



*Making a difference for our future*

# Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

*Autumn Term Edition*

*Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

Welcome back, Meadowsiders! The children have returned to Meadowside brimming with confidence and enthusiasm about the next steps in their learning journey. It has been great to see so many positive and happy faces first thing in the morning! We have several events in this first term (diary dates below) which we encourage you to attend; partnerships with families are so important to us and lead to happier children making better progress! A special welcome to our brand new families with children in Apple Class – we look forward to getting to know your children (and you) and working together.

## Meadowside Class News.

### Reception –

It has been great to get to know all our new members of the Meadowside family over the last few days. All the children have made a great start to school. In the classroom everyone is confident with the routines and we have all enjoyed playtimes with the rest of the school. Some of us did PE for the first time this week and the other group used the ICT suite. By the time we are all in together we will have done lots of new things. Our topic is 'Who are we' and we are getting to know each other, talking about how we are the same and different. Soon we will be talking about lots of our favourite things; sharing our favourite books and talking about our favourite food.

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

What an exciting day we had in year one on Monday! We found ourselves stranded on a desert island with nothing but a mysterious locked box and a bag of scrolls! We followed the instructions from the main scroll which told us more boxes were waiting for us but we didn't know where to find them! We had to solve some riddles as a team which led us to more boxes and puzzle pieces. When we put the pieces together we found the combination to the first box. Inside was some treasure and a question we have to solve in order to open the next box. We can't wait to learn more information so we can discover what lies in our other boxes!

Year 2 have started the year with great enthusiasm and we are ready and set for the challenges that lie ahead- we like challenges, we have decided! This week, we discovered that we have been stranded on a Desert Island for our topic Escape from Treasure Island. We have been set a series of Key Questions that we will need to answer in order to unlock a set of treasure chests and escape... can we complete the tasks to escape?! Keep a look out for our maths, English and topic letters coming out this week!

### Year 3 & 4 – Really Revolting

Year 3 have got off to a really revolting start this term with slimy snail poetry, gross-o-meters and eating worms - goodness knows what will happen next week! The children all looked 'dahlicious' in their Roald Dahl inspired costumes and we must thank you for your support in helping making this special day as fun as it was! Year 3 have also started High 5 netball skills in PE and have begun to create revolting computer animations using Scratch. The children are encouraged to bring warm clothes for outdoor PE this term (joggers/jumpers/leggings etc...)

We have had an exciting start to Year 4 and the children have enjoyed being REALLY REVOLTING! After a fantastic topic launch last week, we have spent time delving into revolting substances and trying to work out what they were using only the sense of touch. Baked beans, pasta, porridge and shaving foam led to us pulling some very funny faces!

We have been reading Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and Wednesday was lots of fun as we celebrated Roald Dahl Day. The children all looked fantastic dressed as their favourite character from his books and we created a bar graph to show the book which generated the most costumes. In maths, we have been finding out about the brain and how much it grows, even when we make mistakes. We have looked at how creative it can be and were surprised by the number of different ways people approach solving the same task. We have created graphs, looked at how patterns grow and discovered that there are different ways to get to answers.

### Years 5 & 6 – Mission Mars

Cherry class have made an excellent start to the year, showing their enthusiasm for learning as they begin their journey into space on Mission: Mars! So far, they have applied for the post of child astronaut on a forthcoming N.A.S.A. mission to Mars and eagerly await a reply. A study of the solar system has inspired us to create our own papier mache planets and we've also used tie-dye techniques to create a fabric "sun". In maths, we are very busy learning more about multiplication including multiples, factors and primes. Soon we shall be studying various theories about how the universe began in our science lessons. Swimming lessons will have begun by the time you read this newsletter and Cherries will also have commenced playing tag rugby in their games lesson.

In Oak class we have enjoyed a great start to the year and the children have begun to consider life outside of planet Earth in our new topic Mission: Mars! We have started to learn the names and order of planets and how different they are to our own; why not ask your child why Pluto is no longer considered a planet?

