

**Spring Term Edition**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
112	108	106	159

## **Message from the Head**

Meadowside School is up and running again and it is so lovely to have your children back! Red Nose Day has brought out their creative side today and certainly put a smile on everyone's faces. We are keen to work with the children this term on all aspects of learning together and reconnecting. Some need support to rediscover their friendships, some to adapt to classroom life and all of them are rediscovering the skill of learning to make connections and build on skills they have already mastered. These things will take some children longer than others to strengthen, but we will all get there. The Governors and senior leadership team are meanwhile planning phase 2 of recovery, ready to begin after Easter. We want the children to have self-belief at every stage of the process and we also want to recognise the ways they have moved on as learners, whilst being in your care during lockdown.

## **Meadowside Class News**

### **Reception-**

It has been lovely to catch up with all our Willow class friends, playing and laughing together. This term our topic has been 'What's the story?' last week we were dealing with lean, mean wolves as well as making Jam tarts for Granny. This week there has been a gingerbread man on the loose and we have turned our role play area into a bakery. In phonics we are doing a recap of all the sounds we have learnt and in our maths we are making the most of the chance to do practical activities with our friends. If you walk past school on a sunny day I am sure you will hear us having fun and learning in our outside area.

### **Year 1-**

Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying being back together as one big bubble! We have done some practicing of our science knowledge that we were learning at home ready for the quiz next week (we have been doing well, so top marks to everyone for their home learning!) and we have continued to develop our knowledge of plants. We can now identify a deciduous and evergreen tree, we know the difference between trees, bushes and flowering plants and we have begun our own seed growing experiment! Keep practicing your knowledge of plants and animals Year 1 and we will let you know how we get on at the quiz in the next Friday Fortnightly!

## **Class News Continued**

### **Year 2-**

We were all very excited to come back together and see our friends and we have enjoyed sharing all the learning we were doing when we couldn't be together! Our Quiz is coming up soon so we had a practise last week to see if we could remember the animal information we learnt over lockdown- we remembered lots of great information and think we are nearly ready to complete the quiz for real! We will continue to learn about plants and what they need in order to grow healthily over the coming weeks and we will then turn our attention to the Top Predator! (We are all very keen to find out what it is!!)

In English, we are reviewing all the things we know about sentence types and constructions and reminding ourselves of the new punctuation we learnt over lockdown!

In mathematics, we are finally getting to learn about multiplication and division- not only learning our times tables but also what multiplication and division actually means!! (Once we understand this, we can take our place in the Times Tables Rockstars Meadowside championship!- more details to follow soon!)

### **Year 3-**

It has been great to see so many happy, smiling faces in class. In English, we have started a new book - 'The boy who grew dragons' by Andy Shepherd. We have loved listening to the story and it has caused quite a few giggles! This week we have been busy with persuasive writing, trying to persuade parents to allow us to keep a dragon as a pet. We have also been perfecting our dragon drawing skills, ready for some descriptive writing. In other news, we have been looking for evidence of the Romans in - did you know that where Kingsholm Rugby Stadium is was once a Roman fort! Why not ask your child about other pieces of evidence of the Romans in Gloucester. If you get the opportunity when restrictions are lifted, why not try to visit some of the sites!

### **Year 4-**

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school and seeing them reconnect with friends! We have just completed the wonderful debut novel by Hannah Gold, 'The Last Bear' and our new class novel is Groosham Grange by Anthony Horowitz. Please ensure that your child has their current reading book and reading record in school each day so we can check in with current reading at home, (we would be really grateful for x4 times a week), and add comments from reading at school, for example weekly guided reading sessions or one to one reading. There are two lunchtime reading groups that Mr Mayne leads on a Wednesday and a Thursday using the novel, 'Where the World Turns Wild', by Nicola Penfold. If your child has a copy and they wish to take part, we will be discussing Chapters 8 to 15 next week.

We are regularly using the Forest School so please ensure that your child has a named change of footwear so they can take part.

TTR remains a very effective tool to build rapid recall of multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. On a Monday, we celebrate earning 1, 000 coins or more in the preceding 7 days with a House Point and mention on our class Leaderboard. Earning 1, 000 coins takes most children less than 30 minutes and we find regular use throughout the week is the most effective.

