

Summer Term Edition

Friday 24th May 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Message from the Head

We hope you will all have a restful half term week. We have plenty of learning, activities and fun ahead in Term 6. Teachers spent time yesterday working on transition plans for your children from class-to-class. Teaching assistants also had a session led by Mrs Stevens (Y2 TA) all about therapeutic and pastoral support techniques which enable children to thrive as learners.

We have also started on end of year reports to parents. We have made a few changes to the format this year, to make it more user-friendly for you, whilst still ensuring your child's achievements, progress and talents come shining through! We will be asking for your feedback when these are sent out in mid-July.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

reception class had a great time at the zoo this week. Animals and children were all on good form. The Gorillas were a great favourite as were the lemurs. There is always something different to see. We have also been thinking about life under the sea this week as part of the whole school steam week. The Rainbow fish featured earlier in the week and star fish have been helping us count in 5s.

Years 1 & 2

Year 1 received a mystery package last week containing pebbles, wood, sand, shells, a map and... sheep's wool! After some detective work, we discovered it had come from Katie Morag on the island of Struay! We have been learning all about the island, where it is, what features it has and about the people that live there! We have created a page all about Struay in our topic book and hope to use the information you find out about Quedgeley (see additional homework!) to compare the two next term! Please be sure to have a look at the alien word homework activities that have come home in preparation for the challenge I will be completing with the children next term too!

Year 2 are still working very hard this week to remember all the things we have learnt in Key Stage 1 in English and maths! In our topic work this week, we travelled to the Inner Hebrides to the fictional Isle of Struay to meet a little girl whose life is very different to our own. She lives on an island with just 11 houses! Over the coming weeks, we will be comparing our 2 areas and how this affects how we live our 2 lives.

Year 3 & 4

We have had an amazing STEAM week in year 3! Our focus was on canals and we have learnt all about them. The children have made some fantastic information poster, some beautiful canal art and some lovely sketching of the canal. The children also took part in an exciting science experiment. Year 3 have worked really hard this term and we can't wait to continue our Roman topic after half term. We hope you all have a lovely week next week!

Year 4 had a lovely start to STEAM week with a walk by the canal. We saw lots of boats of different styles and talked to the Bridge Keeper, Jeff, about how the bridge works. We also enjoyed gathering ideas in our sketch books and used these back in school to inspire our water colour paintings. We had great fun persevering with building bridges from spaghetti and marshmallows on a budget! In other activities, we have investigated bridge and boat designs and their suitability for purpose. We look forward to sharing our work with you at the STEAM exhibition next term.

Year 5 & 6

This week we have been immersed in STEAM week with a whole school focus on water. In Willow class, we have been able to create a range of coastal views using pastels and our main focus has been to work in a small group to design, make and test a life-jacket to help a character survive. The children needed to accurately measure, test and then modify their initial life jacket in order to keep a 'human' upright and safe. Sadly, there were some fatalities during testing! It was fascinating to observe the interaction within each group as children collaborated and discussed the science of how to ensure the life jacket was effective. Finally, we conducted a science investigation into the properties of materials and their usage; we focused on a practical experiment with dunking biscuits in a variety of liquids!

It would be very encouraging if your child completed a book review for a book that they have recently enjoyed and feel it would be worth recommending. Please note that we will continue with outdoor P.E. on a Monday and Tuesday; we would ask that you ensure that a named P.E. kit is brought in by your child when they return on Monday 3rd June 2019.

Congratulations to everyone for all the hard work and determination they showed when completing SATs last week. We celebrated at the end of the week by holding a day of relaxing and fun activities which included the traditional water fight. Children and staff showed their bravery by battling with water guns and wet sponges when the temperature outside was just 13°C! This week, we are enjoying STEAM week as we explore our theme of "bubbles". We have created and tested bubble mixtures, made our own lemonade and produced artwork by blowing bubbles in paint mixtures. Our preparations for the residential visit have begun and we look forward to trying all the outdoor adventurous activities P.G.L. will offer us between 3rd and 5th June.

Governor News

There have been a number of news stories relating to the crisis in school funding and parents, teachers and unions are voicing serious concerns.

At Meadowside the Governing Body, Senior Leadership Team and Local Authority work closely to manage the school finances in order that staff and premises are supported and equipped to provide for your children's needs and education. The school is not protected from cuts and is dealing with increased financial pressures and has plans in place for a future where further impacts on budgets are expected.

Over the coming weeks Governor Corner will be dedicated to topics related to school spending to inform parents about the issues and how Meadowside is responding. If you would like to see a particular issue covered please e-mail your suggestions to the Clerk to Governors: kwilks@meadowsideprimary.co.uk

Friends Of Meadowside

Well done to everyone who has been busy with their SATS this month. With half term approaching you all deserve a good break!

We had originally announced that the long awaited Amphitheatre would be installed over the half term week. Unfortunately we were unable to secure the installation date we wanted. We are in discussions with the School and Installation company as to the best available dates. The aim is to still have the amphitheatre installed before the end of the Summer Term. We will keep you posted.

We have still not heard any results from Tesco on our Bags of Help project, we will let you know as soon as we hear anything.

You may have seen our Facebook post this week giving a sneaky peak into the progress of the Class 5p Challenge. There is still time to get your 5p's in as the competition does not finish until Thursday 6th June. It's tight at the top so keep hunting!

Our first event after half term will be the Summer Discos on 21st June. We will get posters up advertising the event after half term and will be in the Car Park selling tickets from Monday 10th June.

Finally our next meeting is on Thursday 6th June at The Little Thatch Pub from 7:30pm. We will be planning the details of event for the remainder of the school year so if you want to get involved or are interested in what we get up to then please do come along.

Other news

-Stagecoach Gloucester provide training in performing arts for 4-18 year olds. They are running several holiday club workshops for 4-6 and 7-18 year olds. For more information please take a look at the following link www.stagecoach.co.uk/gloucester.

-Little Meadows are running a Summer Holiday Club for the first two weeks of the holiday. They also have spaces in September for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Please contact Little Meadows directly for enquiries 01452 725834.

INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Monday 2nd September 2019

Dates for your diary

Monday 3rd June- Children return to School

Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th June Y6 Oak and Cherry Residential

Thursday 6th June- Year 5 Science Festival

Tuesday 11th June, 3 30pm – STEAM week exhibition for parents and children

Tuesday 11th June – New Intake Meeting for parents, 6pm

Friday 14th June – Class Photos

Friday 21st June – Non-Uniform day (fundraiser for Gloucestershire Bundles)

Friday 21st June – KS1 and 2 Discos

Date of next newsletter: Friday 14th June 2019