

Newsletter



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL

Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

As we conclude the first Autumn Half Term, it has been an opportunity for reflection. There have been numerous educational visits, workshops, visiting guest speakers, competitions, sporting fixtures and some great learning opportunities for students over the last 8 weeks. Even today, on the final day of this half term, we have students involved in a number of activities such as First Aid Training and a workshop with Jaguar Land Rover. We are very proud as a school to be able to offer such a broad curriculum and enrichment programme. As part of our weekly and in fact daily learning walks, I have seen some excellent teaching and learning across the school. I am always delighted when students show me their work and talk about their learning and the progress they are making.

Last night was our annual Award's Evening where students were congratulated on their achievements during the last academic year. It was very moving to see how proud students, families and staff were of each winner as they came on stage to collect their trophy or medal. Our guest of honour was David Busst, former footballer and now Sky Blues in the Community representative. David spoke passionately not only about his horrific injury but how he had channelled positivity in his life

to go on to be successful. One thing he said really did strike a chord with me and members of the audience; when he spoke about asking not what you can take from society but what you can give back. I referred to this in my whole school assembly this morning and asked students to think about how they can be the best version of themselves.

After half term, there will be mock exams for Year 11 students. At our recent Year 11 Information Evening, staff were able to share with students and parents tips and information to support them to be successful. I hope that they will use half term not only to relax and recharge their batteries, but also to revise for these important exams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your families for the support you give our students and school. Whatever you are doing over half term, I hope you have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing everyone when we return on Monday 4th November.

With best wishes.

Mrs Pettman
Headteacher

Nurturing Excellence, Growing Aspiration, Thriving Together



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Issue: 25 October 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WRITING COMPETITION

Deadline: November 8th

Hand in to Miss Johnson G04

- In line with the 'Reclaiming Narratives' theme of 2024, we invite all students to enter the **MPS Writing Competition**.
- You can narrate your own experiences, share the voices of those in your family or community, **OR** research an individual to help share their story.
- You can write a poem, story, essay, fact-file, book or film review... anything at all!



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL



News in Science!

This week in STEM club students learnt how to make their very own lava lamps. Students learnt about hydrophobic substances like oil, which do not mix with water. Students used hydrochloric acid and added a layer of oil on top. Then they added their own choice of colours. The only thing they needed now was to make it bubble like a lava lamp. Once they added a vitamin C tablet, it began moving and making very pretty patterns!

STEM Club is every Monday after school in S04 with Miss Smallman, come and join us for some fun experiments!



Miss Smallman
STEM Co-ordinator



Mocks are here! Year 11 will begin mock examinations on Monday 4th November. The exams on the first Monday back after the half term holiday are RE in the morning and maths in the afternoon (which involves all students). Make sure that you encourage your child to revise for these over the holiday– every last bit of knowledge or practising of the exam skills will make a difference to the grade. It’s also important to remind your child to take regular breaks so that they don’t overload their brain. There are some last-minute tips below to make sure that your child’s exam preparation is as effective as possible.

After-school intervention runs every day after school. The intervention timetable, the exam timetable and the assembly can be found on the school website [here](#).



Mrs Secker
Assistant Headteacher

Enrichment Spotlight

We have had a very exciting new lunch time club start this half-term that is hosted and enjoyed by both staff and students alike.

We have had over 45 students attending the weekly Crochet Club – ranging from beginners to experts, who have been making all sorts of amazing creations and patiently teaching others their skills.

One student, Akua, has created this stunning dress!

We have a fantastic range of enrichment clubs on offer at Meadow Park School – look out for our new Enrichment Timetable that will be sent out after the half-term break!