## **Class News Continued**

### **Year 5-**

It has been an amazing start once again for year 5! We have really enjoyed being back together and it has been a joy to see the children so happy with their friends. We have made sure there have been lots of opportunities to play, connect and learn with one another and we will continue to focus carefully on well-being as the term progresses. In maths, we have been learning about the upcoming census as well as covering position and direction. English has been really interesting. The Yanomami tribe are under threat! We have been looking at all the different threats that the people of the rainforest face. Year 5 have been very passionate in voicing their opinions! In computing, we have continued our work on Scratch whilst in P.E we played dodgeball and capture the flag. The Jewish festival of Passover is still in the spotlight in R.E and the children have enjoyed learning about what is eaten during this time. Phew! That's a wrap for this week! Thank you for all your support.

### **Year 6-**

We have loved welcoming everyone back to 'learning TOGETHER'. It is very apparent by the smile on everyone's faces that they are happy to be here.

In English we have started a new text called The Vanishing Rainforest. This looks at the impact of deforestation and particularly the human element, considering tribal communities, the land use and not just the loss of wildlife. We have created some remarkable holiday brochures this week ready for 2022 and explored how to bring income into the area.

Maths has seen us subtracting fractions using manageable steps. It is testing our resilience but also seeing our confidence increase daily. We have also been studying and analysing Census data and statistics. They may well remind you to fill your Census 2021 forms this weekend (Sunday 21st March).

In our Topic work we have explored food chains and how different types of animals: insects, mammals and amphibians journey through the circle of life. PE continues with football training (creating an academy of excellence) and Hockey is also a sport we are refining skills in as well as preparing for a match at the end of term.

## **Friends of Meadowside**

It's been fantastic to see our Meadowside Family back at school. We hope the children enjoyed their 'Homeschool Hero' goody bags.

Things have been very quiet for us so far this year, but we are having our first committee meeting of the year this week and will be issuing full details of our up and coming plans.

If you have any suggestions or would like to get in touch please feel free to contact us via our Facebook page or via email [friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

Friends of Meadowside

## **Reading at Meadowside**

Well done for all the hard work you put in over lockdown! We cannot thank you enough for the effort and enthusiasm our families put in! We loved seeing your Toilet Roll characters during World Book Day- you obviously had a great deal of fun! You should have received your WBD book token by now, so you can buy your own book- either with £1 off or for free if you choose one of the books specially made to celebrate WBD! (If you have not yet received your token, please speak to your child's class teacher).

We are always looking for ways to promote books and reading and today I had a sneak preview of this year's Summer Reading Challenge! It looks like it will be a great one with both virtual and real life options available! We will be sending out full details soon. For now, our library service asked me to remind everyone that our libraries are still open and are running a Click and Collect service, with contactless pick up and drop off available. They are even offering a 'recommendations' service where they will choose your child books they might like, based on their current reading preferences! A great way to widen your child's choices, if they are stuck in a reading hole of the same series or author!!

Don't forget that our ePlatform service is still running too, with books to read and listen to, when you just want to shut your eyes and escape into an imaginary world for a while! - Holidays into the book world can't ever be cancelled!

Tell your teachers and friends what you are reading and maybe even give them your own recommendations too!

Miss Mellersh

### **A Plea from Team Meadowside!**

We are finding morning drop off quite a busy time, particularly over in KS2 where we have adjusted arrival times. In order to help us have all adult hands on deck, could we please ask that you avoid this time for conversations with class teachers. A quick message is fine, but if you would like more time to discuss an issue related to your child, we would find it easier to phone you, talk to you at the end of the day or read the details in an email beforehand, so we have some background. Staff on gate duty will always help or pass on a message to your class team, so they can then make contact with you. We do understand that sometimes it's unavoidable and we will always try to find an adult who can help,

## **Dates for your diary**

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

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
2021**

**29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March- Virtual Life Education class  
sessions**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – end of Term 4 at normal  
staggered finish times**

**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: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**



Meadowside School