

Summer Term Edition

Friday 20th July 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

Many thanks to everyone in our school family for another successful and happy year at Meadowside. We are so lucky to have the support and enthusiasm of parents, family members, Friends of Meadowside and our Governing Body. I would like to thank the staff team and your wonderful children who make every day at Meadowside such a pleasure!

Saying goodbye to leavers is a natural part of school life, but always an emotional and poignant experience. We wish all our Year 6s a successful future and send good luck to those families who are moving on to pastures new in other year groups. Thank you to Miss Devoy and Mrs Dingle (Y4 team) for all they have contributed to school life and the care and support they have provided.

We are also losing a certain Mrs Morley, who has played a huge part in Meadowside's history and development, as well as embodying our values and helping countless children to flourish, achieve and grow. We need look no further for a living, breathing example of 'Making a Difference for our Future' than the awesome Mrs Morley! Good luck and be happy in your new role as Deputy Head!

Meadowside Class News.

Reception

For the last weeks of term we have changed our topic title from 'Where shall we go?' to 'How will we get there?' The first week we looked at Cars and Bikes. We read several books about Mrs Armitage who was always making changes to her vehicles. One morning we all brought our bikes and scooters into school, it was great to show them to our friends. We had a bike parade. This week we have been thinking about how we would get to space. Some amazing rockets have been built and we have used our imaginations to create aliens and their space ships. As usual we have had great fun in Reception but learnt lots along the way.

Years 1 & 2

What a fantastic year Year One have had! We have been thinking back over all of the things we have done, all of the topics and new things we have learnt and the children cannot quite believe how much they have squeezed into one year! We are setting our minds to being ready for Year 2 and have also been helping the transition for Reception children by designing helpful posters about Year 1 for them! We have also written ourselves letters which will be kept safe until we reach Year 6! Have a brilliant Summer Year Ones - you will be excellent Year 2s!

Year 2- We have spent this week reminiscing about everything that we have learnt this year. We cannot believe how far we have come and how much we have learnt. We were very proud of our achievements, as we hope you are too. We have been thinking about moving to Year 3 and are looking forward to all the new challenges that lay ahead of us. Have a restful summer! Thank you for all your continued support.

Year 3 & 4

It has been a wonderful ending to our topic with campfires, cooking and a day spent living as an Anglo-Saxon in the Forest of Dean! Wonder who decided they wanted to stay in AD420? Over the next few days, we'll be reflecting on a wonderful year together and celebrating all our achievements! Good luck in year 4 Elm class x

Year 4 have had a really exciting few weeks. We had a brilliant visit to Beechenhurst, where children built dens, dyed fabrics with leaves and had a go at creating a wattle and daub hurdle, all whilst learning more about Anglo-Saxon life. One child said "It was the best trip ever!"

This week we thoroughly enjoyed our 'Shine day' and it was fantastic to see all the children looking the part in their fantastic costumes. As part of the day children all tried to hunt like an Anglo-Saxon during an archery session, cook like an Anglo Saxon, making some vegetable pottage and live like an Anglo Saxon, in Forest school, making a fire and cooking some bread. At the end of the day the children were asked whether they would use the time machine...ask your child what they decided and why.

Year 5 & 6

Our Year Five journey is coming to an end and we have spent time celebrating our successes and considering how we can build to a really successful Year Six. In mathematics, we have been investigating prime numbers; having previously consolidated our understanding of finding the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes.

In English, we have written a letter to persuade Miss Thomas to consider banning cakes and biscuits from the staff room. It has been good to see children use the knowledge they have acquired in this topic and persuasive language, in an attempt to influence Miss Thomas. We await her response with interest.

As it is the end of the school year, we are collecting in all reading books, reading records and outstanding library books. We would be grateful if you would assist us and send them in. We would like to wish you a happy break over the summer and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Year 6- They've done it! Year 6 put on two spectacular performances of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' and we couldn't be more proud. The singing, dancing and acting were top drawer and all the children put so much effort, humour and energy into it. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the children with costumes, lines and cheers! As we approach Leavers' Assembly, we have been asking the children to reflect on their time at Meadowside. You'll get to hear their favourite memories (along with a few surprises!) at their big event on Tuesday. We have been delighted with how the children have achieved this year. They have grown as a class and can be very proud of the legacy that they will leave behind. The end of the year can be measured in SATs results or it can be measured in how kind, fun and compassionate you are. We prefer the latter!

