



*Making a difference for our future*

# Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

*Autumn Term Edition*

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

We are due to have another Fire Drill in school, as well as practising our newly-established lockdown procedure. Sometimes, the children are a little anxious about the sounds these alarms produce, but we will be reassuring them that we have to test them, so we all know what to do and how to keep safe. We will be telling them that, if there is anything dangerous outside, we would have to lock ourselves safely inside the building. We will not be giving examples of what that threat might be, as we are mindful of not frightening them unduly with possible scenarios. I'm sure you will all agree that, in the current climate, it is important to have clear and robust procedures in place which are understood by all.

## Meadowside Class News.

### Reception –

This term we are starting on a new topic of 'people who help us'. We started by looking at how we could help ourselves and others. If we solve a problem ourselves we gain diamond power. Mrs Smith has challenged us to solve the problem of the messy boot rack outside the classroom. So far we are doing well at taking responsibility for it and keeping it tidy. We have also thought about the people who help us at school: midday supervisors, the cook, secretary, cleaners etc. We thought of questions we wanted to ask them and then went to find the answers. In the next few weeks we will be finding out about the jobs of other people who help us like the police and fire service.

### Years 1 & 2 – Escape from Treasure Island

Year 1 have been getting stuck into learning about life on board a ship. We have looked at the different parts of a ship and found out what they are called and their purpose. We have discussed what it would be like to be a member of a pirate crew, including horrible choices of food pirates had access to! We have also found out about different pirate flags and what the different symbols on them mean. After that, we designed and made our own flags ready to strike fear into all who come across it!

Year 2 are ready to become a successful crew in order for us to escape our treasure island and are busily learning about what it might be like on a pirate ship. We have learnt about the different parts of a ship and are learning about the different pirate jobs that might need to be completed on board. Miss Mellersh has taken the role of captain (of course!) so we are all trying to decide what other jobs might be good choices... no one wants to be the deck scrubber! Next week we will start to consider what our boat will need to be made of in order to build a successful example later in the term! **Dates for diary- Pirate Day- Y1 and Y2- Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Nov** (more details to follow soon)

### Year 3 & 4 – Really Revolting

Year 3 have delved back in time to Ancient Egypt and it is clear that some of their traditions were Really Revolting, particularly the use of Canopic jars to store internal organs for the process of mummification! We decided to design and make our own Canopic jars using takeaway drink cups, clay and a variety of materials for the neck of the jar. The children have carefully molded the clay to create the head of a Jackal, Falcon, Baboon or a Human with great success!

We have also learnt about the amazing discovery of Howard Carter and have decided to focus on more art skills next week linked to King Tutankhamun. In English, The Egyptian Cinderella has been our main text and we have discovered it has quite a few similarities to the traditional story of Cinderella! In Maths, we are practising our mental addition and subtraction skills - ask your child to share some of these strategies with you!

Year 4 have been finding out about the really revolting practice of mummification and had fun designing and creating our own canopic jars. In English, we have been using story maps and actions to help us tell the opening paragraphs of 'Egyptian Cinderella'. Why not ask your child to show you what they have learnt? We were very lucky this week to have rugby training with two Gloucester Community Rugby Coaches and look forward to future sessions with them. Next week, we have a visit from the Tooth Fairy. Don't forget your toothbrush!

### Years 5 & 6 – Mission Mars

Our new topic in maths lessons is mental methods of addition and subtraction. Having a good grasp of place value and being able to calculate without relying on written methods remains an important part of maths learning. In English, we are studying how to write a biography, using the life of Professor Brian Cox, astro-physicist, as an example. In computing, having completed our designs for platform-based games, we are now beginning to study stop-frame animation. We will be writing storyboards for our own animated stories, creating backdrops and props and then using our LearnPads to create stopframe animations. If you have a small cardboard box to spare (the size of a shoebox or slightly larger), then please send it in. We shall use them to create backdrops for our storytelling.

On Wednesday, both classes enjoyed their visits to Skillzone where we learned how to stay safe by investigating a range of interactive scenes with our guides. We visited mock-ups of a building site, a level crossing, a pelican crossing, a house and the river bank or coast among others. It was interesting to see how much the children had learned when we compared the results of the interactive quiz which they took both before and after their tours.

The children have returned after the half term break eager to continue with our Mission Mars topic. We have some exciting things lined up and we are expecting LIFT OFF from all the children now they are well and truly settled in Year 6. It was lovely to see you all at parents evening in the last week of term and we do hope it was useful to gain an insight to your child in school. We had great fun making 'Alien Slime' and writing instructions to conclude our work with George's Secret Key to the Universe and we are now embracing another book called 'Cosmic'. The children really are enjoying these novels. This year where possible please encourage as much reading for pleasure as possible. The correlation to success can lie in this activity above all others. There is a new homework challenge being sent out this week. Look out for it hiding in the depths of those bags!

