

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 11th October 2019

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
222	287	229	324

Message from the Head

At our staff meeting this week, Reading was our focus. We looked at the range of reading provision we offer the children, to ensure we are promoting reading as an essential life skill, reading for pleasure and reading to improve and widen our future options as well as the ways it contributes to our own personalities. We are always looking at new ideas to enhance what Meadowside already provides. Read more about '**Meadowside Storytime**' below; this is a new initiative to enjoy every fortnight! Please let us know what you think and support us in promoting the importance of Reading.

Meadowside Class News.

Reception-

For the last 2 weeks we have been working hard on our phonics. We have already learnt lots of sounds and have started to build some simple words. we have also been working hard on our fine motor skills so that we have strong fingers for holding a pencil. When our sound was g we made grass, glued onto gold coins, used green glitter and wrote to the grumpy Gruffalo. It was great! We have also been trying hard to get more diamond power by solving problems and doing things for ourselves. They are becoming very independent, collecting what they need for an activity. Good work Maple class.

Year 1-

In Year 1, we have been coming up with conclusions about how hygienic and how healthy pirates were. We started with our initial thoughts and then came to conclusions once we had all of the information. We decided that pirates were not very hygienic because they **couldn't** be rather than choosing not to be. We also decided that pirates did not have a very varied diet - most of us were not fans of pirate food when we had the chance to sample it!

Year 2- This week we have continued to find out more about pirates' lifestyles. We have already found out about all the hygienic things pirates would not have been able to do and concluded that it must not have been very pleasant down in a ship with no washing facilities!! This week, we have found out about what pirates would have eaten and even got to try some of these foods for ourselves! Ask your child what they thought of the salted meats, crackers and "rum"!!

Year 3-

We've continued to have a 'Really Revolting' time in Year 3, we have conducted an experiment with eggs to help us understand tooth decay. The egg that was left in vinegar had the most damage - why not ask your child to 'egg-splain' the results! In English we are still enjoying working on the Twits and have innovated our own chapters. We are pleased to see the class making the most of their swimming lessons, they are very enthusiastic about them and we can see some progress already!

Class News Continued

Year 4- Our Wye Valley Residential was a great success and we were thrilled to see how our children engaged with new activities and took up new challenges. From archery to team building, and even avoiding Drop Bears, Beech class embraced all the opportunities they encountered and they made us proud. We look forward to meeting with you next week, sharing how your child has settled into Year Four and considering how we partner together to help your child grow.

Year 5- This week, Year 5 visited the Cheltenham Literature Festival to hear Ross McKenzie talk about his book "The Nowhere Emporium". We have been inspired by his enthusiasm for writing about his magical world and our own writing will surely be improved by meeting this wonderful author.

In maths, we have been extending our knowledge of place value by ordering and comparing numbers with up to seven digits. Our space topic continues and we have been learning about light.

Year 6- Year 6 have had an awesome couple of weeks. In maths, we have been working hard on our calculations whilst in English the focus has been on finishing our holiday brochures for a tour of our Solar System. They are currently being displayed in the corridor so take a peak when it is parents evening. Last week, we produced a whole class poem for the poetry slam, complete with a funky beat and sick lyrics! We have just begun our work on 'Hidden Figures', which focuses on segregation and discrimination. The children have shown themselves to be intelligent, tolerant and sympathetic during our discussions. In computing we are learning how to create our own stop motion films, based on the moon landings and we continue to be in awe and wonder about our solar system in science.

Governor News

As a reminder, particularly for those who are new to our school, the governing body is made up of two committees that meet termly: the Resources committee and the Teaching and Learning committee.

The role of the Resources committee was explained in depth last year; however, in summary, it reviews school finances and budgeting, the purchase and use of resources and oversees arrangements for maintenance and repairs.

