

Summer Term Edition

Friday 14th June 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

Thank you to all of you who came to see some of the children's work from STEAM week. Each class spent time in May studying the theme of Water, but with links to Science Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. In our Meadowside Curriculum, we try to help the children see the connections between their learning and the real world, as well as how learning in Science (for example) develops across Yr-Y6.

There is a greater emphasis on the depth and breadth of curriculum in the new Ofsted Framework. As a staff team, we are reviewing all subjects and topics carefully, to ensure that your children are getting the very best experiences and making those connections in their learning journey.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

This week we have been flying on our carpet again. We visited China where we tried rice, made lanterns and had fun with dragons. Then we set off for Switzerland. It was much colder there but we did enjoy the Swiss chocolate and thought we would enjoy skiing.

Years 1 & 2

Year 1 were very excited to receive a mystery box from the past this week! It contained items linked to beach holidays from 100 years ago and we had a great time trying to work out what they were used for! We are really excited to find out more about how holidays have changed and hope to be able to use lots of different pieces of information to help us gather our answers. You should have received a letter from your child asking for your help with some photos - please do send these in if you have anything that may be of use!

Year 3 & 4

We have had a lovely few weeks in Year 3! Last week we had a big focus on SPaG and have put a lot of effort into improving and enhancing our knowledge of it. This week in English, we have been learning all about non-chronological reports and how they are written. We have been able to carry out research, plan, draft and complete our very own non-chronological report all about the Romans! The children have produced some fantastic work and have worked really hard. In maths, we have been focusing on money and how to calculate change. We have found this a little tricky but have persevered and the children are doing a great job. It would be really beneficial for the children to practise at home with real money, in a real-life setting to consolidate their knowledge of this. In topic, we have been continuing to learn all about the Romans and have learnt some rather interesting (but gross) facts all about the Roman baths - which I'm sure your child will be able to tell you all about it!

Year 4 have been busy researching life in Roman Britain and trying to decide which Roman invention has had the biggest impact on our lives. Why not ask your child about their decision? In English we have continued with articles for our Roman magazines, we have written adverts for villas, instructions for using a Roman Bath. This week we have read "Escape from Pompeii" and we will be using this in our writing next week.

Year 5 & 6

Year 5- STEAM week was a wonderful way to complete our learning in Term Five. In small groups, the children: planned, tested, modified and re-tested their design for a personal floatation device for a character. This project involved developing their understanding in forces relating to buoyancy and the properties of a range of materials. We enjoyed creating high visibility jackets and showed great ingenuity with joining materials and collaborating with other members of a team. On the last day of term, we also worked in small teams to investigate whether milk, water or squash was the best liquid when dunking a biscuit. This activity involved predicting, measuring and interpreting why some liquids are more readily absorbed than others.

We have concluded a biography of Alfred the Great and explained why his legacy influences the way we live today in England. In mathematics, we have been learning how to read timetables and calculate the duration of journeys. As a class, we have started our Relationship and Sex Education by establishing clear ground rules for our sessions and some of the changes that occur during puberty. Our trip to the Cheltenham Science Festival was very enjoyable and we explored the depths of the oceans with Greg Foot. Also, the children enjoyed a range of activities run by staff from GCHQ relating to cyber security. Children even had the opportunity to try mealworms, create an aerodynamic paper plane and test it in a wind chamber!

Well done to everyone in Year 6 for making the most of all the opportunities offered during the recent residential at P.G.L. Liddington! Despite the sometimes uncertain weather conditions, we all had a fantastic time and many of us rose to meet new challenges as we tried all the outdoor and adventurous activities. Our instructors were enthusiastic, patient and kind. Tasty meals were served to us regularly and some of us even made use of the plentiful supply of hot water to have a shower! We found time for games on the extensive field outside our comfortable accommodation block housed in the old stables. Canoeing and jumping into the lake (brrrrr!) were popular pastimes and many of us climbed up to dizzying heights to sample such thrilling activities as the giant swing and the "leap of faith" (in reality, a trapeze dangling metres above the ground). We worked as teams to build survival shelters, practised our hand/eye co-ordination as we did archery and spent a lot of time mastering the art of putting on a safety harness. Awesome work, Year 6 and staff!

Governor News

Continuing our engagement between the Governing Body, Senior Leadership team and Meadowside parent community, this instalment of Governor corner focuses on ways in which we as a school are maximising opportunities to protect our financial well-being. In the midst of a challenging financial landscape for schools across the country, Meadowside have achieved savings through identifying opportunities for value, whilst not compromising on the quality of education.

Efficiencies such as:

- Office Supplies, photocopying & IT Repairs – Saving - 26.6% of Budget
- Creating Partnerships with other schools - Saving – 8.5% of Budget
- Services purchased from the LA – Saving - 25.6% of Budget

As well as maintaining a healthy reserve for future spend in key areas:

- 33% of budget to be committed to Academic Resource
- A well-resourced Sports Grant, with which the Senior Leadership Team will define the upcoming scope of spending.

Whilst these are some of the more positive areas of improvement, we must also focus on managing core elements which are proving to be more costly.

- Pupil Residential Trips
- School meal expenditure

These are expenses, which as a Parent, Teacher and Governing community, we should all play our part in keeping ahead of. If you have any questions, or would like to get in contact to find out how you can get involved, please contact kwilks@meadowsideprimary.co.uk

Friends Of Meadowside Discos – a Message from Miss Thomas

Many of you will have already purchased tickets for your child to attend next week's discos. May we please ask you to remind your child about expected behaviour. In particular, the following are non-negotiable:-

- 1) Follow the instructions of all adults on duty
- 2) Make sure that your behaviour has a positive impact, so that everyone can enjoy themselves.

There will be a time out system in place, supervised by Meadowside staff, in the event of any negative or unhelpful behaviour. I will remind all children On Friday that I also have the option to exclude them from the next FOM event, if their behaviour falls short of our expectations.

The Friends of Meadowside volunteers do an amazing job organising and manning these events; please let's make sure that everyone enjoys themselves!

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Monday 2nd September 2019

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 18th June – Y4 going to watch 'In The Net' at Beech Green, 10am

Wednesday 19th June- School Choir visit to ST Oswalds retirement centre

Friday 21st June – Non-Uniform day (fundraiser for Gloucestershire Bundles)

Friday 21st June – KS1 and 2 Discos

Wednesday 26th June- Sports Morning - 9 30 start

Thursday 27th June – YR Trip to St James Church pm

Friday 5th July- Year 1 and 2 trip

Tuesday 9th July – 6 30 Y6 Performance (Y6 parents invited)

Date of next newsletter: Friday 28th June 2019