

*Spring Term Edition*

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

It's been a short but very busy five and a half weeks! We hope you all have a restful half term whatever your plans. Please check the 'Dates for your Diary' for term 4 as we have plenty of Meadowside activities going on, as well as national events such as World Book Day and Sport Relief to look forward to!

## Meadowside Class News.

### Reception – What's the story?

Last week was the deadline for our topic homework. The children had done an amazing job (with the support of people at home). They all confidently told the class about their projects. We had 'Wanted' posters for giants, wolves and beasts. Some had made puppets which they used to tell part of their favourite traditional tale. Others dressed up and gave us clues so we could guess who they were. It was lots of fun and all the children were rightly proud of their achievements. The rest of the week we have been working on the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. This week we have had a book making workshop and by Friday we will all have a book we can bring home. We also made homes for trolls as it occurred to us that living under a bridge may make him a bit grumpy. Look out for happy trolls as there were some very cosy homes made.

### Years 1 & 2 – What makes Britain Great?

We found out a new word in topic last week - colonisation. (Ask your child if they can remember what this means!) Some of us thought this was a good thing and others were not so sure. We have talked about how Britain influenced other cultures but also the things we now have in our culture because of other places. Of course the highlight was our British Empire food tasting! Thank you to everyone who contributed food for the children to try, they had a brilliant experience! Year 2s are eagerly awaiting our food tasting session on Friday when we will get to taste just a small selection of the foods from around the British Empire. We have investigated what some of those countries were like before the British invaded and were rather horrified to hear what happened to the indigenous peoples when the Brits landed! Friday's food tasting celebrates the amazing things we adopted throughout the many years to form the Britain that we know and love today! (Huge thanks again to everyone who offered something for us to taste!)

### Year 3 & 4 – Extreme!

It has been great fun in Elm class this week, completing part 1 of our Extreme Challenges. We have completed the Extreme Quiz, enjoyed a scavenger hunt and had hot chocolate in Forest School as a reward with the year 4s! We held our writers' cafe last week, where the children could choose what to write from their writer's menus, which writing materials they wanted to use from the buffet table and choose serving suggestions which would guide the content of their writing. A display will be going up in school very soon. We wish you all a happy half term!

Maja visited us this week as part of our Musicate project and we all enjoyed taking part in lots of musical activities. We learnt about tempo and rhythm, as well as trying to compose using 'hot' and 'cold' sounds. Over the last couple of weeks, we have produced pictures in response to music we have listened to. We loved listening to Maja interpret some of these on her violin, and learnt terms like *glissando* and *pizzicato* to describe the techniques she used.

We have been busy preparing for a quiz all about our 'Extreme' learning this term and have impressed each other with the facts we have remembered. We are looking forward to an afternoon of challenges and hot chocolate on Friday afternoon.

### Years 5 & 6 – Troy Story

In Year 5 our current topic has drawn to a close and the children have really enjoyed finding out about Ancient Greece and how their legacy continues to influence how we live our lives today. We have shared out topic projects and look forward to a new topic after the February break.

In maths, we have concluded our work on co-ordinates and we have been reviewing equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. It would be great if you could continue to practise rapid recall of multiplication and division facts. In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about our own mythical creature. The ghastly reports have not helped our sleep patterns!

Our Shakespeare club is made up of children from both Year Five classes and we will be performing our scenes to a live audience next month! Thank you so much for helping your child to learn and practise their lines. We will also perform to the whole school and the experience will be an enjoyable and valuable introduction to our next topic!

Our Trojan Horses have been hauled through the gates of Troy this week. Although it was sometimes frustrating trying to get our horses to move, we eventually mastered the pulleys, electrics and drive control. It worth all the effort that was put in! In English we have been writing instructions for Icarus – he needed a pair of wings but we all know how **that ended!** We even constructed our own wings and tested their flight from the top of the apparatus. Between maths assessments we have been studying algebra which has caused us to delve deep into our powers of resilience. After half term we will begin our revision for the SATs in May. We have spoken to the children about this process but we aim to make it an enjoyable and productive one. We have also been working hard to improve our writing stamina. This week saw the introduction of our 'Writers' Cafe' which gave us so much more choice on the menu. We enjoyed being waited on and we sincerely hope that the audience we have hoped to engage do appreciate our efforts. We are continuing to 'read for pleasure' wherever we can and hopefully a well-deserved rest during half term will be enjoyed with a good book too.

### Staff News

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs Parker, one of our current Y1 teacher, is expecting a baby later in the academic year. We send our congratulations to all the Parker family.

### Governor Corner

During the past few weeks Governors have met within committees and as a group and are currently discussing a range of items including ongoing concerns regarding parking and new legislation regarding GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), including identifying how the regulations impact on the school. The School and Governors will keep families updated as appropriate.

We are still seeking to appoint a new Co-opted Governor and wonder if you would like to consider giving your time to this important school role. If you have any questions about this role, please email: [Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:Chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk) or to share any other feedback.

Lastly, Governors would like to wish all children and families an enjoyable half term break.

### **Friends of Meadowside**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the quiz night last week. It was a really great night with lots of laughter. A huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Port for putting the quiz together and hosting, battling the bugs to do so.

We've been busy with the grant applications and have resubmitted the national lottery grant and also for the Tesco 'bags of help' scheme.

The Tesco one may take a while before we know if we've been selected as they have quite a list. In the meantime can we ask you to start collecting/saving the blue coins they give out at the checkouts. (Please ask if they're not offered) We will have a collection point in the school office soon so will let you know more.

While you're in Tesco, or any other supermarket for that matter, could we ask if you'd be kind enough to consider buying any chocolate eggs with all the special offers they have on ahead of Easter. We will be holding the perennial favourite that is the chocolate raffle at Easter so your donations, as always, make this event such a huge success.

Don't forget the circus logo competition entries will need to be in by Wednesday am of Wed 21st Feb. So enjoy your half term being creative.

We're producing a newsletter which will be out after half-term detailing the amphitheatre plans and the rest of the year's events.

Thanks, as always, for all your support.

### Other News

**SATs information Evening Y2 and Y6** will be on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. A letter will follow early next term.

**Football matches this week.** All three teams were in action this week but all three teams narrowly missed out on the next round. We are very proud of all the boys and girls. Go Meadowside!

**World Book Day.** A letter went out via parentpay but just a reminder that on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March children are invited to dress up as goodies and baddies!

**All The World's A Stage – Year 5 and 6 performances for families** After half term, we begin our topic 'All the world's a stage'. This topic is linked to Shakespeare and his plays. The topic ends with a performance from each class of a well-known Shakespeare play, with the children at the heart of the action. Each play will last approximately 30 minutes. Further information about the title of the plays will follow nearer to the time but here are the dates for the diary:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March: 5 p.m. Year 5 Oak, 6 p.m. Year 5 Cherry

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: 6 p.m. Year 6

### INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Please visit our website

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

### Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Table Top Cricket

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – Dance Festival

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March** -Year 2 and Year 6 SATs information Evening

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**- GSP Shakespeare Club performance at Gloucester Academy

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 3 15 – 4 pm** Meadowside Writing Walkabout

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Sport Relief

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 3 30 – 5 30 pm and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 4 00 – 7 00pm** Parent Consultation Evenings

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm** – End of Term 4

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**