



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

Welcome back everyone! We've started a new school year very positively, with children settling quickly into new classes and routines. They are already impressing us with their efforts. We have all enjoyed welcoming new staff and pupils to the school and our youngest new arrivals are officially delightful! Our assembly theme for this term is 'Our Class, Our Community'. As well as recognising and following the rules they have agreed in their own classroom, the children are being encouraged to value and appreciate the sense of belonging to our school community. We will continue to highlight the importance of appreciating and supporting our local community too. We will shortly be asking for donations to Gloucester Food Bank, with further charity and fundraising events to follow after half term.

Good Luck to all of our Year 6s who have opted to sit the Grammar School Entrance Exam tomorrow.

Meadowside Class News.

Reception

The children have made a fantastic start to school. They are already sorting out their things and joining in with all the activities. There are so many new routines and places to explore, we are trying to introduce just one new thing every day. Everyone looks very smart in their new school uniform (please don't forget to label it). Our topic is 'Who are we?' and we have been checking that we know all our friend's names, drawing our faces and finding out about each other. We have also been talking about our feelings, what makes us happy/ sad. At school we are all feeling very happy.

Years 1 & 2

What a fantastic start to Year 1 Apple class have had! We are settling really well into the routines of a Year 1 class and now we have started our A Toys' Story topic too! We received a package on Monday containing two bears and an invitation to host a Teddy Bears' Picnic! We have got lots of things to get sorted before we will be ready to be the best hosts we can be, but we have already made a start on them! Ask your child what we have been up to and what other things they have decided we need to find out about.

Year 2 have made a great start to this academic year and we are busily working hard on being brave and giving tricky challenges a try! We launched our topic this week and were invited to host a Teddy Bears' Picnic in November! We have planned all the things we think we need to learn between now and then, so we have a good plan of action to help us host the perfect picnic.

Year 3 & 4

I feel extremely lucky and privileged to have had such a lovely and warm welcome from the Meadowside family and from Beech class. We have had a wonderful few weeks settling into Year 3 and have already done plenty of fun and exciting things in our class. The children spent the first week back designing and making our very own pebble pets, whilst also producing and creating a very useful leaflet on how to take care of your pebble pet. This week we have used drama in English to recreate the moment Mary Anning discovered the famous fossil of the Ichthyosaurus! We then become paleontologists ourselves by excavating chocolate chips from cookies! The children have worked really hard the past 2 weeks and we can't wait for all of the exciting things to come!

We have had a fantastic start to Year 4 with all the class returning with a focus and determination to be 'our best'.

Last week the children enjoyed designing and then making a pebble pet. As the week progressed, the children created a habitat for their pebble pet in Forest School, named, weighed and measured their pet to enable them to create a fact file on the computer and even wrote a manual on how to care for their pet! This week we have started to think more about the question 'Who Can be A Rock star?' We have been thinking about paleontologists and have carried out a chocolate chip cookie excavation.

Later in the term (week beginning 8th October) we will be starting to read 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King as a whole class guided reading text. It would be really beneficial for children to have access to a copy of this text, please see if you have a copy, could borrow a copy, or even purchase one ready for then. We envisage using this text for most of the term until Christmas. Thank you!

Year 5 & 6

Year Five Willows have made a great start to the year and we have started our long topic, 'Heroes and Villains.' The children have enjoyed interpreting Jaberwocky and we completed a week of 'Inspirational Maths' where we have learned about how the brain makes connections between different areas of maths and how this helps us to grow and learn. Swimming will take place every Monday, thank you for confirming whether your child can wear goggles and any lessons that they are receiving at other providers. Mrs Bouvier will take p.e. lessons on a Tuesday afternoon and the topic this term is 'gymnastics'. We will be using the Michael Morpurgo text, 'The Giant's Necklace' during English this term and if you were able to obtain a copy of this book for your child, that would be helpful. Our CATs tests took place on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. It would be very helpful if you would ensure that your child holds a current library card as we will be visiting Quedgeley Library this half-term

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed our team building and BBQ activities on Friday, especially as it got darker! Spaghetti towers, shelter building, marshmallow toasting, the holey bucket challenge and many more all meant we were spoilt with challenging and fun activities. Thank you very much for supporting this special event.

We've had an excellent start to life in Year 6. After completing the tradition of making our own peg labels, we got stuck into a week of inspirational maths. These activities involved improving our confidence and seeing links across different areas of maths; we really enjoyed the tasks. In English, we have begun our work on The Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll. Performance poetry, art, story writing and word classes have all been part of the first week of work. Computing has involved coding (anyone remember Logo?!) whilst P.E has been all about learning new games and using space effectively. Bring on the next fortnight!

Governor corner

One of our Parent Governors stood down at the end of the academic year and we therefore have a vacancy to fill. Parent Governors are elected by and from the parents of children currently attending our school. They serve a four-year term of office and bring a very important and valued perspective to the work of the governing team. Further information regarding the election will be sent out over the next few days.

Friends Of Meadowside

Welcome back after the summer break and welcome to all the new families joining Meadowside. We are looking forward to another year working together to put on some great events and to continue to raise the funds needed for the development of the amphitheatre area. Please see our newsletter for more information on this and more about the change in the committee roles.

We will meet for the first Friends meeting of the year on Thursday 20th September at 7.30pm in the school hall to discuss the calendar of events for this academic year and to elect the committee members for the year. Drinks and nibbles provided! It would be great to have some of the new reception parents/carers join us if they can. It is great to have input from all years so that we get the right balance for everyone. There's no pressure and it's a great way to meet people and learn about the school. Look forward to seeing you then!

Other News

Meadowside's After School Clubs will start week beginning 24th September. A separate letter with all the details will come out on Monday.

If your child has signed on for Young Voices (Years 4,5,6), please remember that the first session will be Monday 17th Sept until 4pm.

The Cross Country event was a very positive way to start our sporting calendar. All the children who took part showed effort, determination and great support and encouragement to each other. Those invited to trials will receive further details soon.

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Friday 12th October 2018

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

Monday 17th September 7pm – Y5 Secondary School Meeting
Monday 17th Sept – launch of e-book/audio books scheme (details to follow)
Thursday 20th Sept – Y5 trip to Quedgeley Library
Thursday 20th September – Friends of Meadowside Meeting at 7.30pm
Friday 21st Sept – Y4 Residential Meeting 2 40pm
Wednesday 26th Sept 9 15am – Reception parents 'Letters and Sounds'/Reading mtg
3rd – 5th October – Y4 Residential
Wednesday 10th October – Y5 at Cheltenham Literature Festival
Thursday 11th October – Harvest Assembly (pupils only); donations for Gloucester Food Bank
Tuesday 16th Oct – 4 00 – 7 00pm Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 18th Oct – 3 30 – 5 30pm Parent Consultation Evening

Date of next newsletter: 28th September 2018