

**Autumn Term Edition**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
706	792	787	872 Winners Term 1! Prize: Favourite footwear on first day back!

## Message from the Head

We have really enjoyed term 1 though everyone is ready for a break! From next term onwards, it is increasingly likely that the school will have an Ofsted inspection. Feedback from parents via parentview is used by us and the inspection team to gain a measure of what we do well and what we need to improve. Nonetheless, I hope that families will continue to talk to us directly if they have a question or concern about any aspect of school life. We are always here to take the time **in person**, to respond to your feedback and work together in partnership, so please let us know if something is on your mind and we will make it our mission to explain or resolve it!

**Reception-** We have had a great first term getting to know each other, learning the school routines, having fun and learning lots. We have worked hard on our phonics and taken up lots of challenges in Mathematics. Next term we will be starting our topic people who help us and are hoping to welcome various visitors into the classroom.

**Year 1-** Year One have been learning about Sir Francis Drake and trying to decide whether we should consider him a pirate or not. After all of our evidence gathering, we are split half and half on our decision! We also have been finding out about pirate ships and their parts, ask your child to tell you some of the main bits of a pirate ship and the job it does!

**Year 2-** Year 2 were astonished to discover that despite all his actions, Francis Drake got a knighthood and a gift from the queen when he sailed around the world and stole from the Spanish! We had a debate about whether we thought he was, in fact, a pirate- ask your child what they thought and get them to justify their decision!! This week, we have begun to focus our attention on the ships themselves. Keep a look out for several letters arriving in your inbox about requests for ship building materials and a note about our planned topic celebration. (Please note that payment for this is due before the next Friday Fortnightly.)

**Year 3-** This week we have begun to look at the revolting things that happened in Ancient Egypt. We were both fascinated and disgusted by the process of mummification. Ask your child how they removed the brain as this was the part that we all thought was most disgusting. We linked our English to this by creating a set of mummification instructions and had great fun creating some real-life canopic jars. Ask your child what was stored in each one! The children have all made a great start to Year 3 and we hope you all have a lovely half term break.

### Class News Continued

**Year 4-** It was great to meet with parents of Year Four Beech, recognize achievements to date and determine where we move forward together. The effort with TTRockstars has been impressive; keep enjoying the reading! We have completed our work with The Twits and a number of the children are reading 'The Middler' by Kirsty Applebaum. You are most welcome to buy a copy and talk to Mr Mayne or one of the other children about how the book is developing and what you are enjoying about it. We celebrated our topic projects and the standard of presentations for School Councillors made was very high which helped the children choose their representatives. Enjoy the break between Terms One and Two.

**Year 5-** In maths, we have begun our studies of addition and subtraction by working on our mental maths skills, particularly in relation to adding multiples of ten, a hundred or a thousand to numbers with four or more digits. It is great to see how many children are embracing Times Tables Rockstars so enthusiastically. We can already see how much better at recalling times tables facts you are becoming. Recently, we finished reading the novel The Nowhere Emporium together and were (without giving away the plot) pleased with the outcome of the story. Well done, Elm Class, for reading so many books and being able to talk about your reading so well. You have certainly taken to our new class reading challenge and we all love the weekly prize-giving for those who have read six books.

**Year 6-** In Year 6 we finished our work on Hidden Figures by writing a newspaper report celebrating the incredible achievements of Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughn, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden. We all feel so passionate about the importance of equal rights and equal opportunities and have discussed and debated in a mature and responsible way over the last few weeks. We now have a finished 'Space Dance' which we have performed for several members of staff and hope to share with other classes. Our Watch this... SPACE topic continues to capture us and we continue to learn new facts and discover more about space every day.

### Governor News

**PARKING.** We all need to get our children to and from school each day and I think we can all agree that we'd like to do this safely. Some families live within walking distance of the school and we actively encourage those, particularly living on Green Farm, to do this as much as possible. Others of us may need to drive to Meadowside but can we please ask that you do so in a safe, responsible way; for example ***not parking on the double yellow lines along Elmore Lane East and Merlin Drive.*** They are intentionally painted close to junctions where a parked car can obstruct the view of approaching traffic for pedestrians and other cars.

We are aware that parking immediately outside the school gates has become very busy, sometimes reckless and there has recently been a 'near miss' for a child at Meadowside. Unfortunately, this isn't an isolated incident but can easily be avoided by not parking in turning areas and/or alongside the zig-zag lines. **Parking is not permitted on the road outside the school gates**, yet parents are regularly parking here and this is becoming dangerous. The local police have been informed and it is highly likely that a PCSO will be visiting school to conduct spot checks on parking. Governors and staff will also monitor the situation. We would appreciate it if you could inform any other adults collecting your child of this information e.g. childminder, grandparents. As a reminder, parking in the school car park is limited to staff only or for parents who have previously agreed with the school that they can use the car park and have made arrangements with Miss Thomas. **The school car park is closed to the general school public between 8.30 – 9.15 a.m. and 3.00 – 3.45 p.m. for the children's safety.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Friends of Meadowside

Many thanks to all of our fantastic Meadowside bakers. You were outstanding again this year and the judges had a really tough time choosing the winners. Thank you all so much for your efforts, you are all truly amazing!

We are pleased to confirm that our Amphitheatre is now fully complete and we are having a Grand Opening at the end of school on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Parents are welcome to come along and have a look around at 3:15.

We have some exciting events coming up. Dress Down Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November! We would welcome donations of raffle prizes in return for wearing your own clothes to school. On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November we are holding our usual winter Discos. Key Stage 1 will have their annual Wake & Shake Dance Off and Key Stage 2 will be having a UV Glow disco. KS2 children are encouraged to wear white, yellow or bright greens to make the most of the UV lights. Tickets go on sale via Google forms and PayPal from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November and we will be in the Car Park selling tickets from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Due to Health & Safety we will close ticket sales on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November and will not be taking payment on the door.

## Other news

Year 3 - After half term our new class reading book will be George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl. Please bring a copy into school if you can get one! Thank you.

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

**Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**May Bank Holiday 2020 is  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

### **Dates for your diary**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov** – Progressive Sports Holiday Club

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Whole School flu immunisation

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Dress Down Day

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** Life Education Pod

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Inter-Schools Cross Country Event

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**- Year 5 Quedgeley library visit.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Whole School Problem-Solving day

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November**- Friends of Meadowside discos

Term 2 begins on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Don't forget to check the website**

[www.meadowsideschool.co.uk/calendar](http://www.meadowsideschool.co.uk/calendar) for all key dates.

**Date of next newsletter: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**



Meadowside School