



MEADOWSIDE HEAD LINES

EDITION 2: JUNE 2018

Welcome to edition 2 of a brand new Meadowside Newsletter, from your Headteacher! It is designed to tell you more about the teaching and learning at Meadowside, as well as giving an insight into the work we do with other schools. I also hope it will give you more information about OUR school and provide opportunities to share successes, innovations and contribute to Meadowside's future.

TRANSITION

This week, we invited parents into school for the Reception Induction evening. It is always a good opportunity to reflect on our school culture and ethos, as we welcome to Meadowside new families as well as those with siblings. I talked about why we have a Home School Agreement and how important it is, to work in partnership for the benefit of your child's development and progress.

We have, of course, also started transition planning for the rest of the classes. Teachers and TAs now know who they will be working with in September (though the secrets are not out until 5th July!). Meanwhile, we work behind the scenes meeting together to pass on key academic and social information. I always plan in dedicated time for teachers and TAs to do this, because it is so important that each child takes the next steps in their learning journey with our support. It's also vital that they 'hit the ground running' academically, so we will discuss their progress and learning styles too.

Year 6 are in their final few weeks of Primary School life! They have worked incredibly hard to prepare for SATs and their next curriculum challenges. This term, the residential to Rock and Rapid, as well as their Y6 production and legendary Leavers Assembly, give them all a chance to shine and develop their leadership talents and confidence.



MATHS MASTERY

For the past 3 years, Meadowside staff have been part of local and national Mathematics projects for teachers and TAs, as there has been a change in the approach to teaching the subject. You may have heard your child talk about Do It/Apply It/Solve It tasks, all of which are designed to allow deeper thinking and problem solving in every lesson, with access to teaching and TA support for everyone throughout the lesson. At Meadowside, we also run 'Maths Detectives' sessions every Friday, when children get to work with a range of staff and children, to challenge their reasoning and apply their mathematical knowledge. These approaches target the higher expectations at the end of each key stage. We are fortunate that we have Mrs Rowntree, our Maths Subject Leader and her Maths Team (teachers, TAs and a Governor) who are all passionate about the subject and always keen to move Meadowside forward, with innovative approaches and new resources which strengthen Mathematics teaching and learning.

BEHAVIOUR AND SOCIAL SKILLS

On our INSET Day in June, we made good progress in reorganising our Life Skills curriculum. This includes discrete lesson we teach weekly, assembly themes, whole school values and how we ensure children at Meadowside are equipped for the challenges of the 21st Century. Friendships, relationships and resilience are still as high priority as they ever were, but life is now complicated by the pressures of Social Media, self-image and awareness of mental health issues.

We have various social skills 'interventions' that your child may need and benefit from, during their life at Meadowside. We often run Friendship Groups to target particular relationship 'hiccups' between groups or individuals and I am often involved in these as well as other Teachers and TAs. We have a Play therapist (Nicola) and a Learning Mentor (Mrs Whitlock) who run sessions for individuals to help with self-esteem, anxiety or managing emotions. During play/lunchtimes, we have a structured play area for KS1 children, led by one of our TAs. Our Play Makers (Year 4-6 volunteers) run daily social activities in our Zone of Cones. And finally – Mrs Stevens and Mrs Whitlock have been undertaking Thrive training (a national initiative) and we have introduced a lunchtime sensory/imaginative play sessions which provide therapy and fun in equal measure!

Our Golden Rules for Behaviour help children to understand expectations whether they are 4 or 11 and we review these in class and assemblies regularly, along with our Anti-Bullying mantra. Anyone can be awarded a Golden Rules token during the week by an adult or Play Maker, and there is a lucky ticket winner from each key stage drawn out in Celebration Assembly.

Events such as the World Cup Football Tournament (led by Mr Mayne and Y5) and the Early Years World Cup (led by Mr Port and Y6 for Little Meadow, Reception and Y1) allowed children of all ages to demonstrate the values and beliefs we promote. It was a delight to see them lead, flourish, support one another and co-operate whilst having fun and keeping active!



As you can see, we are refreshing ideas and working with children on many levels, in order to have an impact. Children will always learn best when they are happy, healthy and calm, so it is important to invest time and your support, to help them achieve their potential.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

As a Community School, we are accountable and work in partnership with the LA, to ensure Meadowside never stops developing and improving! We regularly meet with key advisers to monitor our data, curriculum coverage and standards. This helps us shape our School Development Plan every year.

We have also benefitted from hosting and helping to deliver training to other schools and teachers. Examples include:-

- 1) Every Term, we welcome a group of 40+ Newly Qualified Teachers to Meadowside. The LA devise their training programme, but members of Meadowside staff and children help to deliver it, so we can showcase our approach and reflect on what we do.
- 2) This term, Year 6 teachers will come to Meadowside to moderate, share and discuss examples of writing to ensure their judgements are accurate
- 3) Last summer, members of our Maths Team were asked to present a Meadowside initiative – Solve It Day- to Mathematics Subject Leaders from across the county. This year, we are presenting at a Music and a Reading event for other teachers, in a similar way.

We are lucky to have such experienced and enthusiastic teachers willing to share what they do. As well as putting Meadowside on the map, it ensures that we continue to learn and refresh our ideas, which can only benefit your children, so everyone is a winner!