Miss Johnson
Enrichment Co-ordinator

Understanding and Supporting Your Child with Behaviours that Distress and Challenge

In partnership with Coventry Complex Communication Team (CCT)

(For parents/carers of all age groups, with or without a diagnosis of ASC)

VIRTUAL SESSION (Teams)

Thursday 14th November 2024

9.30am – 12pm

This session aims to:



- ♦ Increase your understanding of your child's behaviours in relation to their Autism, complex communication and emotional needs
- ♦ Explore reasons why behaviours might be challenging and distressing
- ♦ Recognise the importance of emotional understanding and regulation
- ♦ Share key strategies in behaviour management

To book a place, and get your teams link, please contact: SENDIASS (QUOTE: CCT)

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

Tel: 024 7669 4307 or email: iass@coventry.gov.uk

News from Lakeside Diner

It's back!! Hot chocolate at morning break.
Making a welcome return for the colder months, hot chocolates will be served in the diner at break time. £1.10 for hot chocolate, add marshmallows for £1.20 or a cookie/brownie for £1.60!



Tuesday 5TH NOVEMBER

Bonfire Night

MAIN

Bangers & Mash served in a fire pit
£2.30

Hot Firery Vegetable Samosa
£1.30

Bonfire Bombers
£1.50

DESSERT

Guy Forks Ganer Sponge - £1.00

MEAL DEAL

1 X MAIN MEAL, 1 X DESSERT
+ SMALL JUICE / WATER - £2.75

Unfortunately, due to vast price increases on food cost and consumables, we are having to increase some items on our tariffs.

Over recent years we have absorbed these price increases and not passed them on to our customers, but due to current costs continuing to rise, we are no longer able to do so.

We have not taken the decision lightly. We have researched other schools in the local area and we are pleased our new tariffs are still cheaper.

The following items will increase from Monday 4th November 2024. All our meal deals will remain the same price at £2.75 but this will be for a selection of 3 items not 4.

Chips / Wedges	- £1.50	Pizza Slice	- £1.40
Burgers	- £2.00	Cold Wraps	- £1.60
Plain Sandwiches	- £1.50	Premium Sandwich	- £2.00
Sweet waffles	- £1.00	Pain Au Choc	- £1.00

The catering team here at Meadow Park are committed in providing the best service and standards for your child.

Mrs Black

Catering Manager

News from the PE Department

The Year 7 football team bounced back from a loss against Finham Park last week to beat Stoke Park convincingly, 3-0. Goals by Teddy and Yousaf as well as an own goal by the Stoke Park defenders to start off the game gave the Year 7s their first win together as a group. Their next game will come after half term away to Sidney Stringer Academy.

The Year 10s played their first game of the year and won a thriller against Lyng Hall School. After going 2-0 down, a hat trick from Cherif helped turn the tide in a thrilling finish for the Meadow Park team in their comeback. The team have no upcoming games but training will return after half term on Tuesdays after school.

Mr Morgan
Curriculum Leader - PE

October half term Activity Camp '24

28 October - 1 November

Coombe Abbey Park, Coventry CV3



10% off
with


Have a go at:

- ✓ Combat Archery
- ✓ Laser Tag
- ✓ Bushcraft
- ✓ Survival Skills

**9-13
years**

**10am
-3pm**

**£25pp
per day**



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



Rose

Valerie

Naimah

Demilade

New Parent App and School Communication

Please sign up to our new parent portal MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).



DON'T FORGET to enable push notifications for the MyChildAtSchool app on your phone so you can see all emails and letters the school sends you.

All schools in the Trust are using Bromcom and MCAS so for Meadow Park School, it means MCAS replaces School Synergy.

MCAS is now live, so as soon as you sign up you will be able to see your child's information. As School Synergy is linked to our old MIS it is no longer updating, therefore in order to view your child's timetable, see their attendance and behaviour points you will need to sign up to MCAS.

You have access to all the same information as you had in School Synergy. MCAS allows us to securely share your child's/children's achievement points, attendance, school reports, letters and school diary whenever you wish. The portal also provides general useful information about the school such as flash announcements. This will be our **primary means of communication** with you, from now on. Please make sure you enable notifications for MCAS as this is the way we will send you emails and letters.

To login to the MCAS Parent Portal, we have enabled you to 'self-sign on'. All you will need for this is your email address that the school has on record for you. Enter the school postcode CV34BD (without a space) or use our identifier 15028. Search for Meadow Park School.

School Communication

All communication from school is now via Bromcom and if you sign up to the parent portal MCAS then you will receive notifications from the school via the app. You can view all letters and emails, past and present, in MCAS. If you don't have the app then you will receive a normal email. Please add '15028@bromcomcloud.com' to your address book in order to prevent messages being blocked by your spam/junk filters.

