



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Summer Term Edition

Friday 20th April 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

The Summer Term has arrived! Classes have been making the most of good weather this week, to complete outdoor learning tasks linked to their curriculum. Please don't forget the practicalities of sun cream, hats and water bottles as the weather improves. Hay Fever issues will also start to arise soon. Looking at our attendance figures for the Spring Term, they have dipped slightly, so we need everyone to make a concerted effort this term to attend school every day that they can. In addition, may I remind you that holidays cannot be authorised and will incur a referral to the Local Authority if they are longer than 5 days. Well done to Year 6, who won the attendance prize last term.

We have an action-packed term ahead, with plenty to look forward to (including the circus coming to Meadowside). Our first priority is to support our Year 6s as their SATs week approaches (May 14th). They are having a mock SATs week next week, to acclimatise!

Meadowside Class News.

Reception –Amazing Animals

Amazing animals is our new topic this term. We discussed what we already know and thought of lots of things we wanted to find out and do. Everyone was keen to see animals, so a trip may well be necessary. This week we are talking about pets and how to look after them. There are some great pet experts in Apple class and even if we don't have a pet ourselves we know someone who has one. If the weather stays warm we will be out and about in the school grounds next week looking for animals living in forest school and the pond.

Years 1 & 2 – Medieval Madness

What an exciting start to the term we have had in Year 1! We were quite shocked to find the hall covered in hay on Monday, but after some rummaging around in it, we found a scroll detailing our new job; to work our way up the ranks and become knights! It is going to be hard work, we have to start off as peasants and learn all of the important skills needed before we can achieve our knighthoods! So far, we have been focusing on what castles are like, but we are looking forward to digging even further into the "Medieval Madness"!

This week, Year 2 have enjoyed an exciting launch to our new topic Medieval Madness! We saw knights competing in a 1 on 1 combat battle and are hoping to invite a real life knight to school later in our topic! We were disappointed to find out that we couldn't start out as knights and that actually, we are starting our topic as Peasants! We hope to work our way up to the rank of knight very soon! Look in your email inbox for a letter about a proposed trip early next term!

Year 3 & 4 – What Makes our World Wonderful?

What a lovely sunny week back to start our 'What Makes our World Wonderful?' topic! We had a topic launch involving creating habitats in Forest School, planting seeds for topic homework and creating our own personal wonderful worlds, which will be on display in the classroom soon. Tuesday was a Musicate day, with Maja, exploring Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World. We composed our own music to represent the magic in our school meadow! In English, we have started the text 'The Green Ship' by Quentin Blake where our first task was to write a description of the secret garden the 2 main characters are about to explore. Well done to our Tag Rugby Team who attended a festival on Thursday 16th at Gordon Lane RFC, Hempsted. Great sporting effort and skills shown all round on a hot and sunny day! A big thank you must go to Mr Cronin for the support he has given all the children involved in tag rugby this term and for giving up his time to come in and run our rugby coaching for the past 2 terms. Year 4 enjoyed a morning of outdoor and art activities on Monday to launch our new topic, 'What makes our world wonderful?' We designed habitats in Forest School, planted seeds to look after at home and used a variety of materials to collage our own planet Earth. This was followed by a visit from Maja on Tuesday, where we listened to extracts from 'Peter and the Wolf', trying to match the tunes and instruments to the characters in the story. We also composed our own lyrics and music linked to things we would find in the meadow. On Wednesday we were really fortunate to see the play 'In The Net', a short production showing us about how to stay safe online. Some of the important messages we heard were; bullying on line is the same as bullying in person and can really hurt and upset people; Don't post pictures of yourself in school uniform; Ask an adult to check the sites you want to visit; Don't message people that you don't know; If you see something inappropriate, close the screen and tell an adult; Don't give out personal information. It was a really fun way to learn about how to be safe online.

Year 5 & 6 – Our new topic 'Are you a winner?' started this week and our launch featured activities relating to physical fitness and starting to understand what is 'good mental health' and how we can try and maintain it. This is a long topic and we will be organising a 'Football World Cup' at Meadowside and help to coach younger players!

In Maths, we have continued to develop our understanding and fluency of fractions. Our main text for April and May is, 'There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom', by Louis Sachar. The children have really taken to this text and we are enjoying the characterisation and plot development.

Next week we will continue with English and Maths through the week, alongside the Bikeability.

