school news and information, a place to communicate and engage with school and the ability to track the progress and development of your child as it happens.

When you create a Parent Portal Account you can view information tailored for your child including attendance, behaviour, parent letters, the school calendar, student timetables and much more.

If you haven't already done so, please register for a Parent Portal Account by visiting <https://mps.schoolsynergy.co.uk/> In addition, the Synergy parent app is available to download for Android and Apple (iOS) devices.

Each parent/carer or family member who wishes to have access must use their own unique registration code. Students were given letters to bring home with the codes on. If you did not receive your code please contact the school office.

If you have multiple children at Meadow Park School you can add those accounts from the Student menu.

If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will be happy to help, by emailing admin@meadowparkschool.com or telephoning 02476302580.

SCHOOL SYNERGY

Parents & Carers

School Synergy is a solution to help manage communication between home and school. With School Synergy, school news and information specific to your child is shared in real time.

School to Parent Communication

School may send an email and/or text about a variety of topics such as:

- Behaviour concerns and achievements
- Attendance queries
- School news and events or important announcements
- Individual teacher communication
- Reports, Progress and Assessment Information

These messages will often include a secure link where you can view a detailed message. Your school will share the email address and mobile number(s) being used. A copy of all text messages and emails also appear in the Communication section on the Parent Portal to ensure that you never miss a message.

Parent to School Communication

Sometimes it's difficult to know who to contact within school about a specific request.

With School Synergy you can complete a contact form from the school website or directly within the Parent Portal. This message is received and routed appropriately to the correct person within school and ensures that a response is given.

Parent Portal

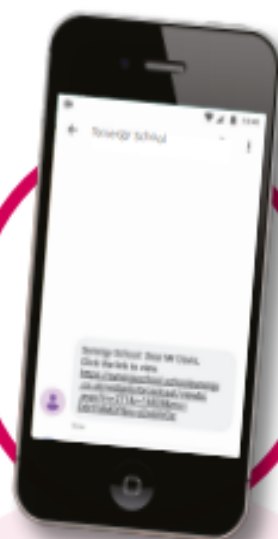
The Parent Portal is a single place where you can view school information for one or more children. With a Parent Portal Code provided by school, you can register and view attendance, behaviour and achievements, parent letters, school calendar, parent communication, homework and more.

Your school will provide details on the features currently available.

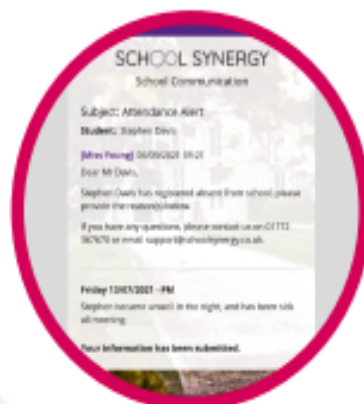
Android and Apple iOS apps are also available to download.



Take a 2 minute tour of the Parent Portal
<https://vimeo.com/506028955/89eg80e50f>
or scan this QR code with your phone



A text is received from school



Click through to the message



Messages on the Parent Portal

A complete and intuitive school system

HOW CAN YOUR STREETS BE IMPROVED?

Living Streets wants to hear from those who know their streets best – you! We are specifically looking at the route below. Tell us where your streets could be improved for walking and wheeling.



SURVEY

You can share your views using this online survey:
surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CovW



For more information and a chance to take part in an in-person audit of the streets contact Anna on 07714 616600 or Anna.Griffiths@livingstreets.org.uk



livingstreets.org.uk

Uniform



School shoes guidance

Plain black with no logos
No high heels, 'sliders', boots, sling back or open-toed shoes
Black leather or leather effect

TRAINERS AND CANVAS SHOES (VANS/CONVERSE) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



AUTUMN TERM 2023

TEACHER INSET DAYS	MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER AND TUESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
TERM STARTS (STUDENTS RETURN)	WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER - YEARS 7, 11 AND 12 THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER - ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS
HALF TERM	SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER – SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
TEACHER INSET DAY	FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER
LAST DAY OF TERM	FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER – SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY

SPRING TERM 2024

TEACHER INSET DAYS	MONDAY 8TH JANUARY & TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY
TERM STARTS	WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY
HALF TERM	SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
LAST DAY OF TERM	FRIDAY 22ND MARCH
EASTER HOLIDAY	SATURDAY 23RD MARCH – SUNDAY 7TH APRIL

SUMMER TERM 2024

TERM STARTS	MONDAY 8TH APRIL
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	MONDAY 6TH MAY
HALF TERM	SATURDAY 25TH MAY – SUNDAY 2ND JUNE
LAST DAY OF TERM	FRIDAY 19TH JULY
SUMMER HOLIDAY STARTS	SATURDAY 20TH JULY

School Day



TIMETABLE	START	END
ON SCHOOL SITE	8.40 AM	
TUTOR TIME	8.45 AM	9.15 AM
LESSON 1	9.15 AM	10.15 AM
LESSON 2	10.15 AM	11.15 AM
BREAK TIME	11.15 AM	11.35 AM
LESSON 3	11.35 AM	12.35 PM
LUNCH	12.35 PM	1.15 PM
LESSON 4	1.15 PM	2.15 PM
LESSON 5	2.15 PM	3.15 PM



Safeguarding: Top Tips for setting up parental controls on new devices:

7/10 parents use technical controls on their child's devices to manage access to content; such safeguards can be an enormous asset: helping parents and carers to manage what their child might encounter online while allowing young people to happily use their new gizmo to start exploring the digital world.