How to Self-Sign Up for Parents

Parents and carers can access the MCAS Parent Login screen in two ways:

1. From within your web browser type **www.mychildatschool.com**
2. Download the free **MyChildAtSchool** parent app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play.

When you use the parent portal for the first time you will need to Sign-Up. Full instructions have been emailed home or they can be found on our website.

If you require any assistance logging in for the first time, please contact the School Office by emailing admin@meadowparkschool.com or telephone 02476 302580.

Uniform



Green school blazer



Grey V-neck sweater



Tie



Skirt



Trousers

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 2024

Teacher Inset Days	Monday 2nd September & Tuesday 3rd September
Term Starts (Students Return)	Wednesday 4th September – Years 7 and 12 Thursday 5th September – Years 11 and 13 Friday 6th September – All other year groups
Half Term	Saturday 26th October – Sunday 3rd November
Teacher Inset Day	Friday 29th November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20th December
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 21st December – Sunday 5th January

Spring Term 2025

Teacher Inset Days	Monday 6th January & Tuesday 7th January
Term Starts	Wednesday 8th January
Half Term	Saturday 15th February – Sunday 23rd February
Last Day of Term	Friday 11th April
Easter Holiday	Saturday 12th April – Sunday 27th April

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts	Monday 28th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Half Term	Saturday 24th May – June 1st June
Last Day of Term	Friday 18th July
Summer Holiday Starts	Saturday 19th July

Safeguarding

Teaching Children Fire Safety
Horror Films & Age Ratings

When it comes to this time of year - our students and families often have lots of things to look forward to, whether it be a firework display, a bonfire celebration or all of the spookiness and sweets that comes with Halloween!

We want you to spend your time with your family safely and have lots of fun – so wanted to share the guides below for some advice and things to think about and discuss with your children.

Please take a look at the [Teaching Children Fire Safety guide](#) to ensure you've taken precautions and talk to your children about the risks and dangers especially around flammable materials and naked flames. Did you know that approximately 350 children are injured in accidental fires every year – don't let it be one of yours!

The guide on [Horror Films & Age Ratings](#) explores what to think about when you are choosing what spooky film to show your children, and check that they aren't watching something that isn't right for them! Ofcom's latest study states that most children can stream films on their mobile devices, tablets, games consoles and laptops – have you checked that there are restrictions or what they have been viewing?

Children often want to be older than they are or join in what they *think* all their friends are doing – but each child is different, what is right for one might not be for another! It is especially hard to with older children to know how to manage their increasing interest in more mature content (like horror films). To help avoid interrupted sleep, upsetting content and anxiety as a result of something 'TOO SCARY' - Please read through the guide for some food for thought!

Stay Safe and have a happy half-term!

Paul Rule
Child Protection Officer &
Senior Pastoral Support Manager

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, as you can teach children these techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't trouble them

PG-13: Children under the age of 13 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of streaming platforms creates a risk significantly in streaming platforms, almost all of which are 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have trouble separating fiction from reality. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider episodes of either film, where dated special effects (making it very obvious that something wasn't really filmed) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As this content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children adult to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the film's themes that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror goes to its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on young minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first film into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of occurring in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them; this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parental discretion, but it's vital to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Bailey is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their children in the ever-changing digital world.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: the full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>

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Message for parents from West Midlands Police:

As Halloween and Bonfire Night approaches, West Midlands Police would like to encourage you to talk to your child about staying safe and sensible during this time.

Remember...

Stay visible at night by wearing fluorescent clothing or head torches

Supervise children with sparklers and at firework displays

Warn your children about stranger danger and only trick or treating in well-lit, known areas

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a firework, flare or smoke bomb.

You can download our free parents' guide of safety tips here:

<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/police-forces/west-midlands-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/darker-nights/>

If you want to report something suspicious call 101 or **999 in an emergency**. For more information about how West Midlands Police are helping keep you safe this Halloween, search '*WMP Darker Nights*'.



MEADOW PARK SCHOOL

THRIVING TOGETHER