



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 12th October 2018

Message from the Head

Staff are having INSET training today from a national professional development company. We are looking at Reading and Writing in the primary curriculum. The training should impact on classroom practice as well as the development of the school in these areas. I will tell you more about what we have learnt, in the forthcoming edition of HeadLines!

Please remember to collect your data pack from me, on arrival at parents' evenings next week – we look forward to seeing you all then.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

We have been continuing to work hard on learning more sounds and building simple words. Even though we have almost been at school for a whole term there were still a few firsts this week. We went to our first whole school assembly and have had a PE session outside with some Gloucester college students. We are all getting used to the lunchtime routines and are becoming more independent at playtimes, changing into our boots if we want to go on the grass.

Years 1 & 2

What an exciting time we have been having in Year 1! We have been following the adventures of the Everywhere Bear in English and have really enjoyed talking about our favourite toys in topic! We have conducted mini interviews with each other about our toys and enjoyed sharing what makes them our favourite! Next week we will look a little closer at these toys and work out what materials were used to create them!

Last week, we got messy in Year 2 and made our very own Andy Warhol pictures! We designed our own pictures based on his Toy Series paintings from 1983 and we used our 3d shapes to print the pictures we designed! It was great fun to see the images come to life when we added the pen detail this week! These pictures will be coming to a corridor near you soon!!

Year 3 & 4

This fortnight we have been looking further into geology and the different types of rock that can be formed! The children took part in a very exciting experiment (involving starbursts!) which helped us to understand how metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous rocks are formed. We are currently looking at shapes in maths, while in English we are focusing on the story of Ug, making comparisons between our lives now and the Stone Age. The children have settled in beautifully and we are all loving our time in year 3!

Year 4 had a fantastic time in the Wye Valley last week, learning new skills and developing teamwork. From archery to giant skis, orienteering to den building, all children challenged themselves and persevered when things got tricky. We are preparing a scrapbook of our adventures to share at parents' evening. Back in school now, we have started work on 'Stig of the Dump' and in maths, we are focussing on tricky times tables. Keep counting in 6s, 7s, 9s and 11s at home as well.

Year 5 & 6

We are concluding our Heroes and Villains topic question 'Is it good to be bad?' Having predicted and measure different drop times of modified spinners and created a line graph in science, we have completed our independent newspaper report for the 'Giant's Necklace'. Over the half term break, your child may well wish to follow-up on this Michael Morpurgo book with 'Private Peaceful' or 'War Horse', which tie in well with next month's commemoration of the end of the First World War in 1918.

Willows have welcomed the Sophie, the 30th member of Year Five to our class. She is settling in well and it has been heartening to see her new classmates making her so welcome.

We have met Mitch Johnson, author of 'Kick' at the Cheltenham Literature Festival and the children enjoying hearing about the process of writing a book, from its inception to actually getting it published. Year Five Book Club has been very enjoyable and we will read up to the end of Chapter 10 from 'Who Let the God's Out?', and then discuss it at our next meeting on Monday 28th October 2018. Hopefully, we will run book club again in the next after school club cycle and offer the opportunity to other Year 5 children to join and enjoy reading for pleasure with a different text.

In maths, we have been focusing on place value and working with negative numbers. Please continue to practise with rapid recall of division and multiplication facts with times tables up to x 12. There are some excellent resources from Kangaroo Maths <http://www.kangaroomaths.com/kenny1.php> that you can print out at home and use to improve your times table recall. Enjoy the half term break and try to get to Westonbirt if you can!

Year 6- Our topic, Heroes and Villains, progresses and we have been investigating air resistance as part of our work on forces in our science lessons. In PSHE, we are considering the effects of peer pressure on our choices. By the time you read this, we will have received a visit from both staff and student sports coaches of the University of Gloucestershire, who came to help us develop our skills in our games lessons on Wednesday. In mathematics, we have been continuing our studies of calculation, learning more about both multiplication and division. Last week, we completed our study of the short story A Giant's Necklace by Michael Morpurgo by writing a newspaper report about the events in the story. Everyone loves a good debate, so this week we have begun preparations for ours which will be on the topic of children's bedtimes. Should all children go to bed at 8:30pm?

Finally, may we thank Harley, Max, Dylan L. and Lila for helping to present our harvest assembly on Wednesday. It is great to see so many members of Year 6 stepping forward to take leadership roles in our school.

We look forward to seeing you at parents evening next week. Remember to sign up if you haven't already done so. Thank you for your support in our first term at Meadowside.

Governor corner

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Governing team (some old, some new!).

My name is Ian Webb and I am the new Chair of the Governors. I have been a Governor at Meadowside for over 5 years.

The new Governors are Sally Perry (former Chair of Friends of Meadowside) and Craig Broadman.

Both have children at Meadowside.

Sally from her dealings via 'Friends' already has a good insight into the workings of the school and Craig whose background is in I.T. will hopefully bring his skills to good use within the Meadowside ethos.

Lawrence Boakes, Rachel Brain and Rhiannon Byron will continue in their roles as Governors.

Cj Phelps and John Talbot have kindly agreed to stay on for 12 months as Associate Governors in order that when required, we can call upon their knowledge and expertise.

Mr Port was elected as an associate Governor, and Mrs King remains as Staff Governor.

Miss Thomas as Head Teacher sits on the Governing body.

In future editions of the Friday Fortnightly I will explain roles of each Governor and how the various committees are constructed.

Friends Of Meadowside

Thank to everyone who has bought plates for the Bake-off this week. We hope you enjoy the fun of baking and decorating at the weekend! Don't forget to bring bakes into the hall before school on Monday 15th and then the cake sale will be in the afternoon after school.

And, don't forget, while your cakes are cooling on the side you can use those 90 minutes to come and help with the '90 minute makeover' on Sunday morning 10:30 - 12pm. The weather is looking unsettled but we have our fingers crossed for a dry spell! Everyone is welcome including kids and we will provide refreshments.

Miss Thomas will make the announcement of the bake-off best bake winners in assembly.

Next meeting Thurs 18th October – 7:30pm

Other News

The paperwork for Primary/ Infant admission will be posted out by mid November 2018. If you have not received any paperwork by December please contact the Co-ordinated admissions team at Shire hall.

There will be no clubs week commencing 15th October. Meadowside clubs restart on Monday 29th October.

Our girls' team took part in a competition yesterday and absolutely loved it! They showed heart, determination and skill. A huge thanks to Sam (a Meadowside mum) for helping make it possible and coaching the girls through the games. The B team are up next!

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Monday 7th January 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Term 1 finishes at 3 15pm on Friday 19th October

Term 2 begins at 8 55am on Monday 29th October

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

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 16th Oct – 4 00 – 7 00pm Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 16th October – Y5 to SkillZone a.m.

Wednesday 17th Oct – 3 30 – 5 30pm Parent Consultation Evening

Monday 29th October – **School Photographs (individual and sibling)**

Monday 5th November- YR-Y5 flu immunizations

Thursday 15th November – Gloucester Schools Cross Country

21st and 22nd November – Life Education Bus

Date of next newsletter: 2nd November 2018