

Spring Term Edition

Friday 11th January 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

A Happy New Year to you all! This week has been a very positive start to 2019, with all classes beginning their new topics enthusiastically. As a school, we are challenging every child to develop a growth mindset and value the importance of determination, effort and practice. We have taken inspiration from writers such as Matthew Syed, Professor Steve Peters, Jo Bowler and Carol Dweck. We are promoting a 'can-do' culture with an emphasis on self-belief, trying our best, and learning from mistakes. We will also be highlighting the success-stories of adults and children who have overcome difficulty, achieved success through hard work or have an inspirational life story. We look forward to sharing the results of our learning with you, later in the term. We also hope it will have a positive impact on academic progress

Meadowside Class News

Reception

This week we have been busy with our Maths, joining with the rest of the school on the week of inspirational maths. We have enjoyed the games and challenges. We also talked lots about how it can be good to make mistakes, we learn from them. We also started our new topic this week; What's the story? We will be looking at lots of different traditional tales. In the classroom there is a story chest with items from each new story. This week there were 3 pigs, a wolf, bricks sticks and straw. We will be learning the stories, dressing up, using puppets and much more.

Years 1 & 2

Welcome back - we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year! By the time you read this, Year 1 and 2 will have found out all about their new topic, Quizzical Nature! We saw some exciting posters up around the school about a nature quiz taking place with children all around the world. We looked on the website and have registered to take part. Now we just have to wait and see if we are picked... and make sure we are armed with lots of nature knowledge so we can do our very best!

This week, Year 2 have found out about a very exciting opportunity we could take part in... Today we found out about a competition that tests our knowledge of plants and animals. We visited the website www.quizzicalnature.co.uk and read about some of the things we would have to learn if we wanted to take part. It sounded very interesting, so we made a plan today to help us beat the competition and win the quiz!! We will keep you updated on our progress!

Year 3 & 4

We have had a lovely start to the new year in year 3! This week, we have kicked off with the start of our new topic: You've Been Framed, which is focused on art and design. We have already looked at artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Piet Mondrian and Jackson Pollock, and have created some amazing pieces of art inspired by them. We look forward to learning more about different artists and techniques later in our topic. In the meantime, in maths we have had a big focus on growth mindset and maintaining a positive attitude when working on problems we find difficult. This is also a great skill that can be transferred to many aspects in life and it would be fantastic if this could be further encouraged at home.

Just a little reminder - please remember to continue reading with your child, as well as encouraging them to practise their timetables and spellings. If you need a new spelling list, please do not hesitate to contact the year 3 team. Finally, we hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your kind wishes, cards and gifts! We are very grateful!

Year 4- Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. The children certainly seem to have enjoyed themselves. This week, we have been focusing on having a positive mindset and the benefits it can have for our learning. The children have certainly taken the advice on board and enjoyed challenging themselves and approaching tasks differently.

Our new topic is 'You've Been Framed' and we all enjoyed launching it with outdoor activities linked to the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We have also created our own colour wheels using primary colours to mix secondary and tertiary colours. In English, we are researching the lives of famous artists so that we can write our own biographies next week.

Year 5 & 6

A Happy New Year to one and all; we hope you are refreshed and looking forward to 2019! Our new topic, Vanishing Kingdom, was launched today. We have read the first two chapters of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and this be the stimulus for much of our English and topic teaching this term. The children enjoyed their orienteering activity as part of "yacht school", and this related to Michael's mother in the story who needed to develop her navigation skills before their world voyage. Our maths activities related to 'Inspirational Maths', generated by Jo Boaler of Stanford University who is a professor of mathematics. The sessions are open-ended, problem solving activities designed to engage and enthuse both children and their teachers. We also watch short video clips about cultivating a "growth mindset", which is the belief that with effort and perseverance, we can all improve our skills and abilities, not just in mathematics but in all school subjects and in wider life, too.

As part of our growth mindset work, we have started reading 'Mt Hidden Chimp' by Professor Steve Peters. We will continue using it and we would highly recommend the book. It helps primary age children and their parents better understand and manage their emotions thinking and behaviour.

Happy New Year to you all from everyone in year 6. We hope you enjoyed a relaxing break. Our new topic, The Vanishing Kingdom, began with a special themed day on the first day of this term. We read the opening chapters of our new book, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo, and considered just exactly what it might be like to prepare for a long voyage on a yacht. We decided that navigational skills would be critically important, so we sent ourselves to "yacht school", just like Michael's mother in the story. Having learned how to read a map, we completed an orienteering course and earned our yacht master's certificate. Kensuke's Kingdom will continue to inspire and inform our English lessons and topic work over the coming weeks. In maths this week, we are once again following a week of inspirational maths activities provided by Professor Jo Boaler of Stanford University in the USA. These are open-ended, problem solving activities designed to engage and enthuse both children and their teachers. We also watch short video clips about cultivating a "growth mindset", which is the belief that with effort and perseverance, we can all improve our skills and abilities, not just in mathematics but in all school subjects and in wider life, too.

Other News

Holy Trinity Singers – In the last week of the Autumn Term, 30 Meadowside singers from years 3-6 performed brilliantly and beautifully at a concert in Longlevens, alongside an adult choir. Thanks go to the children for their hard work and sparkling performance and to friends and family who supported this event.

Ten Pin Bowling Team – a group of Y6s have represented us today at an inter-schools competition at Tenpin 10. This is the first time we have taken part in this event, run by one of our sports partnerships.

Clubs – Meadowside's after-school clubs for the Spring Term will begin on the week of Monday 21st January and run until the week of Friday 15th March. A separate letter, with all the details, will come out to you next week.

Friends Of Meadowside

Happy New Year to everybody! The Friends Committee are all well rested and ready to start a new fun packed term. We kick things off on the 8th February with Quiz night and our usual legendary Quiz Master will be in charge of proceedings. This is an adults only event. £2 per person to enter and a maximum of 6 people in a team. You will see more information out about how you register a team shortly. This will then be quickly followed by a Valentines Dress Down Day for the children on Thursday 14th February.

Please keep an eye on our notice board in the car park (near the well) for more updates and announcements.

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Please visit our website www.meadowsideschool.co.uk, for all upcoming events.

Dates for your diary

17th January 2019 - Young Voices concert
Monday 21st January – First swim session for Year 4
30th January – QLC Cross Country Festival, Beech Green
8th February 7pm - Meadowside Quiz
14th February – Valentine's dress-down day
18th – 22nd February - Half term
Monday 25th February- School reopens 8 55 a.m.
Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

Date of next newsletter: Friday 25th January 2019