



*Making a difference for our future*

# Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

*Spring Term Edition*

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

We have all enjoyed a very active week 1, with Cricket Skills training for every class taking place (in the sunshine!) We have also benefitted from a Roadshow and workshops with the author David Lawrence Jones. As a result of staff CPD events this year, we decided to plan a Meadowside Book Week, to immerse ourselves in one text across the school and bring the reading and writing process to life! You can read more below, about the activities in your own child's class. Our Meadowside Curriculum is built around high quality books as a springboard for learning across all subjects. I hope you will be able to visit our Writers' Gallery next Friday (details overleaf) and look at the work on show from every class and in the learning environment generally.

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception

This week we have enjoyed looking at the book 'The Bear and the Piano' like the rest of the school. The piano in the playground was a great hit; we talked a lot about where it had come from. The piano in the story went 'plonk', this is a nice word to say, we made a list of other sound words and tried saying them in different ways and making up sentences with them in. (The balloon went pop.) There has been art going on to piano music, we have painted and found out about bears. It has also inspired us to do lots of writing.

### Years 1 & 2

Year 1- What an exciting launch to book week! Year 1 loved meeting our visiting author David Lawrence Jones and even got the chance to work with him in a workshop to develop our own story ideas! We all felt very inspired by David and some of us even hope to grow up to be authors ourselves now! We have been getting stuck into our work on The Bear and the Piano as well, creating artwork, writing diaries and even trying our hand at scrap booking! We look forward to sharing what we have been up to with you in our writing gallery!

Year 2 - We have had a brilliant book week at school, hearing from David Lawrence Jones and studying the book The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield. We look forward to seeing you at our Writers' Gallery on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March to see the wonderful work we have produced this week!

**\*\*Don't forget- if you have not yet paid for Jungle Jonathan's Roadshow then your payment is overdue- please pay £7.42 via your child's ParentPay account.\*\***

### Year 3 & 4

We have had a great start to the new term with some lovely sunshine and a fantastic book week! This week, Year 3 and the whole school took part in a book week, where we focused on the 'The Bear and The Piano' by David Litchfield. We have produced some wonderful pieces of work based around this book, such as, postcards, newspaper reports, concert posters and even finished the week with a class debate! On Monday we were lucky enough to have an exciting author visit by David Lawrence Jones, who also did a book signing for the children on Wednesday! The children have loved it and his books have proven very popular throughout the school. In maths this week we have been learning all about fractions and on Wednesday we had a go at making pizzas using fractions - I think it's safe to say we all had a lot of fun! Next week the children find out what our new topic is and we can't wait!

We have had a busy and exciting week in Year 4. It began with a visit from the author, David Lawrence Jones, on Monday which kick-started our book week. We enjoyed the workshop with David on Monday afternoon as we were able to create comic strips that featured our own hero and villain characters. We have also enjoyed reading The Bear and the Piano and the children have been researching bears and their habitats. We have enjoyed writing different texts and hope you can come and share them with us next Friday.

In PE we enjoyed a great cricket session in the sun with cricket coach, Tim Knibbs. The activities allowed us to improve our skills, especially throwing and catching.

### Year 5 & 6

We have really enjoyed our book week and as a school, we have all been investigating 'The Bear and the Piano'. This stimulus has enabled us to write a formal letter and music review which we look forward to sharing with you later this term. As a whole school, we very much enjoyed meeting David Lawrence Jones, a well-known author who inspired us with our reading and writing. In the afternoon, we collaborated with Year Four to invent our own hero and villain for a comic strip. We have completed our work based on 'Kensuke's Kingdom', which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

We are continuing our work on percentages, decimals and fractions. As a class, most children have enjoyed developing their times tables and division skills using Times Table Rockstars, <https://trockstars.com/login>. Please let us know if you have had problems accessing the site.

On Wednesday, we worked with Tim Knibbs to build on our cricket skills. Later this year, we will celebrate the Cricket World Cup within the school

At the end of last term, we enjoyed finishing our book, Kensuke's Kingdom. It has proved a rich source of inspiration for many forms of writing and also for our art work. We do like Michael Morpurgo as an author. This week is book week at Meadowside and all classes are studying the book The Bear and the Piano. Far from being only a book for young children, this beautifully illustrated story tackles many profound themes and dilemmas of the modern age. We are using it to stimulate debate and encourage writing for a range of purposes. In maths, we have begun our revision sessions in preparation for standard assessments in May. It is useful for all of us to have the opportunity to discuss strategies both for calculation and problem solving. Our topic work continues, with studies of the work of the artist Henri Rousseau and more science relating to classification of animals and plants, adaptations of living organisms and reproduction in plants

### **Writers' Gallery – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 – 4.30**

#### **Families welcome!**

This week is Book Week at Meadowside! All classes at school have been focussed on the story The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield. We have been busily reading, drawing and writing about different aspects of this text and would love to show you all the wonderful things we have created.

To do this, we will have a special **Writers' Gallery** after school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the hall and Key Stage 2 classrooms from 3.30-4.30. We would love for you to come and see your child's work 'polished' and displayed for your enjoyment! You will also be able to take a trip to the other classes to see what writing looks like in those rooms and how they have used the school book to take their learning in a different direction! Your child(ren) will be able to tell you all about what you are seeing!

We can't wait for you to see all our hard work!  
See you then.

### **Friends Of Meadowside**

Firstly, thank you to everyone who joined us for the quiz night a few weeks ago. It was a really great night with lots of laughter and an exciting 4 way tie break at the end of the evening. A huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Port for putting the quiz together and hosting.

Secondly, thank you for all of your donations on Valentine's day. We were overwhelmed by our Meadowside Family once again and have been busy arranging outdoor storage so we have additional room for everything!

Our next event is the 'PJ & Popcorn' nights which will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> & Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. These will be mixed key stages to allow siblings to attend together. Tickets can be purchased from Friends of Meadowside representatives in the car park before and after school from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March and are £3 per child. Tickets include a snack and drinks during the evening. Times and details of the film being shown during this event will be announced on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. To pre-order your tickets please visit the following link (Note: pre-orders close at 20:00pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March):

<https://goo.gl/forms/EGP0ulp74x2Q7Kbz1>

Don't forget that Meadowside's Amphitheatre project is opening in Tesco's Bags of Help scheme from today so please use as many Blue Tokens as you can to vote for our project. Our project will be in Tesco stores throughout Gloucester from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March until 30<sup>th</sup> April so we have lots of time to get votes in, so spread the word to your friends and family.

Finally, we are already busy preparing for our Easter Events. If you are able to donate any chocolate treats for the traditional Meadowside Chocolate Raffle please drop them into the office.

#### **INSET dates (school shut for pupils)**

**Monday 22nd July 2019**

**Tuesday 23rd July 2019**

#### **Please Note:**

**The local authority has a new website address for emergency school closures (for example, heavy snow).**

**The new address is:**

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/)

#### **Dates for your diary**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day (no dressing up this year!)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March- Jungle Roadshow Year 1 & 2

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 3.30 – 4.30 pm – Meadowside Writing Gallery for families to visit

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April- Parents evening 4-7pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April- Parents evening 3:30-5:30pm

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April- 2pm Finish for the Easter Holidays**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April- Return to School

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**