Though extremely useful once in place, such parental controls vary from device to device and can often be confusing or difficult to set up. The attached guide outlines what defences are available on some of the most popular devices around: advice that will probably come in particularly handy at this time of year!

When it comes to the Festive period there are additional safeguarding risks that you and your family may not have thought about:

Isolation – Children can feel cut off from their peers and at times these are their support networks.

Over indulgence – are the adults around the children drinking too much alcohol, are the children witnessing this or alcohol readily available in the house and posing a risk that children may drink it.

Home Alone – visiting family and thinking that your child is old enough or mature enough to be at home alone – think twice!

Changes in routine/ new people visiting- is this stressful for your children, are these new people safe?

These and other issues don't usually come first when you think about time off over Christmas and having time with the family, but they are worth a thought and a reminder to our families about keeping our children safe. For more information on the above, please read the article ([link below](https://www.thesafeguardingcompany.com/resources/blog/safeguarding-during-the-christmas-holiday-season/))
<https://www.thesafeguardingcompany.com/resources/blog/safeguarding-during-the-christmas-holiday-season/>

Stay Safe!

Mr Paul Rule
Child Protection Officer &
Senior Pastoral Support Manager

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Nery Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 10 years' experience of writing for titles such as *The Sunday Times*, *Whistle*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4's *Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The
National
College

NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



West Midlands Police

Follow us on X @CoventryPolice



Sign up to WMNow today

Get all the latest information about what's happening in your area



12 Days of Crime Prevention — Christmas 2023

Keep your home secure

- Securely lock all doors and windows before going out or to bed. Use a timer device to switch lights on after dark.
- Don't put presents under the tree until the last possible moment—and close curtains so your gifts can't be seen from the street.
- Mark your postcode on new presents with a UV pen. Note down the serial number and record it at www.immobilise.com so if it is ever stolen, you're more likely to get it back.
- After Christmas, remove any trace of expensive gift packaging by taking discarded boxes to the tip or recycling centre.



Stay safe on your festive nights out

- N**ever leave your drink unattended
- O**n route out or home? Avoid travelling alone
- E**nsure you use a licensed cab or pre-booked taxi
- L**ock up! Lights on



Don't give burglars an early Christmas

- **Heading home for the end of term?** Lock your windows and doors
- Take your valuables with you
- Don't leave items visible from your windows and doors
- Don't advertise your empty house on social media



Car thieves

- Don't leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running while it defrosts—a thief could drive off with it.
- Stay with your vehicle and if you're in a rush, use de-icing spray and a scraper to speed up a process.
- Sit inside your vehicle whilst the heater de-mists the windscreen.
- Claims on insurance policies can be affected if the vehicle owner is deemed partly responsible for the theft.

Keep your car safe

- Check your fob has done its job—don't assume your vehicle is secure, always check door and windows are locked before you walk away.
- Remove valuables such as sat navs, MP3 players, laptops, tablets, coats and loose change before leaving the vehicle.
- Wipe away tell-tale suction marks from the windscreen—this may alert a thief to your sat nav being hidden inside the vehicle.
- Don't advertise what you've bought by leaving gifts on show while you return to the shops—lock everything away in the boot. Take shopping inside immediately when you get home.



CARD COLLECT IS A CON

Help police - pass it on

Together we can stop courier fraud
www.west-midlands.police.uk



Tackle Robbery

Be discreet on the street – keep your phone, mp3 player, jewellery and other valuables out of sight.

Stay alert – don't let headphones block out traffic, strangers or potential trouble.

Listen to your instincts – know your route, avoid dark places and if you don't feel safe, move to a busier area.

Trace lost or stolen items by activating the tracker app on your mobile or Tablet
Get lost or stolen valuables back – register them for free at www.immobilise.com so police can return them to you if they're recovered.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas from West Midlands Police

For further advice call 101 or visit www.west-midlands.police.uk. In an emergency dial 999.

Contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 with information about crime.

Socialise safely

- Pubs, restaurants and other venues will be crowded, so don't hang bags over the back of your chair and keep wallets and purses close to your body.
- Have fun and drink sensibly—binge drinking and excessive drinking at home before a night out puts you at risk of crime. Never leave drinks unattended or accept them from strangers.
- Find out the times of the last tram, train or bus home, or pre-book a taxi from a local licensed operator.
- Never drive under the influence.



Beat the pick pockets

- Keep handbags closed and close to you, and wallets out of back pockets.
- Try not to overload yourself with bags and coats.
- Don't leave pushchairs, shopping bags or trolleys unattended. Take personal belongings with you into changing rooms.
- Be discreet when handling cash and cards at the till and at cash machines—put them away immediately and keep an eye on who is around.

If you require any further crime prevention advice or are interested in becoming a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, please contact Pete Sturgeon at Coventry Central Police Station e-mail—peter.sturgeon@west-midlands.police.uk



**MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL**

THRIVING TOGETHER