Welcome back to Year 6 mayhem and we are all thankfully present and correct! The sun is shining and we are well on the way to achieving wonderful things this term. We have our mock Sats next week and the rescheduled parent's evening (please see the school office to ensure you have your allotted time).

We have launched our new topic 'Are You a Winner', and we will be focusing on healthy bodies and minds over the next two terms. We will be inspired by famous individuals who have shown grit, determination and resilience to conquer tasks and dreams. Have a chat with your child about healthy mindsets and how this might be useful over the next term and beyond. Securing friendships is a theme this term also and we have launched a wonderful book in English; 'There is a Boy in the Girls bathroom'.

We hope you have received news of SRE information session for parents this term also. We have so much to look forward to.

Governor Corner

As we start the summer term, Governors are pleased to welcome Rachel Brain as our new Co-opted Governor and share Rachel's thoughts on her recent appointment:

I am pleased to have been accepted to the Governing Body and am looking forward to working alongside the teaching team on the continuous improvement that makes Meadowside a great school. It has been many years since my career as a primary school teacher but I have stayed in touch through my work on sustainable development themed education projects.

I am pleased that, as Link Governor for English, I will be supporting the focus on writing. Personally speaking writing skills have enabled my career which has relied upon written bids to secure funding for education projects. Encouraging good writing skills is therefore something I feel is important and, through my experiences with my own daughters, something I know has many challenges. I look forward to playing more of a part in meeting these with the English team and getting to know the Meadowside School community even better.

If you wish to share any feedback or contact the Governors, please email: Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk

Friends Of Meadowside

Welcome back, we hope you had a lovely Easter break! We now have three events remaining this school year, the first of which will be the Sponsored walk. This is on Friday 27th April at 2pm. The school run this event during school time so all children will take part, please just make sure they have either sun hat/sun cream or waterproof depending on the weather. Feel free to add something circus related to the attire! Parents etc are welcome to come along and join in or support them on their laps, you'll just need to sign-in at the office at 2pm. There'll be a little treat for all the children at the end to thank them for their hard work. And of course the more sponsors the better for funds so we really do appreciate your support for this one!

As you know we are raising funds for the amphitheatre development as our long term project, but we do consider other requests from the school as and when needed. Last night the committee agreed a request to support a new project for the Maths team and we are looking into another request to upgrade some of the digital cameras.

There will be school discos on 18th May and the final event will be the circus on 3rd July. Tickets for these will go on sale shortly and there will be a letter in book bags with more details soon.

If anyone has a small business that you would like to buy some advertising space in the circus programme for then please let us know, low rates and should be seen by 600 people.

The school team are looking to do some paint makeovers of the shower and toilet facilities so have asked if you have any left over paint from Spring DIY jobs that you could donate to them, they'd be very grateful. Thank you.

Other News

Midday Supervisors- We are currently advertising for new midday supervisors. This post is to support and develop active lunchtimes in the playground, as well as help to run and organise an efficient lunch hall. We are looking for a reliable and energetic person who is committed to a team ethos and the safety and well-being of our children. Experience of working with children is desirable but a determination to succeed in the role, work flexibly and with a commitment to our school are key priorities. If you are interested in applying please contact the school office for further details.

Bikeability – Year 5s who have opted to do their cycle training will be around school and out on the local roads next week. Please can we all be aware, considerate, keep the cycle lanes clear and remember that no bikes or scooters should be ridden in the car park at the start or end of the school day. We had another near miss on Thursday. I shall also be reminding the children in assembly.

After School Clubs – A letter will come out next week, with a range of opportunities for the summer term. Please return your slips as soon as possible, to request a place.

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Bank Holiday Monday 7th May
Monday 4th June 2018
Wednesday 25th July 2018

Monday 3rd September 2018
(remaining dates to be shared soon)

Please visit our website
www.meadowsideschool.co.uk, for all upcoming events.

Dates for your diary

23rd - 26th April Bikeability cycle training Year 5
23rd April – Y6 Parents Evening 2pm – 7pm
27th April – 2pm Sponsored Walk (families welcome; please sign in)
2nd May – Junior Voices Concert at Gloucester Cathedral.
11th May – Dance Festival Competition at Chelt Town Hall
18th May– KS1 and KS2 Disco
22nd May- 2:45pm Yr 6 Residential meeting
23rd May- QLC Yr 1 Multisports event

Date of next newsletter: Friday 4th May 2018