

Spring Term Edition

Friday 15th March 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

Outstanding attendance is always our aim at Meadowside. We recognise the importance of each individual being in school, ready to learn, every day that they can. With your support, we are achieving a consistently strong overall picture. However, we have noticed a growing number of children who are persistently late for school, arriving well after the gates are locked and learning has begun. A positive and prompt start to the day is vital and contributes to your child's emotional wellbeing and sense of belonging. In addition, the following facts are worth noting:-

If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they will miss the equivalent of 3 days learning that year.

If your child is 15 minutes late per day, this gap widens and becomes the equivalent of 2 weeks learning missed.

We all want the same outcomes for Meadowside children – for each to reach their full potential and flourish as learners. A punctual start demonstrates a commitment to their learning and maximises their success! We value your support and renewed focus, in order to see an improvement.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

It has smelt delicious in our classroom this week as we have been baking gingerbread men. Acting out the story was also lots of fun, if you walk past the reception play area you will probably hear children shouting 'Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread man.' None of us had any problems suggesting what to write in a speech bubble for the Gingerbread man. This story has also inspired us to try out some different exercises, so we can be as fit as the Gingerbread man in the story and run even faster. In our Maths sessions we have been working on our estimating and counting skills. It is useful to be able to estimate how many Gingerbread biscuits you have.

Years 1 & 2

Year 1- What an exciting time we all had meeting Jungle Jonathan and all of his creatures! We got to meet millipedes, stick insects, tarantulas, a gecko and a boa! Year 1 were all extremely brave and everyone held or touched the snake! We found out lots of great facts about the creatures which we know are going to come in handy for the quiz at the end of the month! We have also been classifying animals into different categories - mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and birds. See if your child can tell you any of the criteria we have used to classify these animals!

Year 2- We really enjoyed meeting Jungle Jonathan and his creatures on Friday last week! We were all brave enough to hold at least one creature and we now know much more about how some of these animals fit into a food chain. We have learn more about food chains this week, focussing on British animals and how they are suited to the habitats they live in. With only two more weeks to go before our quiz, we will soon be finding out who the top predator is and how the way they live their lives affects many, many creatures.

Year 3 & 4

Year 3 were very excited to launch our new topic last week - 'What's The Attraction' and will be focusing on forces, light and shadows! In maths we are now looking at measuring and in English we are learning all about poetry and writing our own free verse poems. We had some fantastic auditions for our Red Nose Day Talent Show on Friday and we all really enjoyed it! Well done to all those who auditioned and participated! Spellings next week will be the first 35 on the list.

In Year 4 we have been looking at fun and games at the fairground. Last week we investigated which surface was best for our helter-skelter slides. This week we have been looking at magnetic games and we have designed our own that could be used at a fairground. In maths, we have been learning about tenths and hundredths and have been practising calculations involving decimals. We enjoyed writing and recording our own persuasive radio adverts in English which included some very catchy jingles! We have continued with the fairground theme and have worked hard to write some descriptive poems based on a ghost train!

Year 5 & 6

It was really encouraging to see so many parents of Year 5 children coming to the Writers' Gallery'. The children really enjoyed exploring the picture book, 'The Bear and the Piano'. We have now moved on to a three-week unit based around the book, 'The Vanishing Rainforest', by Richard Platt. This unit of work will take us up to the Easter break.

In maths, we have been using bar models to help us convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa. Please encourage your child to continue to visit <https://ttrockstars.com> to pursue their quest to become a rock legend! It has proved to be very popular and is helping the children improve their recall of multiplication and division facts.

Congratulations to the drummer and the amazing trio of singers who represented our class in today's Talent Show! From Monday to Thursday of next week, we will engage with cycle training.

Year 6 - We enjoyed welcoming many families of year 6 children to our writers' gallery last Friday evening at which we showcased our writing about the picture book, "The Bear and the Piano". Last week was Mayan history week in Years 5 and 6. We researched the Maya civilisation and wrote non chronological reports about them, presenting our work using some very creative formats. Our next text is "The Vanishing Rainforest", a beautiful picture book with some very important messages about valuing our natural resources and the cultural differences between societies. Revision continues in our maths lessons, with a focus on percentages, fractions, and decimals for some and multiplication for others. On Monday this week, Year 6 enjoyed participating in the auditions for the Comic Relief talent show. Thank you to all who took part in the auditions and to the two acts who represented each Year 6 class in the show itself today.

Thank you all for your generous donations for Comic Relief today!

We have raised over £230 today!

Friends Of Meadows

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets to the Popcorn & PJ parties this week. We hope the children have a good time.

We have a busy few weeks ahead with lots of events planned. Here is a reminder of what's coming up and what we need from you:

- The annual 90 Minute Makeover – Sunday 24th March 10:30 am until midday – All are welcome we are transforming the back fence into a seascape and hoping to build our Friends shed. You will need to bring a paint brush, sandpaper and gloves. We will provide the refreshments. If you are able to volunteer please can you email us at friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk
- The Great Chocolate Raffle – Friday 5th April – We will be advertising the main prize shortly. Any donations of chocolate are gratefully received and can be dropped into the office until Thursday 4th
- The Great Roast Dinner Hunt "The Meat Bites Back" – Sunday 28th April - last year the Utensils got revenge and this year we will have our usual fun and games but the Meat is in charge. We will also be transferring the school hall into a Teashop where some delicious refreshments will welcome you back from your hunt around Green Farm. Please keep your eye on our notice board for more information on this event nearer the time.

Our efforts in Tesco's Bags of Help scheme is going really well, we are in the lead at the Quedgeley store, but we do need to boost votes in the Brockworth branch. Please encourage any friends and family who use Brockworth to keep voting for us. Voting is open until 30th April so we have plenty of time and we will publish the results as soon as we have them.

Finally, just a reminder that Year 1 and Year 2 are holding a Cake Sale on Monday 18th March. Please bring your pennies to support them with their project.

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

18th March, 3 15pm – Cake sale in the Hall

w/b 18th March – Year 5 Bikeability training

w/b 25th March 8 30 – 9 00am daily – Sign up for Parents Evenings in the Hall

Tuesday 2nd April- Parents evening 4-7pm

Thursday 4th April- Parents evening 3:30-5:30pm

Friday 5th April- 2pm Finish for the Easter Holidays

Tuesday 23rd April- 8 55 a.m. Return to School

Date of next newsletter: Friday 29th March 2019