

*Summer Term Edition*

*Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019*

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children*

## Message from the Head

Many thanks to all of you who supported a very special Sports Day this year. Everything was superbly organised by Mrs Bouvier, who has been an excellent PE and Sports Lead this year. Thanks also to Mr Cronin for giving up his time again, to ensure relays and races ran efficiently. Children will meet their new teaching teams next week and we will then send you all the staffing news for September 2019 via ParentMail – not long to wait! Mrs Parker returns to Meadowside on Monday, following her maternity leave. She will be working across the school for the next 3 weeks.

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception

This week we have been on our travels again, this time we have been to Australia and Japan. We learnt about some of the amazing animals that live in Australia and tried our own versions of Aboriginal art. There was lots to learn about Japan too and we all enjoyed making a fish kite and having a go at some origami. On Thursday we went to visit the local church as the end of our RE topic on special places, there was lots to see. Next week we will complete our travels with Granny and her carpet and go off on our own. I wonder where we will end up next?

### Years 1 & 2

Year 1 have been really enjoying finding out about holidays in the past. We have found out some quite surprising things from holidays in the 1900s; for example, it was considered very rude if you had your ankles on show! We also had a visit from Mrs Mellersh who told us about going on holiday when she was a little girl and how it would be very exciting if you were treated to an ice cream while you were away and how squashed you would get in a caravan! This week we have looked at more recent holidays (thank you to those of you who sent in some photos for us to see!) and have decided that these are much more like the holidays we know today! We think we are now fully prepared with our holiday knowledge and ready to go on a holiday of our own!

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed being time detectives over the past 2 weeks, finding out what life was like in the time periods 1930-1970 and 1970-2000. We have enjoyed speaking to our visitor **Mrs Mellersh**, who told us all about her caravan holidays where her brother had to sleep on a shelf bed; and we very much enjoyed seeing photos of people's parents from when they were little! Thank you if you sent in photos. They were great. We are now very much looking forward to our holiday next week, make sure you have checked the letter we emailed for details on this.

### Year 3 & 4

We have had a lovely few weeks in Year 3. We have been extending our knowledge of the Romans and what legacy they left behind, as well as learning all about 'The Street Beneath Our Feet'. The children produced some incredible poetry based on the layers underground - from pipes and tube stations to coal mines and ancient artefacts. We were really impressed with their collaborative poems and the children should be very proud of themselves. We have finished our focus on money and have moved onto statistics in mathematics but we may revisit money at the end of term as some of us found it quite tricky. The children would really benefit from practising real-life examples of using money at home, ready for when we come back to it. We had a fantastic sports day on Wednesday. The children showed great determination and sportsmanship which was great to see! We look forward to enjoying our last few weeks together as Year 3 and have lots of exciting things to come this term.

What a busy few weeks we have had! We have particularly enjoyed reading the story *Escape From Pompeii*, we have used it as a starting point for writing diaries which show characters emotions. We have now started to compile our magazines which contain a variety of text types connected to life in the Roman Empire. We look forward to being able to share these in the near future.

In PE we have been practising our cricket skills. We enjoyed being part of the launch of the Meadowside Cricket World Cup and helping to plan, organise and deliver a coaching session for Reception and Key Stage 1 children.

In topic we have been looking at modern Gloucester and trying to find evidence of what Gloucester was like when the Romans were here... perhaps you could keep your eyes peeled next time you are in the city centre to see what evidence you can spot!

### Year 5 & 6

We have enjoyed extra cricket sessions during p.e. and on Friday, we worked with other classes to improve our cricket skills. Wednesday's sports' morning was a great success; it is always encouraging seeing our children embracing the Meadowside Sporting Values and enjoying a range of sporting activities. In the afternoon, we had a visit from Anna Birt of the Canal and River Trust who helped us to learn about how canals are built and how we can keep safe when using them. In maths, we have been working on place value, focusing on rounding numbers up to 1, 000, 000 to the nearest 100, 1,000, 10, 000 and 100, 000 and counting forwards and backwards with positive and negative whole numbers including through zero. Please continue with TTR as it is having a positive impact on the speed of recall of multiplication and division facts. In English, we have been using the text, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope', and writing our own extract to explain how Arthur was able to overcome the villainous Fenrir. This excellent picture book is filled with intricate illustrations and the children have really enjoyed the links to our Viking 'Invasion' topic. We are part way through creating our longships at sea collages which will look amazing when they are completed.

