

Spring Term Edition

Friday 8th February 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

The school environment is looking very colourful and interactive, as most topics are in full swing! Next week, we have visiting Headteachers and an External Adviser working with us on Monday, followed by several teachers from another Primary school visiting classrooms on Friday. We look forward to hosting visitors, as it allows us to look at teaching and learning with 'fresh eyes' and consider how we could develop further.

Next term, we will have 2 opportunities for you to visit us. On Friday 8th March we will be showcasing our Writing Gallery after school and then Parents Consultation Evenings take place on 2nd and 4th April.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

So far, we have already learnt versions of two stories, Goldilocks and the three bears and the three little pigs. This week we began by using our imaginations. The carpet became a field with a stream running past. We talked about how we could get over the stream. A bridge seemed the best option although a submarine or an aqua car were among the other good ideas we came up with. Unfortunately, there was a Troll living under the bridge, we had to get past him without hurting him (Trolls are on the endangered species list). Fortunately, we all got safely across to get our coats and go out to play. For the rest of the week we have been working on our version of the 3 Billy goats gruff. Ordering the story and following story maps. If you are in school look out for trolls, there are quite a few in the Reception classroom.

Years 1 & 2

Year One have had a great time starting to learn more about the animal rounds of our topic! We have been finding out the real names of adult and young animals and also starting to explore more about "The Circle of Life". We have been exploring a new book in English which takes us to lots of different habitats around the world, including some more unusual locations! Ask your child all about the Russian taiga or the African Savannah!

Year 2- In preparation for Round 5- The Circle of Life, Year 2 have been learning how a variety of animals grow from babies to adults. We have enjoyed seeing some mammals as babies and have learnt about the process of metamorphosis. (We definitely preferred to look at the mammals!!) In maths this week, we have been studying money. Year 2 need to know what these coins look like off by heart, so start asking for their help when paying for small items if you are using cash!

Year 3 & 4

Year 3- The past few weeks we have been looking at the brilliant book "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt. The children have worked hard to use a variety of persuasive techniques to convince the crayons to come back home. I found that the quality of their writing was brilliant and really pleased to see that they are progressing even further in this area of their learning. In maths we are focusing on how to tell the time (which, understandably, is a fairly difficult concept) and so any practise at home with this would be very beneficial - especially as it is an important skill used in everyday life.

We loved our trip to Nature in Art last week and are looking forward to continue learning all about different artists and art styles. This week we have been looking at sculptures and the famous sculpture artist, Antony Gormley. Please remember, the topic homework is due on Monday (11th).

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Nature in Art last week and produced some lovely work using their own print blocks inspired by mini beasts. They also created batik art in the style of Kandinsky and admired the incredible photographs displayed in the gallery.

In school, we have enjoyed reading *The Day the Crayons Quit* and written some persuasive letters to try and convince them to return to their important job. Unfortunately, this then gave the chairs of our class some ideas and when Year 4 arrived in school on Thursday morning...the chairs were gone! We have had to write our most persuasive letters to convince the chairs to return to class.

We have been doing some quite tricky multiplication in class involving both commutativity and the distributive law... they both sound scary, but they're not really, especially if we know our times table facts. Keep learning your times tables at home as they really do make a difference to your learning in school!

Year 5 & 6

We have reached the exciting point in 'Kensuke's Kingdom', where Michael and Kensuke build a friendship and we build-up to the central dilemma of the story. Children have enjoyed a debate, chat show style interview and drama in order to stimulate their own writing. We have now moved on to creating a non-chronological report about orangutans.

In mathematics, we are exploring equivalence of fractions, decimals and percentages and then ordering fractions. We are now exploring layers of the rainforest and considering animals that live within it.

Year 6 continue to be enthralled by the adventures of Michael in the novel Kensuke's Kingdom. We have analysed the main characters and discussed their relationships, drawn illustrated maps of the island in the story and are researching and writing about orangutans, as these fascinating creatures are central to the story. The novel uses rich and varied language and has certainly helped us to improve our vocabularies. In maths, some of us are studying proportion and ratio whilst others are looking at measures and conversions: mm, cm, m, km, g, kg. We have also looked at time and solved problems relating to this. On Fridays, we are rehearsing our skills in arithmetic. Topic lessons continue, with a focus on the rainforest environment and the animals that live there. We have recently improved our PSHCE curriculum and have benefitted from lessons about perceptions of the media and children's rights.

Other News

Thank you and congratulations to our Cross Country Team who went to the Quedgeley QLC competition on Monday. They came 3rd overall and, for many of the children, it was their first opportunity to represent Meadowside in a sporting event.

Times Tables Rockstars

We have purchased this interactive learning resource for Years 2-6, to support the learning of times tables at school and at home. Following the launch in school on Tuesday, you will receive more details and log in information for your child(ren). I'm sure it will make this important mathematical skill come to life!

Friends Of Meadowside

Tonight is the epic Meadowside Quiz night and we are looking forward to a great night. It's not too late to decide to come along as we will still be selling tickets after school today and will happily sell a few tickets on the door. Anyone is welcome so bring your family and friends. £2 per person, maximum of 6 people in a team. Don't worry if you don't have a team, come along anyway and we will put teams together tonight. The quiz will start at 7.30pm so come along from 7pm and you are welcome to bring your own drink and snacks. Good luck to all those taking part!

Just a reminder that on Thursday 14th Feb we are holding a Valentines Dress Down Day for school. We have decided not to ask for money donations for this event, but instead we are asking for a donation of small prizes that we can use in future events. We appreciate any donations you have going spare. Some ideas for the types of things we are looking for are:

* Bottles suitable for a Bottle Tombola, this can be anything from shower gel to left over Christmas wine!

* Prizes in the colour of your school sports team so we can put together some Team Hampers at our next big event (Red, Blue, Green or Yellow)

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/

Dates for your diary

8th February 7pm - Meadowside Quiz

14th February – Valentine's dress-down day

18th – 22nd February - Half term

Monday 25th February- School reopens 8 55 a.m.

25th Feb – 1st March – Meadowside Book Week

25th and 27th February – Author Visit (more details to follow)

7th March – World Book Day

8th March 3 30 – 4 30 pm – Meadowside Writing Gallery for families to visit

Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

Date of next newsletter: Friday 1st March 2019