Meadowside Primary School
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Making a Difference for our Future

6th September 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to a new academic year! We have had such a positive first week. The new Reception children (Maple Class) have all been in for half-day sessions and years 1-6 have started life as they mean to go on – with a determined learning attitude and lots of smiles.

Our first Friday Fortnightly will come out next week, but I wanted to pass on to you a few dates and pieces of information as soon as possible.

House Points

We have introduced a new reward system for the new academic year, designed to encourage individual and community spirit! Children can earn a house point for effort, achievement or any number of Meadowside values. Every 2 weeks, house captains will announce running totals (these will also be shared on the Friday Fortnightly) and anyone earning 10 house points individually will be able to claim a small prize. At the end of each term, the winning house will be rewarded collectively and totals reset to zero. This system primarily replaces Golden Rules tickets and Marble Jars and we hope the children will continue to respond enthusiastically to it!

Thursday 12th September

We will be having our annual **Meadowside Cross Country Festival** for years 2-6. This event is held in school for children and staff only. Everyone is encouraged to take part, whether they run, jog or walk. We will invite the fastest boys and girls in each year group to attend Meadowside training sessions before selecting a team for the GSP inter-schools event later in November.

Please could all y2-6 pupils have suitable trainers/footwear for Thursday.

Tuesday 17th September

At 2 40pm in the Hall, there will be a **Y4 Wye Valley Information session** for children and parents are welcome to attend. This will be a chance to find out more about how the 3 days are organised and ask any questions. The children really benefit from the excitement and detail this session provides. If you are unable to come, please don't worry, but let Mr Mayne or the school office know and we will send home any paperwork (kit list, medical consent forms etc). Staff attending the residential this year are: Mr Mayne, Mrs Natalie Smith, Mrs Hopwood and Mrs Padovini.

Thursday 19th September

You are invited to come into your child's class from 3.15 - 3.45pm to **Meet the Team**, have a look round the classroom and see how routines work. You will also be given an information leaflet with details about the end of year expectations in maths, reading and Writing for your child's year group. You are

also welcome to have a look around The Glade (the old Y3 classroom!), a new space for teaching, intervention, therapy and support. This is a drop-in session – teachers and TAs will be If your child is in YR Maple class and will be attending morning sessions that week, please come and visit the classroom at the end of your session.

If you are unable to drop in, the leaflet will be sent home with your child the next day and we will add all the class information to our website.

Monday 30th September, 5 30pm

Year 5 parents are invited to an information session about the **Secondary School** process in Gloucester (including Grammar School entrance). During September, Year 5s will take a series of short cognitive ability tests **(CATs)** and the session for parents will also help to understand how these can be analysed. You will receive your child's individual scores w/b 7th October.

And finally...

Homework for the month of September from Reception – Y6 is all about reading! Regular reading practice and feedback in reading records is encouraged. Some classes may also set Reading tasks (including Letter and Sounds homework for KS1). Please support your child to maintain good reading habits as they begin a new year group – reading for pleasure and as a skill cannot be under-estimated. If you don't yet have a library card for your child, this would be a useful addition, as we do tend to take classes for visits to Quedgeley library during the year.

There will be plenty more news and dates for your diary in next week's edition of the Friday Fortnightly. **After school clubs will start w/b 23rd September.** A separate letter will be sent later next week with all the details.

Miss Thomas Head Teacher