### Governor Corner

Year 1 and 2 parents will be aware that we recently had to cancel a trip to the SS Great Britain. Unfortunately, Governors need to share that further trips may also have to be cancelled if, as on this occasion, the costs cannot be covered by parents'/carers' contributions. As a school we generally ask for contributions to cover the cost of admission and travel. Although by law, such contributions are voluntary, we can only continue the visits if the contributions are made, as school does not have the funds to cover the cost. We have, at times in the past, subsidised some trips when adequate contributions have not been made to avoid cancelling a trip; however, with a national reduction in schools' budgets, this is no longer an option. All visits are vital to broadening the children's experience and their education would be poorer without school outings and visits; however, without support, trips cannot go ahead. We understand the pressure on home budgets, (especially when parents/carers have more than one child in school) can prove demanding and therefore we offer flexible payment schemes for anyone that needs them. Please come and speak to one of us, if this would help.

Lastly, we are still seeking to appoint a Co-opted Governor and welcome expressions of interest from within our school family or wider community. To find out more information about this role, please email [Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk) and as usual, please utilise this email to provide any feedback to Governors.

### Friends of Meadowside

The calendar is shaping up nicely for the year and we have two events coming up before Christmas.

Popcorn and Pyjama parties are next week, thanks to all who were patient with the queues for the tickets. As the school is now cashless then we are also looking to do the same and setting ourselves up on parentpay. Unfortunately we weren't able to have that up and running for this event but for the future it should all be much more straightforward!

We then have the Christmas Market & Carols on Wednesday 6th December. 3.30-6pm. Carols at 4.30pm. We're waiting to hear back from Father Christmas as to whether he's able to make it, he's in great demand as always... watch this space.

### New Team Kit

We were exceptionally lucky to have received sponsorship from the Pinnell family 5 years ago for the Meadowside team kit and we are feeling very lucky once again as the Scullion family have kindly sponsored a new set of kit. Envsafe Ltd are an environmental and facilities management company which fits in with our eco-friendly ethos perfectly. We have celebrated and thanked them in assembly today, whilst showing off the fancy new kit! The new strip will be used for the football, rugby and hockey teams and we are sure many memories will be made.

### Girls' football

The girls' footy team did fantastically well at the tournament just before half term. After feeling disappointed with a draw and two losses in their opening three games, they won their final four games 1-0! Freya bravely volunteered to help Longlevens out, who were a player short by playing a game for them to even the sides, another good example of Meadowside helping others. They all did exceptionally well and after a few nerves in the first games they grew in to the tournament as it progressed and can be very proud of their achievements. By Chris Gooch.

### Uniform

Uniform can now be purchased via Parentpay. Please make sure you advise the size required when ordering.

### Parentpay Communication

Several parents have mentioned that they are not receiving all the emails sent via parentpay. If you log into your parentpay account and go to the communication tab all emails sent will be shown there. It might be advisable to check a couple of times per week. Don't forget to check the website for useful information and the Friday Fortnightly.

**Sporting Update** A big thank you to the University of Gloucestershire PE students for an afternoon of sporting workshops for year 3 and year 6. The children were involved in a variety of different games and were praised by the university students for their sporting efforts! Well done, children! We have also been successful in the ballot for the ATP World Tour 2017 at the O2 arena in London. Year 4 and year 5 children have the opportunity to attend this event on 14.11.17 and we will be announcing which children will be attending early next week! Watch this space...

### INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January  
2018**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July  
2018**

Please visit our website

[www.meadowssideschool.co.uk](http://www.meadowssideschool.co.uk),

for all upcoming events.

### Dates for your diary

**9<sup>th</sup> Nov and 10<sup>th</sup> Nov Popcorn and Pyjama**

**Parties at 5 pm**

**13<sup>th</sup> Nov- Y3 visit to Hayden sewerage works**

**15<sup>th</sup> Nov- Y4 visit to Hayden sewerage works**

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov – Cross Country Competition at**

**Beaufort Academy**

**17<sup>th</sup> Nov – Children in Need**

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov- Road Safety Week**

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov- Year 5 visit to Quedgeley Library**

**29<sup>th</sup> Nov – Reception Trip to Old Down Country**

**Park**

**30<sup>th</sup> Nov- Y1 and 2 Pirate Dress Up Day**

### Christmas Dates

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fayre and Car  
Park Carols**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am KS1 Christmas  
Production**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - 13.45pm KS2 Christmas  
Production**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am KS2 Christmas  
Production**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm KS1 Christmas  
Production**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day**

**We finish on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.**

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 17 November**