



*Making a difference for our future*

# Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

*Spring Term Edition*

*Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

Happy New Year! We have begun Term 3 very positively and new topics have been launched across all year groups. I have had the pleasure of visiting classes this week to experience the positive learning environment. Many children have set writing and presentation challenges for themselves this term and are clearly determined to succeed! We are looking forward to seeing you at the Wellbeing Event next week. This is a new initiative for Meadowside and one which we intend to build upon. We welcome your ideas for future themes and ideas which would benefit the school community.

## Meadowside Class News.

### Reception – What's the story?

We have launched our new topic 'What's the story.' A story chest appeared in the classroom with clues to the first story. There were sticks, straw, bricks, three pigs and a wolf in the chest. We soon worked out that the story was the three little pigs. Since then we have been building houses, painting and drawing pigs, writing labels and retelling stories. Which story will be next?

### Years 1 & 2 – What makes Britain Great?

Year 1 were very excited to find out that our new topic would be learning all about Great Britain and what makes it great. We had lots of questions about things that we want to find out and have already started learning about Scotland this week. See if your child can tell you where it is on the map, it's capital city or who the patron saint is. Don't forget to sign up for our food tasting experience if you are able to (see letter from 10<sup>th</sup> January for more details).

This week, Year 2 have begun our new topic What Makes Britain Great? We have started to look at the 4 places that make up the United Kingdom and have written a list of questions that we would like to find out the answers to. We were particularly keen to learn the different languages or accents that people have in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, so if you (or people in your family) know any Welsh or Irish/ Scottish Gaelic and could give us a quick lesson on a Thursday afternoon, we would love to hear from you!

### Year 3 & 4 – Extreme!

What an extremely exciting start to our new topic we have had! Using maps, atlases and globes, we have discovered so many interesting facts about the world around us and can now label a globe with accuracy. We are reading 'The Great Explorer' in English and this week, have been using prepositional phrases to describe the journey Tom the explorer has taken. Next week, we will be creating, writing and publishing our own exciting explorer stories!

The children have made a really great start to the New Year. They are focused and determined to be their best! Our new topic is Extreme! and, following a letter from a local museum, we are gathering information to help us participate in a quiz. We are looking forward to a visit from the Wilson Museum on Tuesday, when we will discover more about Edward Wilson, Cheltenham's very own Antarctic explorer.

### Years 5 & 6 – Mission Mars

The children have made a lively start to a new year, term and topic: Troy Story or What did the Ancient Greeks do for us? We have enjoyed acting out the story of The Trojan Horse and then comparing different versions of the legend. This tale has proved to be a great stimulus to develop the children's writing. In mathematics, we have concluded our topic on long multiplication and we are now learning the 'bus stop' method for dividing up to four-digits by one-digit with a remainder. Keep practising the rapid recall of multiplication and division facts as these skills are proving invaluable!

This topic is a short one and will be concluded by February half-term. There are two books that we would like to recommend to you that are related to our topic. The first is the opening instalment in a trio set in the modern day: Who Let The Gods Out by Maz Evans. The other book is somewhat longer and is a retelling of the myths of Ancient Greece: Mythos: A Retelling of the Myths of Ancient Greece. We would be interested to hear what you think of either book!

It was exciting to hold our first session with the Shakespeare Club on Tuesday with an enthusiastic and talented cast of children from both classes. We are looking forward to learning more about the play 'As You Like It' in preparation for performing scenes to a live audience. More details about when we will be performing will follow in due course. There is no session on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January because of the Wellbeing event. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Year 6 have started the new year with enthusiasm, vigour and the odd battle or two! On our first day back we acted out the Trojan War as part of our Ancient Greek topic, 'Troy Story'. The battle took many Trojan lives but many survived and have managed to produce some excellent work since. We have begun designing our motorised Trojan horses as well as continue our work on fractions and algebra in maths. Troy Story has continued through our English and we are in the process of creating our very own versions of the Trojan War. We look forward to being able to share these with you. In P.E, we have been refining our tennis skills (it's a bit chilly but we don't mind!) and in computing we are learning about how the internet works. We're really looking forward to another fortnight of fun!

### Parking

Parking issues this week. As some of you will be aware, we received a complaint from a very angry resident this week. This does not reflect well on our school at all. Several Meadowside children were forced to walk into the road, due to very inconsiderate parking and the driver was less than polite when approached. Parking outside the school premises on either side of the road is not permitted or acceptable. Can we please ask everyone to consider how their actions affect others in the community and make safe and responsible choices.

### Governor Corner

Governors hope that all our school families enjoyed the festive period and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Governors will be meeting within committees and as a Full Governing Body over the next couple of weeks and are looking forward to the first Wellbeing event, as we hope families are too.

Just a reminder we are still seeking to appoint a new Co-opted Governor and wonder if you would like to consider giving your time to this important school role. If you have any questions about this role, please email: [Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk) or to share any other feedback.

### Friends of Meadowside

Happy New Year everyone!

You should have had flyers about the Grown-up's Quiz night on Friday 2nd February. We have quiz master Mr Port ready and waiting to test our knowledge so do come along and take part in the fun. Anyone is welcome so bring your family and friends. £2 per person - tickets available from the school office. 7.30pm start so come from 7pm and bring your own drink and snacks.

Next week there'll be letters in book bags for a competition for the children to design logos to celebrate our big circus event later this year. They've been busy working on commemorative t-towels which we'll be selling in the next couple of months.

We're busy filling in grant applications to try and top up the money we need to start work on the amphitheatre development. We'll keep you posted.

### Other News

**Winter Wellbeing**- On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January between 3.30 and 5pm, you and your children are invited to Meadowside's Winter Wellbeing Event. Come and beat those January Blues, with some great tips and ideas to support healthy minds and bodies. We will also be using our weekly assemblies to promote good health and wellbeing, during January.

**Topic Homework**- You may have noticed 'Top Topic Facts' appearing alongside 'For The Fridge' and 'Eye on English'. These topic fact sheets have been designed so the children can learn and remember key facts and information, linked to their year group topic themes. All of these can be pinned to your fridge, pin boards or bedroom doors to help your child share and practice new learning at home.

**Healthy Hearts, Sporting Minds**- This term the theme of our assemblies links to our Meadowside sporting mantra - Healthy Hearts, Sporting Minds. As well as thinking about Healthy Movement, we will be focusing on Healthy Habits (sleep, teeth, water intake) Healthy Mindset (positive attitudes, growth mindset, resilience and emotions) and Healthy Eating (5 a day and fruit/veg snacks at break time). There will be a new challenge set for the Meadowside Mile this term and we will be on the look-out for weekly Active Ambassadors, with a special reward announced next week.

**Change of Menu Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**- Caterlink have advised that there will be a change of menu on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. The options will be bangers, mash and beans, or soup and cheesy baguette followed by chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce.

### INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Please visit our website

[www.meadowsideschool.co.uk](http://www.meadowsideschool.co.uk), for all upcoming events.

### Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January – 3.30 – 5.00 pm** Winter Wellbeing event for parents and children

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January** Y3 and Y4 Explore Workshops in school

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**- QLC Cross country festival at Beech Green

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – 7pm** Friends of Meadowside Quiz Night

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** at 3.15 pm – End of Term 3

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – World Book Day (more details to follow)

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Sport Relief

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 3.30 – 5.30 pm and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 4.00 – 7.00pm** Parent Consultation Evenings

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 26th January**