In year 6, we are very busy learning our lines, singing our songs, practising our dances and polishing our acting ready for the much talked about Year 6 Performance which takes place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July. It is a pleasure to see your children demonstrating such talent and amazing teamwork as they prepare to entertain you! This year's story will feature love, loss, treasure and drama on the high seas – so there should be something for everyone. We have also produced some fine pieces of writing about our recent residential holiday, the wonderful world of Meccano and how to capture some Viking-style mythical creatures. In our topic lessons, we have written in Viking runes, printed some Viking-style patterns and studied Viking shipbuilding methods. Creating a timeline of the Viking era has helped us to appreciate how closely connected their history is to that of the Anglo-Saxons. We also investigated why the Viking people left their original homelands to travel the world and were surprised by just how many potential reasons there were. Finally, our relationships education has begun and will continue for the next few weeks. Good luck to everyone as they have a real taste for senior school next week on their transition days. We can't wait to hear all about it.

### Friends of Meadowside

We hope all the children enjoyed the Summer Disco a couple of weeks ago. It's always an emotional event for the Years 6's!

Many of you will have seen that the amphitheatre build is finally underway and we are so pleased to see the results of all our hard fundraising work. Due to winning the Tesco Bags of Help scheme we will be able to provide additional equipment such as costumes and instruments. We will be having a grand opening of the amphitheatre once it is complete. Keep an eye on our notice board for more information on this once we finalise the plans.

Our next event is the sponsored walk which will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. You should have received sponsor forms in book bags this week. In order to make donations easier we have set up a Just Giving page. Please feel free to share the following link with friends and family if they are willing to sponsor us. The money raised from the walk will go towards the e-library access again next year as it's been very popular with the school.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friendsofmeadowside?utm\\_id=2&utm\\_term=Z9g6N3RZa](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friendsofmeadowside?utm_id=2&utm_term=Z9g6N3RZa)

We are planning to hold a Bottle Tombola at the end of term picnic on 16<sup>th</sup> July. As this contains alcohol it is a parent only stall! £1 per go.

Finally we will hold our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July. It will start at the slightly earlier time of 19:00pm (previously advertised as 19:30pm) and will be located in the School Hall. We will be summarising the year and discussing plans for next year as well as voting in the next years committee. Everyone is welcome!

### Governor News

Last time we told you about how Meadowside is working to make the best use of our funding in the face of challenging national budgets for education. This financial management approach is planned to be supplemented by an even more proactive approach to resourcing the school. We are extremely fortunate in having a skilled team in Friends of Meadowside who, in turn, are supported by a willing and generous wider school community and this gives us a great start!

We aim to build upon this, supplementing school capacity to deliver excellent educational experiences and a pleasant working environment for pupils and staff. In the first instance we are seeking to identify a distinct set of projects that will enhance learning or improve the school site. We can then consider how these might be resourced through a range of means such as; appeals for skills, time, services and materials or, written proposals to Trusts and Grants or, income generation through services such as rentals and courses or through other fundraisers.

Please keep an eye on both Meadowside and Friends of Meadowside Facebook feeds for news on how to be involved and use these to feed in ideas and suggestions. You can also make use of our office comments box or clerk's e-mail address to get in touch - [kwilks@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:kwilks@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

### Other news

Meadowside have hopes of £250 for educational resources and have found a fun opportunity for our families to help...

Beat the Street is a real life walking, cycling and running game, which runs from Wednesday 26 June 2019 – Wednesday 7 August 2019.

We have set up and a 'Mighty Meadowside' team and MUST recruit at least 12 team members by the end of the game to be eligible for prizes. Please see parent mail and facebook for more information on how to take part.

### Sporting News

On Monday 40 children went to The Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham to represent Meadowside at the Gloucester Athletics Championships. It was fantastic to see so many children competing and showing great effort and determination. Several children were awarded medals for individual and relay events, but also thanks to the combined efforts of the whole team Meadowside were placed 3rd overall!

Over the past two weeks we have launched the Meadowside Cricket World Cup. Today the Year 4 and Year 6 classes have led a wonderful afternoon of cricket skills for the whole school. It has been a delight to see so many children enjoying learning new skills and developing their batting, bowling and fielding. Over the final few weeks of term all children will now take part in house cricket games within their PE sessions. We look forward to seeing some great team work!

#### INSET dates (school shut for pupils)

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

#### Dates for your diary

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Y5 Clarinets performance 2 15pm

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July- GSP Country Dance festival

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July- Wimbledon visit

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July- Year 1 and 2 trip

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – 6:30pm Y6 Performance (Y6 parents invited)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July- Reports sent home

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July- 4:30pm- Whole School picnic

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July- 9.15 for a 9:30am start- Year 6 Leavers assembly

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July- 2pm- School finishes for the Summer.**

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019**