



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Summer Term Edition

Friday 14th July 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

As you can imagine, it has been an amazing day today! I'm so grateful for all your birthday wishes, cards, gifts and flowers! The children and staff all look beautiful and have been helping me both relax and celebrate! There are some embarrassing photos randomly scattered which I can't avoid, but there you go! I hope you will all be delighted with end of year reports coming home today. It is a privilege to guide your children on their learning journeys and each member of staff has taken time and care to celebrate their achievements as individuals.

Our last Celebration Assembly will be on Wednesday 19th July (trophies, certificates, birthdays).

Meadowside Class News.

Reception – Amazing Animals

Another fortnight has flown by in Silver Birch class. We have visited: Peru, with Paddington Bear. Japan, and tried noodles and Origami. America and had a go at cheer leading. Lastly we went to Finland. Miss Viseranta told us all about the northern lights, seals and special Finnish cakes she enjoys when she goes home. We made some Karelian pies and they were yummy. On Monday we went to visit St James church. It was very interesting. Father Ian told us some things about it and we had a good look around. The next Reception class have been over to visit and it has made us all realize how much everyone in silver Birch class has grown and changed over the year. They are all ready to move onto new adventures in Y1.

Years 1 & 2 – Bucket and Spades

Year 1- What an amazing time we had in Weston last week! It was a brilliant way to celebrate the end of our topic, everyone got stuck into the activities and really made the most of the trip. All of the children (and adults!) looked fantastic in their period costumes and we received lots of lovely compliments from people about both our attire and our fantastic behaviour! The sandcastle competition was a real highlight, so much thought and effort went into each creation. The children worked hard as a team to complete their pier quiz and enjoyed a well-earned ice cream!

Year 2- Unbelievably, it has been a whole week since our holiday to Weston super Mare! We had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed our ice cream, sandcastle building and, of course, our taking of the sea air! We all came back thoroughly refreshed by the bracing winds! This week we have been talking at length about all the things we have learnt throughout our topic Buckets and Spades and we cannot believe just how much we squeezed in. We have reflected on each different time period and decided on the one that we would want to live in, given the choice. Most of us chose 1970-2000! The next week will be dedicated to our Year 2 to 3 transition and we will do our best to alleviate any worries!

Year 3 & 4 – Veni, Vedei, ViciW

Year 3- We are quickly heading towards the end of term and it is clear that Year 3s are ready for their step into year 4. We have been spending time thinking about what we have learnt this year, how we have made progress and what makes a successful learner. We have just completed our 10 swimming sessions and it is clear that the children have thoroughly benefitted from the experience with their peers and how much more confident they are in the water. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow and progress each week.

A final thank you to the lovely Willow families for all your support this year - it has been very much appreciated. The year 3 team wish you all a fabulous summer break!

Year 4 Cherry- It's been a pleasure to look back and recognise just how much our Cherries have grown this year. The Residential seems a long time ago and we have enjoyed reflecting on our learning and considering how we can challenge ourselves in the remaining two weeks and beyond. We have completed our Veni Vidi Vici topic and considered how their influence lives on in Gloucester today. We have enjoyed a well earned Marble Jar treat and Cherries impressed us with their attitude and engagement during Sports Day. We are very proud of our Cherries and their effort and achievement this year and hope you are proud too as you read through your child's report. Best wishes for an enjoyable Summer break.

Year 4 Oak class are coming to the end of a fabulous and amazing journey. Never has the saying 'from little acorns great oak trees grow', been more apt. We have sown the seed of expectations in year 4 and what great results we have seen flourish. We are winding down our topic 'Veni Vidi Vici' -Pars Duo, and our Tailor of Gloucester work and reflecting on all that has made us such successful learners this year. We do hope you continue to use all these tools you have been equipped with and take them with you into new adventures in year 5 Oak! Keep reading over the summer break (and rehearsing times tables)-the key to everything. We will miss you Oaks.

Years 5 & 6 – Rumble in the Jungle/ The Battle for Middle England

Year 5 became super sleuths last week when they visited the science department at Severn Vale School for a morning of forensic science activities. At Hogwarts School, a terrible crime had occurred: a rare species of dragon's egg had been stolen from the care of Hagrid. Professor Dumbledore, head teacher at Hogwarts, was baffled by the crime and summoned the children of several Quedgeley primary schools to assist in detecting the thief and apprehending him or her. Yew class did not disappoint him. They put their curiosity, powers of observation and ability to think logically to good use whilst also learning some valuable scientific techniques such as chromatography and flame testing of materials. After a morning of dedicated sleuthing, they were successful in identifying the thief and saw him apprehended by Professor Dumbledore, much to their satisfaction. Thank you to everyone at the science department of Severn Vale School for kindly organising this event for us to enjoy.