In English, we have been exploring the use of metaphor and simile in poetry and in maths we been consolidating our multiplication skills. This term, we will be working outdoors in a Tag Rugby p.e. unit and we would ask that you ensure that your child is prepared for all weathers that we may encounter at this time of year! Swimming also started this week. Thank you for the books that have been donated to our classroom bookcases, rest assured, other children will enjoy reading them too!

We look forward to seeing you at the Year 5 Parents' event next Wednesday and at Parents' evening.

YEAR 6- What an amazing start to our new school year! We have launched Mission Mars successfully as our new topic and we look forward to some intergalactic fun along the way. We have written our very own applications to be an astronaut, excited about the space mission advertised. We have used our artistic and creative skills also to create some tie-dyed suns and children have had input about where they would like to take their learning journey next. Nestled beautifully amongst our classroom based learning, we successfully managed very wet and tiring adventure on Monday to Croft Farm Water Park. We rowed a katacanu down the River Avon, battling what felt like all seasons in one day! We also built and tested our own rafts in the lake. This really was team-building at its best. We saw incredible resilience from all members of the class and many shocked themselves at what an incredible 'can do' attitude can bring to their own personal development. Plenty more of this will see year 6 as a wonderful way continue their Meadowside journey. Let's make memories.

### **Governor News**

As we start another academic year, Governors would like to welcome families old and new and congratulate all children on such a positive start to the year.

Last term and over the summer, within the Quedgeley News, we shared how 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. Our search continues as we seek 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 a Co-opted role, it is not necessary 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](mailto:chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

As always, Governors welcome feedback or if you wish to raise a concern, please contact us via the above email.

### **Friends of Meadowside**

Welcome back after the summer break, and welcome to all the new families joining Meadowside. We're looking forward to another year working together to put on some great events and raise the funds needed for the development of the amphitheatre area.

We already have some exciting plans for something big towards the end of the school year and once everything is confirmed we will reveal all! In the meantime we will meet for the first Friends meeting of the year on Thursday 28th September at 7.30pm in the school hall to discuss a calendar of events 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, as it's great to have input from all years so 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**

**The Daily Mile (Children fit for life)-** This is an initiative which Meadowside will be embarking upon this academic year, as are many schools across the country. All the children have been part of an assembly explaining what the daily mile is and more importantly, why we are promoting it at Meadowside. The aim of The Daily Mile is to improve the physical, emotional, social and mental health and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances. It is a profoundly simple but effective concept. Its impact can be transformational – improving not only the children's fitness, but also their concentration levels, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing. We look forward to updating you with our progress in the upcoming weeks. Check out [thedailymile.co.uk](http://thedailymile.co.uk) for further information.

**Skate Park-** Gloucester City Council are redeveloping Field Court Drive park, and want to know if residents would like a new, high quality, skatepark for scooters and skateboards. If you, and your children, would benefit from improved facilities like this, please sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/gloucester-city-council-quedgeley-needs-a-concrete-skatepark>.

**Summer Reading challenge-** A reminder that any entries for our Meadowside reading challenge, need to be returned by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. We will announce the two winners shortly after this date.

### **Cross Country**

We will be entering the GSSN Cross Country Championships at Beaufort Academy this year and this afternoon we held our annual whole school cross country event. Mrs Iles and Mrs Drummond will be running our cross country club this term and children selected to represent Meadowside will be given letters on Monday inviting them to weekly training and further details about the championships.

### **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**

### **Dates for your diary**

- **20<sup>th</sup> Sept** Year 5 meetings at 9 15 and 6 15
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sept** Year 3 Welcome Meeting 6 pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> Sept** Reception parents Phonics Meeting 9 15
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sept** Y4 Residential meeting for parents and children 2 30
- 4<sup>th</sup> October** Harvest donations needed for Gloucester Food Bank
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October** Y4 Residential
- 17<sup>th</sup> Oct** (4 – 7pm) and **18<sup>th</sup> Oct** (3 30 – 5 30) Parents Evenings

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**