



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 28th September 2018

Message from the Deputy Head

A huge congratulations to our reception class, who have now completed their first full day at Meadowside! Thank you to parents and carers. We know it is very tricky to arrange childcare around half days, but it does mean they have the best possible start to life at school.

We have been learning about community in our assemblies this term and about who owns their school. They decided that we all own it: children, staff, parents and carers, the council and the government! It is always important to remember the positive contribution we can all make towards life at Meadowside and it has happened in abundance so far.

We begin the first of our brand new 'Open Mornings' for prospective parents next week and we are looking forward to showing off our amazing school.

Meadowside Class News.

Reception

It has been great to have everyone in Yew class in school all together this week. The line is a lot longer and the classroom is much busier, but it has been great for the children to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We have started our letters and sounds teaching this week. Oscar the tortoise is learning the letters with us. He is a little nervous, but the children are very encouraging when he has a go at the letters.

Years 1 & 2

Year 1 have had a fantastic time exploring old toys for our new topic key question - what did children play with in the past? We got to look at and play with some very old toys and some of us were very surprised how simple some toys used to be (the cat's cradle string was a particular fascination)! We were also surprised to find out that lots of toys are very similar to the ones we play with now and really haven't changed that much! We are loving getting stuck into this topic and can't wait to find out more!

Last week, Year 2 travelled back in time to find out the answer to our Key Question 2- What did children play with in the past? We went with Magic Grandad to 1870, 1952 and 1969 and then even got to play with some old toys ourselves! (Thank you to Amelia from Year 1's mum for lending us the toys!) We very much enjoyed looking at them. Pinocchio and skittles were our favourites! This week we have started to look at the Toys Series by Andy Warhol so that we can make our own next week!

Year 3 & 4

We have had another few fantastic weeks in year 3! The children have worked especially hard in their English and maths lessons and we have had a lot of fun becoming palaeontologists and excavating our very own fossils in topic! I am so impressed with the children's fascination and interest in learning all about fossils and it was great to see they enjoyed bringing in and showing their rock and fossil collections to the class. We are now looking forward to focusing on Geology over the next few weeks!

In Year 4, we have been channelling our Emerald powers by having a go and bouncing back from mistakes. The children have already gained several gems by taking risks and not worrying when they get something wrong, and we are looking forward to seeing these qualities during our residential next week- we are sure they will earn lots more.

In topic sessions, we have been attempting to become geologists. We had a fantastic time learning about the formations of different types of rock and particularly enjoyed making our own from sweets. Ask your child to show you the actions we devised to help us remember the difference between igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.

Year 5 & 6

In Year Five Willows, we have been using our Ruby learning powers to help us grow as a class. Please ask your child what we expect a learner to demonstrate in the classroom to show that they are using their Ruby learning power. We have completed our work to answer the topic question, 'Why are superheroes so popular?' To help us in our quest, we have been considering reversible changes in science, pop artist such as Lichtenstein to create our own superheroes and the music of superheroes. We now move on to consider our next question, 'Is it good to be bad?'

Next week, we conclude our 3 week unit, 'The Giant's Necklace', with an independent news report. In maths we have been learning about squared and cubed numbers, place value and how the quick recall of multiplication facts underpins our work in mathematics in Year Five. Frequently practising the quick recall of multiplication and division facts is really helpful and will help build confidence and proficiency.

In our Friday Maths Detective session and our spelling sessions that run from Tuesday to Friday mornings, we work with children from other Junior classes. We are delighted to report that creating two maths groups has had a very positive impact on attitudes and challenge in the classroom. There are lots of positive children, feeling very enthused about their maths! In topic work, we have spun the 'Wheel of Destiny' for a second time and it has landed on 'Is it good to be bad?'. This is a very interesting question that we cannot wait to explore as part of our topic: *Heroes and Villains*. P.E has been full of competitive games and lots of energy, whilst computing has involved programming wizardry in Logo. In English, we are enjoying reading the story of the Giant's Necklace by Michael Morpurgo.

The children have made the best possible start to life in year 6. We have continued to emphasise the importance of teamwork and all the key skills we learnt at our team event at the beginning of the year.

Governor corner

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in becoming a governor, contact the school office with your nomination (self nomination is acceptable), which will need to be with the school by 12.00 noon on Friday 5th October 2018. If you require any paper copies of the nomination form, please contact the school office.

Friends Of Meadowside

Last week we kicked off with the first FoM meeting of the new school year and have started planning a whole calendar of events for this academic year!

We're just dotting the i's and crossing the t's and then we'll issue the plan so you can put dates in your diaries. But the first event is just around the corner in October where we'll fight for this year's Meadowside Bake-off champions, letters out next week! Also, in October we would like to hold another 90 minute makeover before the winter arrives. The area that needs our help this year is the fence along the back of the school playground. Please see our separate letter about the details of this event.

The big news this year is that Meadowside celebrates its 18th Birthday so keep an eye out for events to recognise this milestone.

Next meeting Thurs 18th October. Venue will be confirmed on our notice board.

Other News

With Harvest festival approaching, we will be donating to Gloucester Food Bank this year. Please bring in your donations on **Thursday 11th October**.

1 in 5 people in the UK live below the poverty line and 6,691 three day emergency food supplies were given to families last year alone.

They in desperate need of: tinned tomatoes, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, tinned ready meals, jars of coffee, long life fruit juice, tinned baked beans and shower gel. They have plenty of: soup, dried pasta and nappies.

Thank you

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Friday 12th October 2018

Monday 7th January 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Term 1 finishes at 3 15pm on Friday 19th October

Term 2 begins at 8 55am on Monday 29th October

Please visit our website www.meadowsideschool.co.uk, for all upcoming events.

Dates for your diary

3rd – 5th October – Y4 Residential

Wednesday 10th October – Y5 at Cheltenham Literature Festival

Thursday 11th October – Harvest Assembly (pupils only); donations for Gloucester Food Bank

Tuesday 16th Oct – 4 00 – 7 00pm Parent Consultation Evening

Wednesday 17th Oct – 3 30 – 5 30pm Parent Consultation Evening

Monday 29th October – school photographs (individual and sibling)

Date of next newsletter: 19th October 2018