The Teaching and Learning committee's main responsibilities are:

- To monitor how the curriculum is taught, evaluated and resourced at Meadowside.
- To monitor the standards of teaching and learning across the school and other matters relating to the school's curriculum, including statutory requirements and reviewing policies.
- To ensure the requirements for safeguarding children and children with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) are met.
- To monitor pupil attendance and behaviour.

We have link governors whose role it is to monitor English, Maths and Science, P.E., SEND and Safeguarding and these governors regularly meet with staff to keep up-to-date with initiatives relating to the curriculum so that they can help to contribute to the school's long-term strategic plan.

Friends of Meadowside

Meadowside Bake-off The annual Meadowside bake-off makes a return this year with a theme of "Nature At It's Best"

Between 14th and 18th Oct – you can buy a competition entry plate for £1, on sale from a Friends of Meadowside representative before or after school. On Monday 21st Oct, you can then bring your Cupcakes or Biscuits to the school hall ready to be judged. An overall winner will be chosen and there will also be a smaller prize for the star baker from each class.

The even better news is that all the entries will be on sale to buy at the end of school that day (Mon 21st at 3.15pm) so don't forget your purses and wallets!! All the cupcakes and biscuits will be priced evenly at 50p each. For more information, please refer to the letter sent earlier this week.

Other news

-You should have received an email this week with information about the Progressive sports holiday club running here at Meadowside during the October half term. Please contact the School office for further information or visit the website <https://progressive-sports.co.uk/north-gloucestershire/product/multi-sports-fun-weeks/>

Little Meadow News

Out of School Club- This has been increasing in popularity over the last few years and despite increasing the staff numbers we are now running at maximum capacity for the building. We are operating a waiting list but will be unable to support any requests for one off days.

Breakfast Club - Bev Lusty of Little Monkeys has now joined the Little Meadow team and is heading up a pilot breakfast club. The impact of this will be evaluated after half term with a view to increasing capacity from 8 to 16 in the New Year. We are in anticipation of this operating a waiting list and priority will be given to those families that already access the Little Meadow services. Should you wish to add your child's name to this list, expression of interest forms can be found either at the Little Meadow office or Meadowside School office.

Holiday Club – We are pleased to support the introduction of Progressive Sport holiday club this half term and wish it every success. Little Meadow will be offering Holiday club 8.30-4.30 6th -9th April and 20th -31st July. Booking forms will be available prior to this event.

Rising 5's – These sessions are for children who are starting school in September 2020 and are now full for this academic year.

Rising 3's children due to start school in September 2021 can join these fun afternoon sessions. Sessions run from 12.30-3.00 and places are currently available. Please complete an expression of interest in the first instance which can be found either at Meadowside school or Little Meadow office or on the Little Meadow website.

Meadowside Storytime!

To continue to promote our reading focus for this term, we are proud to present our very first Meadowside Storytime!

Every fortnight, along with the Friday Fortnightly, we will publish a video on our Facebook page of a member of staff reading one of their favourite stories! We have chosen books that should appeal to a wide range of audiences, so, as the nights draw in, snuggle up as a family and enjoy a few minutes of story time together. This week's book is called The Way Home for Wolf. We hope you enjoy our very first Meadowside Storytime!

INSET dates
(school shut for pupils)

Friday October 25th 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

May Bank Holiday 2020 is
Friday 8th May

Monday 1st June 2020

Monday 20th July 2020

Dates for your diary

15th Oct 4-7pm and 16th October 3 30-5 30 Parents Evenings.

21st October – Meadowsides Bake Off

24th October – Individual portrait photographs

24th October 6pm – Dr Tom Robson Parent Event

Monday 28th Oct – Fri 1st Nov – Progressive Sports Holiday Club

Friday 8th November – Dress Down Day

Friday 15th November – Inter-Schools Cross Country Event

End of Term 1 is 3 15 pm 24th October. Term 2 begins on 4th Nov

Don't forget to check the website

www.meadowsideschool.co.uk/calendar for all key dates.

Date of next newsletter: Thursday 24th October

