



Making a difference for our future

Friday Fortnightly Newsletter

Summer Term Edition

Friday 4th May 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Deputy Head

Thank you for your kind comments about the two new additions to my family. The twins got to meet year 6 and the staff last week (they all got their cuddles!) and went home feeling very loved! The focus of this term is relationships. We have reviewed the anti-bullying and homework policy as a staff; both updated documents will appear on our website in the coming days. At Meadowside we encourage positive, happy and supportive friendships but this does not always go to plan. It is important to help the children with friendship difficulties and we have a dedicated and experienced staff to support your child. We always remind the children to **Start Telling Other People** if things are happening. **Several Times On Purpose**. This forms the basis of our anti-bullying policy and message.

Stay safe, happy and enjoy the long weekend! We look forward to hearing about your adventures.

Meadowside Class News.

Reception –Amazing Animals

We learnt lots about amazing animals last week as we looked at 'mini beasts'. The weather was kind to us and we managed to get out into forest school a couple of times to find slugs, snails, bees, beetles, worms etc. Everyone was fascinated by the lifecycle of a butterfly, using information texts to find out more facts. Towards the end of the week we looked at the work of Matisse and how he painted with scissors. We had a go at recreating his work 'The snail'. This week we have been pond dipping. One group even found a newt! We have learnt about the life cycle of frogs and again been creative. This time we looked at the work of Monet and created our own lily pond pictures.

Years 1 & 2 – Medieval Madness

Last week we were very excited to progress along our journey to becoming a knight moving on from being a peasant to a serf. We have started to learn about life in Medieval times and enjoyed finding out about the cures that the apothecary used to suggest for various problems. This week we have built on our knowledge of Warwick the Kingmaker by learning more about the War of the Roses and have made our own Tudor roses. We have also immersed ourselves in the lives of peasants and nobleman to write a realistic view of their lifestyle. We are also very excited to have Mr Stephens joining us until the end of June! Year 2 became Serfs this week as part of our topic! We have been finding out all about what life was like in the Medieval times... we are not impressed (especially the girls!!!) We have been finding out more about the complicated War of the Roses and how this was ended by Henry Tudor in 1487. Ask us what we now know!

Year 3 & 4 – What Makes our World Wonderful?

Should humans interfere with nature? This has been the topic of conversation in year 3 this week, in relation to the ending of our English text 'The Green Ship'. We held a conscience alley where the children came up with arguments for and against leaving the green ship in its natural state. The children have written letters to the new owners of the big house, on behalf of Mrs Tredegar to state her opinion. We have had a lot of fun! In Musicate, we have been comparing different recordings of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' which stretch over nearly 60 years starting with the Wizard of Oz version, moving onto Ella Fitzgerald version to the more recent Ariana Grande performance at the One Love concert.

Year 4 have been investigating plants, we have set up several experiments: one to see what seeds need to germinate and grow healthily; and another to investigate where the water goes. We also really enjoyed dissecting daffodils and naming all the parts, we were amazed to see the minuscule ovules hiding deep inside the ovary. We have been very busy in guided reading immersing ourselves in 'Charlotte's Webb' the children have loved sharing the text as a class and discussing the different personalities. We have been deepening our vocabulary and trying to 'magpie' some of E.B White's word choices. Thank you to all of you who have managed to find and send in a copy, it has really made a difference. A little advanced warning...our class text for after half term will be 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, so please get searching again and send in any copies you can find!

Year 5 & 6 – Are you a winner?

Year Five concluded their Bikeability training last week and the instructors were impressed by our childrens' concentration and the way they developed and applied their cycling skills. These life skills should prove invaluable in the years ahead.

We are very excited about the first of our Science trips to Sir Thomas Rich's School, which takes place next week on Wednesday morning. Twenty Year 5 children will attend. There are two further visits to ensure that all of our children take part. There is no cost to parents for this trip and all details are given in the letter sent out recently.

