

*Autumn Term Edition*

*Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

As the final week of term approaches, we are looking forward to seeing many of you for our Key Stage performances next week. Children and staff have worked extremely hard to put these together and I'm sure you will be delighted with their efforts. We have lots of tired children at the moment (physically and emotionally), so we are trying to adapt routines and activities to help them cope and enjoy the festivities! Thank you to all our families for your support this term; all the team at Meadowside really do appreciate it. A very Happy Christmas to you all!

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception

This term has seen visits from many different people who help us, this week it was someone from Tesco (other stores are available). Next week we will be thinking about the jobs we would like to do when we are older.

Rehearsals have also been keeping us busy and we are doing well with the songs and actions. It can be tricky when the routines change but we are all doing well and as a class we are trying to fill our marble jar and have a marble jar treat. fingers crossed we fill it before the end of term, we are almost there!

### Years 1 & 2

Year 1 have been working really hard on their singing, dancing and acting skills in preparation for our Christmas play! We are really looking forward to getting to share this next week! This week we have been working on some Christmas themed writing challenges in the Writers' Café - ask your child what they chose to write about. Year 1 have worked extremely hard this term and have definitely earned their Christmas break! Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back in the new year!

In Year 2 We have focussed all our efforts on learning our Christmas play this week- we can't wait for you to see it! Keep practising lines and songs at home too! We have started to work on acting our lines this week, not just saying them so that we can truly entertain our audience! Merry Christmas to you all and we look forward to seeing you in 2019!

### Year 3 & 4

We have had a wonderful few weeks in year 3! The children have worked incredibly hard on our Christmas play and I am so proud of them! We cannot wait to show you all next week. We have also started our Christmas topic: Gift Wrapped, and are focusing on raising money for our chosen charity (Teckles). We have made some very lovely and delicious cookies to sell and the children have impressed us all with their baking skills! All in all we have had a wonderful first full term in Year 3 and I am so impressed with the progress they have made, as well as the effort and enthusiasm they bring to school everyday. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas - just one more week to go!

Things have turned truly festive in Year 4 and we are all enjoying our 'Gift Wrapped' topic. Our main focus is fundraising for charity through designing, making and selling biscuits and many worthy charities were suggested by the children as potential recipients for the money. After a close vote, Guide Dogs for the Blind was selected. Keep an eye on our class board for updates.

After Christmas, our class text will be the Alex Rider book, *Stormbreaker*. All children received this on completion of their spy training on residential. Please send this in with your child after the holidays.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy holiday. Thank you for all your support this term. The Year 4 team.

### Year 5 & 6

Year 5 - We concluded our assessments and this will be useful in informing our planning for the following term. In English, we have been considering the character of Ebenezer Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol', and how events in the past have shaped his character. The children have responded well to his journey and how he changes. We really enjoyed the evil lair project, where children worked in pairs to plan, design, make and evaluate a home for the evil alter ego of Miss Thomas. The creativity and teamwork were amazing and the range of lairs was impressive. We will share our completed topic projects for this term next week. The class are looking forward to sharing our part of the Key Stage Two Christmas Performance next week. The only extra costume requirement is for children who are playing the part of a letter recipient and we would ask that they bring in a plain white shirt/ blouse. Children representing German or British soldiers will wear their school uniform and a red/ blue tabard that the school will provide.

Years 5 and 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their Design Technology project, which was to create a lair for their Head Teacher's evil alter-ego. We spent time designing our lairs and then building them by constructing an accurately-measured cuboid wooden frame covered with chicken wire and then using papier mache to form the walls and roof. Finally, we decorated our amazing creations. In English, we have been studying Raymond Briggs' much-loved picture book, *The Snowman*, and also watching an animation of the story. We are using its beautiful artwork and engaging plot to inspire our writing. In maths, some of us are studying algebra and others are consolidating some fraction work. We are completing our topic, *Heroes and Villains*, this week. This topic has a strong science content and we have learned about forces, reversible and irreversible changes, dissolving and separating mixtures. Our final week will feature our Christmas production and we look forward to seeing you all in January ready to launch another new exciting topic.

### Other News

**21<sup>st</sup> December will be Christmas Jumper Day** as well as the last day of term. This year, we will be supporting a local charity, Sue Ryder Care Hospice in Leckhampton, so please give generously! Children are welcome to wear non-uniform, including Christmas accessories, festive t-shirts, dresses or (obviously) jumpers.

Thank you to everyone for supporting Y3 and 4 in their fundraising this week. Both classes have raised substantial amounts for their chosen charities.

### Governor corner

A very big thank you to the Friends of Meadowside (and the school staff!) for a splendid Christmas Market , I'm sure the amphitheatre is now quite clearly in sight!

We have a new Parent Governor about to come on board; just a couple of forms to complete and we can then make an official announcement.

From all the Governors please have a Happy and Merry Christmas and look forward to a new and exciting term in the New Year.

### Friends Of Meadowside

Our main message this week is THANK YOU!!!!!!

Thanks to everyone for making the Christmas Market and Car Park Carols another great success. Special thanks to everyone who came to enjoy the event, to all the stallholders and their donations to the raffle, to Warburtons, Tesco & Aldi for their generous donations for which we are always grateful. Thanks to the Meadowside staff for all their support inside and out and, of course, to the guest of honour in the grotto, Father Christmas (and the elves!) And finally to my amazing team who put in many hours over weeks to put together an event like that. You really are amazing!!

We have a few left over goodies from the event which we will be selling on the last day of term. Chocolates for 20p each and Jolly Jars for 50p, so bring your pennies and buy some last minute gifts or treats for yourselves!

Next year we begin our events in February with the Quiz Night (adults only) on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, and for the children a Valentine's Dress Down Day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

Finally - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

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

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019**

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

#### Dates for your diary

18/19<sup>th</sup> December- KS1 and KS2 performances

20<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas lunch

20<sup>th</sup> December – Final Celebration Assembly of 2018

21<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2pm - End of Term**

**Term 3 begins Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019**