Years 5 and 6 topic - "The Battle for Middle England" on Wednesday years 5 and 6 joined together to research, design and build a Viking longship. Mr Port kindly showed a film he shot last year in Denmark of museum workers creating a replica longship which helped the children to both understand the build process and admire the skill of the Viking shipbuilders. They spent the whole day, working in teams, creating the hull, mast, sail, oars, figurehead and fittings for our ship. Cutting the "planks" for the hull was hard work but the children enjoyed the puzzle of fitting them together in over-lapping style to create a "clinker-built" ship. The vessel now stands proudly in our courtyard – at least until it rains! Well done to all children for the effort, enthusiasm, creativity and amazing teamwork.

This is the final edition of the Friday Fortnightly that our current year sixes will appear on. We wish them the best of luck for their bright and exciting futures. Each and every one of them has been a wonderful member of our Meadowside family. For some of our parents, this is their first Leavers' assembly and for others it is their last. It is never 'Goodbye!'. We are always here and we thank all the parents for your help and support over the years. You are all AWESOME!

Governor News

One of our Governors, Justin Riordan-Jones, will be leaving us at the end of term and we wish to thank him for all of his contributions over the last few years, particularly chairing our Resources Committee.

With Justin's departure, we are seeking to appoint a Co-opted Governor who has the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. We are looking for someone who has an interest in contributing to the children's futures, a desire to make a difference, a willingness to accept responsibility and the ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn. As this is a Co-opted role, you do have to have a child at the school. Co-opted Governors, act in the best interests of the school and wider community and cannot be mandated to take a particular stance on issues. If you feel this role would be of interest or you know someone outside of our school family who may be interested please pass on this information. To express interest or ask further questions, please email: Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk.

Lastly, Governors would like to congratulate all pupils for their recent SATs achievements and thank those staff who have supported this process. We congratulate the Year 6's on their outstanding performance of Romeo & Juliet which involved some skilled acting and incredible singing and of course wish them every success as they move on to secondary school. We hope all families have a wonderful summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September along with our new families.

Friends of Meadowside

Today is the final event of the year with the disco's where we will bid a very fond, but sad farewell to our year 6's. Thank you to all of you for your part in FoM over the years, especially those parents who we will also lose to pastures new, we will miss you!! We are sure you'll be amazing out there and we hope you'll join us for the family events in the future.

It seems unbelievable that I'm writing the last entry for this school year! It's flown by, and I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their continued support from staff to parents and kids, to my incredible team who all combine to make a really wonderful group of Friends!

This year we tried some new things as well as a few favourites and we'll take that learning into next year to carry on the good work.

As always anyone is welcome, particularly for the AGM which will be on Thursday 20th July, there'll be a bit of fizz and we'll complete our final report on this year as well as voting in the chair, secretary and treasurer for next year. Plus, talk about some of the great ideas we've received from you following the news about the grant rejection, as usual you always help us keep going!

Have an amazing summer and see you on the other side!!!

Other news

Parentpay dinner money debts- All school dinner money debts **MUST** be paid by the end of term. Please log on to Parentpay and ensure that your account is paid in full.

Sports Day!- Wow! A fantastic morning of determination, perseverance, teamwork and sheer passion! Meteors have held onto the house winners title once again! Great effort all round. Huge thanks goes to the spectators and a special thanks goes to Mr Cronin for his sporting support once again this year.

Wimbledon- A hugely successful day for the 8 children who were selected from the ballot - sitting on Murray Mound watching Andy Murray on the big screen, meandering around the beautiful grounds and cheering on Heather Watson on court number 2. Obviously, catching up with Ollie Murs, Louisa Johnson and David Haye was just the icing on the cake! Exemplary behaviour from all the children who attended!

QLC Alternative Sports Festival- A brilliant morning of alternative sports hosted at Meadowside last week where local schools took part in cheerleading, tri-golf and ultimate frisbee! Some of our Y3/4 children got to test them out too!

Musicate- The journey of Musicate began with a launch festival at Cheltenham Town Hall. Miss Thomas and Alfie Spinner from year 3 were up on stage for the big reveal - we have been matched with a Polish violinist called Maja who will be coming to spend time with us over the next year! Watch this space!

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Monday 24th July 2017

Tuesday 25th July 2017

Monday 4th September 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Dates for your diary

- 18th July - Whole school picnic 4.30 until 6.30
- 21st July- 9:15am Yr 6 Leavers assembly. All parents of Year 6 children are welcome
- School finishes at 2 pm on Friday 21st July

Date of next newsletter: Friday 21st July