Governor corner

Governors recently met for the last time this academic year and as well as reviewing data and recent SATs achievements, said goodbye to some of its membership.

As you know from previous communications at the end of this academic year, one of our Parent Governors, John Talbot is standing down. John has been part of the team for over 3 years and has fulfilled the roles of Vice-Chair, Resources Committee Chair and our Finance Link Governor. John has demonstrated a great commitment to the team and his skills have been utilised to the full and we would like to thank him for his contribution over the years and wish him well.

It's also time, after 7 years, for myself to bid the Governors farewell. I have been fortunate to work closely with the school, fulfilling the role of Chair for the past few years. Originally elected as a Parent Governor, prior to my current term as a Co-opted Governor, I have fulfilled various roles including SEND and English Link roles. With my second child about to leave Meadowside and start her secondary journey, the time feels right to depart, but I will miss involvement with such a great community school and working closely with its staff team who are all so passionate and driven about the work that they do.

I'm really glad to report that following the recent Parent election, Craig Broadman will fulfil John's role and following agreement at our last meeting, Sally Perry, who you will know from the fantastic work completed through 'Friends of Meadowside' has been appointed as Co-opted Governor to fill my Co-opted vacancy. I'm sure you will agree, Sally has shown her skills ability through leading recent events and we took the opportunity as a group, to capture these within our team. Both Craig and Sally are enthusiastic about commencing their terms in September and the team are looking forward to welcoming them.

Lastly, Claire Weaving, our other Parent Governor, made the hard decision that she too will stand down at the end of this academic year. Claire has also completed nearly 7 years, during which time she has fulfilled roles such as our Teaching & Learning Committee Chair and Well-being Link Governor. Again, thanks goes to Claire for her commitment and contribution over the years.

Obviously, this means we will start the year with a vacancy for a Parent Governor – watch this space for further details about how you can apply to fulfil this role.

Governors wish all children, staff and families a fantastic summer and for those children about to start the next part of their journey at secondary school, every success!

Happy holidays & farewell - Cj Phelps, Chair of Governors

Friends Of Meadowside

So today marks my last Friday Fortnightly entry as Chair of Friends and it's hard not to feel a bit emotional about it. Last night we held our AGM and we celebrated a year of record fundraising and donations reaching £6,500 (the circus raising £2,600 of that), to top up the funds. We are now so close to making the amphitheatre dream a reality!

This is an amazing achievement and I can't thank everyone enough for all your support, not just this year, but in the last 3 years. In that time we have achieved so much, raising over £16,000, organising 32 events and installing not only the Green Galleon but funding several other things along the way, whilst saving for the biggest project of all with the amphitheatre area. Even last night we agreed to fund a new initiative for next year, an audio books facility which you will all have access to. More info to follow in the new school year.

I am going to get a bit more personal than usual because I need to say a huge thank you to the committee. They work so hard, and we give every event so much thought to balance the need to raise funds with keeping costs reasonable so people can enjoy them. They give up their free time, and often the chance to experience these events with their own children, to make them happen and I hope you'll continue to support the new team going forward.

Can I thank all the staff for their trust and support in the direction of friends over the last 3 years.

I have to thank Erica Phelpstead (secretary) and Nicola Talbot (treasurer) in particular. We have been a team for the last three years and I couldn't have done it without them. We all step down now and welcome Alison Fletcher as the new Chair, Rosanna Francis as the new Secretary and Claire Tyson as Treasurer for next year.

Erica and I remain on the the Friends committee and we all look forward to seeing you in September for more fantastic events together!

One last thing, we have some left over stock from the Circus tuck shop that we will be selling at the family picnic on a Monday if you'd like to bring a few pennies. Have an amazing Summer! FoM x

Other News

Outstanding dinner money- There is currently an extremely high amount of outstanding dinner money debt. This needs to be paid by the end of term without exception. The School office will be contacting any parents with outstanding debt to discuss payment. The cost of a school dinner is £2.36.

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Wednesday 25th July 2018

Monday 3rd September 2018

Friday 12th October 2018

Monday 7th January 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Please visit our website www.meadowsideschool.co.uk,

Dates for your diary

Monday 23rd July 4 30 – 6 30 pm - Whole School Family Picnic

Tuesday 24th July 9 15 a.m. Leavers Assembly (Y6 parents + any other leavers)

School finishes on Tuesday 24th July at 2pm

The new academic year begins at 8 55a.m. on Tuesday 4th September for Years 1-6 and Wednesday 5th September for Reception Class.

Date of next newsletter: 14th September 2018