In maths, we are approaching the end of our topic on fractions, which has seen us learn to add, subtract and multiply fractions. Next, we will be learning about shape and space. In English, the children are enjoying our novel "There's a boy in the girls' bathroom" by Louis Sachar. It has given us much to think about regarding friendships, attitudes to learning and self-esteem. Our topic work this week has included discovering just how much sugar is contained in a range of popular soft drinks, even after the introduction of the "sugar tax". At home, you may like to take this a step further by exploring the sugar content of various foods. Please discuss how easy (or otherwise) it is to determine the proportion of sugar in products according to the way they are labelled. You might encourage your child to think about whether there are any techniques used to distract consumers from recognising how much sugar a product contains!

The year sixes put a lot of effort into their mock SATs and showed us how determined they are to make themselves and our school proud. Well done! By the time the next edition arrives, we will have finished our SATs and be celebrating our achievements. We've had a fun couple of weeks, with junk food debates and sugary drinks on the topic agenda. In English, we are continuing to study *There's a boy in the girl's bathroom* and we have written letters to our main characters, as well as analysing their words and actions. The revision has continued in maths, with all the key concepts being covered in the run up to our tests and the end of year 6. In computing, we have begun to create our very own computer game. We are programming a car to drive around a race track on the always popular *Scratch*. Summer sports have appeared on our calendar and first up for year 6 is cricket. We have been practising our striking skills and running between the stumps. A huge thank you to all of the Iron Athlete challenges that are being completed. We are quickly racing towards our Ironman total!

Governor Corner

Over the next couple of weeks Governors will be meeting as part of Committees and as a group and discussion will include items such as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which is a piece of EU-wide legislation that determines how people's personal data is processed and kept safe etc, further updates regarding GDPR will be circulated as appropriate as changes come into effect later in May.

As always, there have been lots of things happening alongside the curriculum, to name the sponsored walk and participation in Junior Voices at Gloucester Cathedral as two fantastic examples. Governors would like to congratulate all children for their commitment in these activities and say they should be very proud of their achievements.

Friends Of Meadowside

Thank you to everyone for taking part in the sponsored walk last week. It was a little damp but that didn't stop anyone having fun and trying to do as many laps as possible! Thank you to all the staff and parents for supporting. If you have managed to get some sponsors then we would be hugely grateful if you can return the money to the school office in the next couple of weeks. Thank you!!

The next event are the Discos. Friday 18th May. As usual there will be a KS1 from 5 - 6.15pm following by KS2 from 6.30 - 8pm.

Tickets are £3 each to include drinks. On sale before/after school Tues 8th - Fri 11th May. If you can volunteer to help at the disco please either message us at friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk or let us know when you buy tickets. Thanks!

Then all attention will turn to the Circus! Look out for letters in book bags in the next couple of weeks as tickets will soon go on sale. Make sure you save the date! Tuesday 3rd July. If anyone has a business or knows someone with one that can either donate a raffle prize or advertise in the programme please let us know. Thanks!

Other News

Year 1 and 2 parents- don't forget that our school trip is still in its planning stage. Monies need to be paid by 18th May. Please see your parentpay account for more details on how to pay.

Staff news - We are delighted to welcome Lucy Parry to our midday team. She has begun working full time and we are very happy to have her on board.

Sporting News - Well done to the KS2 Penathlon team for representing Meadowside superbly on Monday and achieving 3rd place. We shared the stunning glass trophy, certificates and bronze medals in assembly earlier on this week. Thank you to Mrs King and Miss Devoy for supporting the children! A huge well done to our year 5 children, who took part in their Bikeability course last week. You are awesome!

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Bank Holiday Monday 7th May
Monday 4th June 2018
Wednesday 25th July 2018

Monday 3rd September 2018
(remaining dates to be shared soon)

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

Dates for your diary

9th, 16th 23rd May- Year 5 Science visits to Sir Thomas Rich's School
11th May – Dance Festival Competition at Chelt Town Hall
18th May- KS1 and KS2 Disco
22nd May- 2:45pm Yr 6 Residential meeting
23rd May- QLC Yr 1 Multisports event
24th May – Year 5/6 Alternative sports event at Field Court Junior School
6th June- 8th June- Year 6 Residential
7th June- Warwick castle visit Year 1 and 2
7th June- Year 5 visit to Cheltenham Science festival

Date of next newsletter: Friday 18th May 2018