



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Spring Term Edition

Friday 25th January 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

As well as our usual PE Curriculum, we are lucky enough to have extra provision and support for Sport this term in the following ways:- an ex-pupil helping with Netball Club and another helping with Y5/6 PE lessons, a parent regularly leading training and events for Girls Football, a tag rugby coach from Gordon League working with Y4 and Gymnastics CPD for all teachers within lessons, provided by a Gloucestershire expert. Mrs Bouvier, who took on Sports Leadership following Mrs Morley's departure, has never been so busy and is doing a great job, to ensure sport is inclusive, competitive and varied throughout the year!

Meadowside Class News

Reception

Monday morning was full of excitement as we used our investigating skills to work out 'What's the story'. Part of our outdoor area had been cordoned off. The whole class went to look, and it soon became apparent that 3 bears had been eating porridge out there. After a little discussion we all concluded that the story for the next two weeks will be Goldilocks and the three bears. Back in the classroom we started the process of memorising the story, using actions and lots of repetition. We also thought of lots of things we would like to do based on the story, including having a teddy bears picnic, eating porridge and making puppets. As usual lots of fun learning will be going on in Reception for the next few weeks.

Years 1 & 2

Year 1 have had a very exciting week this week! We started the week with a trip to the library which we really enjoyed! We have also been monitoring and recording changes to the seeds we have been growing in our seed diary - ask your child which of our seeds grew the best! On top of that, we have also been learning some art skills by creating nature artwork in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe!

Year 2 are busily learning all about plants and their parts this week so that we can become the best 'Plant Doctors'! We have also looked at the work of Georgia O'Keeffe to better understand what these parts look like! We look forward to seeing our works decorating a corridor near us soon!!!

Year 3 & 4

Year 3 have had an amazing few weeks developing different art techniques and we have learnt all about different famous artists from around the world. The children have also independently researched and written a detailed biography of a chosen famous artist. This week in English we focused on poetry, more specifically, colour poetry. I am absolutely blown away by their imagination, use of stunning vocabulary, as well as their use of clever metaphors and similes. We are really impressed by their efforts!

We look forward to our trip next Tuesday (29th) and can't wait to learn even more about art! Please ensure your child is dressed in appropriate, warm clothing that can get dirty. Please also make sure that they have a water bottle and a packed lunch as we will be out for the whole day.

We have had a couple of busy weeks in Year 4. In maths, we have been concentrating on our times tables and using lots of different ways to improve our recall. Why not ask your child about the songs we have been using from You Tube and enjoy a singalong at home?

In English we have been researching artists of our choice in order to write our own biographies. The children have been really interested in the different styles of art and what inspires different people. We are very enthusiastic about our trip to Nature in Art next week and look forward to sharing the results of our workshops with you.

Year 5 & 6

As part of our topic, we enjoyed populating our balloon globes with the continents and equator, finding out where many rainforests are and we are beginning to consider the range of vegetation and animal life. Our current curriculum area is The Green Planet and we will soon be visiting The Green Kingdom.

In English, we have continued our journey into 'Kensuke's Kingdom', where we wrote a balanced discussion about whether Michael and his family should sail around the world. We then went on to create a narrative piece about Michael's experience of being swept overboard and his desperate attempt to stay alive! You may remember that in September, we issued the children with a list of 50 high frequency words taken from the National Curriculum. Each Monday, we progress through the list and children have an opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency and whether they have practised these words. As some children have lost their original sheet, we have re-issued a copy and we would ask you to encourage your child to practice regularly as the words are useful in their current and future writing.

In mathematics, we have concluded our work on dividing up to four digits by a single digit, with and without a remainder. We have moved on to using the properties of rectangles to determine lengths, angles and co-ordinates. Please continue to practise and rehearse multiplication and division facts.

Children are really enjoying the text, 'My Hidden Chimp', by Professor Steve Peters and we are using it to help children understand and manage their emotions, thinking and behaviour. A number of children have purchased the book and they are enjoying exploring it with parents and carers at home.

We continue to read the novel Kensuke's Kingdom in our English lessons. Its hero, Michael, sets off to sail round the world with his family and we are using his adventures to inspire our writing. Class discussions and group drama activities have helped us to express our ideas and prepare to write. In maths, some of us are looking for patterns in number or shape sequences and using algebra to express our findings, while others are consolidating their fraction work. Our rainforests topic continues and in our geography lessons, we have been learning about the world, how geographers map it and where the rainforests are. We are all being creative with some dance this term and some amazing skills have been demonstrated.

Useful websites for parents/ carers (and children!)

This week, Miss Thomas and myself were lucky enough to attend a training session led by an experienced leader in reading provision and founder of the education website Shakespeare and more. He highlighted to us a number of websites that you and your children could use to help practise and revise key English and maths skills.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/education-jargon-buster/education-jargon-buster-adverbials-to-arrays/> - useful for finding out the meanings of those tricky technical terms (some of them even have video demos!)

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/maths-at-home/> -Find out what you can do to help develop your child's maths skills, from the early years to KS2 SATs

<https://blog.oxfordowl.co.uk/five-ways-to-encourage-reluctant-readers/> -some tips and tricks to encourage the reluctant reader!

The Oxford Owl website is a treasure trove of ideas, games and books that you and your children can access for FREE!

Happy reading

Miss Mellersh

Governor Corner

We are pleased to announce that we have a new School Governor. Deji Adeosun, who has a daughter at the school, has agreed to join the Governing body which means we are now up to full strength.

Deji has a background in finance and will be a welcome addition, in particular, to the Resources Committee.

I am sure he will bring his expertise to assist us in trying to eke out the limited budget that schools are all currently faced with.

Ian Webb - Chair of Governors

Friends Of Meadowside

You should have now seen our posters about the Grown-up's Quiz night on Friday 8th February. We have quiz master Mr Port ready and waiting to test our knowledge so do come along and take part in the fun. 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 on the night. Tickets available from the school office from Monday 28th January. Quiz will start at 7.30pm so come along from 7pm and you are welcome to bring your own drink and snacks.

The following week we will be having a Valentines Dress Down Day on Thursday 14th Feb. As this is the day before Red Nose Day, we have decided not to ask for money donations, but instead we are asking for a donation of small prizes that we can use in future events. We appreciate any donations you spare. Maybe you have items you no longer want following a Christmas clear out or an early spring clean! Ideally 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)

Our big news this month is that our application to Tesco's Bags of Help scheme has been successful! You will see Meadowside's Amphitheatre project in Tesco stores around Gloucester from Friday 1st March until Tuesday 30th April. Please grab the Blue Tokens whenever you can to vote and encourage your friends and family to help too. We hope to have more news on the Amphitheatre development very soon.

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

29th January – Y3/4 trip to Nature in Art

4th February – QLC Cross Country festival Y2,3,5,6

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 pm – Meadowside Writing Gallery for families to visit

Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

Date of next newsletter: Friday 8th February 2019