

Spring Term Edition

Thursday 1st April 2021

| Comets | Hurricanes | Meteors | Spitfires |
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Message from the Head

We've made it! Thank you for all your patience and support over the last four weeks, which has enabled your children to settle quickly and confidently back into routines. As the weather improves, we are able to use the outdoor spaces for more learning as well as giving each class a bigger space to play in. There should soon be an opportunity for children in every class to enjoy some sort of after school club in their own bubble – please bear with us as this information is coming your way! We have dates for Parents Evenings in May (these will be on Teams) and will look forward to sharing your child's progress as well as planning next steps together. I know the past 12 months have been a real challenge for us all, so I hope children, parents, families and staff can find some time to relax and unwind in the next 2 weeks. The outlook for the summer term ahead is definitely brighter!

Meadowside Class News

Reception-

In Reception, we have been having fun as usual with our learning but we have also been saying some goodbyes. Firstly, we said goodbye to Miss Bloor; it had been lovely having her in our Willow class bubble for the last couple of weeks but she had to leave to go back to university. Thursday will be Mrs King's last official day in Reception. I have enjoyed working with Mrs King for several years, she is a very special lady with an amazing work ethic and a very big heart. We will miss her very much and appreciate everything she has done.

We finished our 'what's the story' topic by doing some cooking, making Gingerbread men. Then this week we have been thinking about new life in the build-up to Easter. We all became artists on Monday and as a class, we have created a big art work. We looked at and drew flowers, talked about eggs, chicks and rabbits and decided it would be a good opportunity to make chocolate cornflake nests. Willow class have been fantastic coming back and settling down after the last lockdown. We are all now a little tired so enjoy the Easter Holiday and see you all in 2 weeks.

Year 1-

What a fantastic term Year 1 have had! We ended our topic last week with our Quizzical Nature quiz! We competed with teams from Germany, Scotland and Barcelona and how proud we are of our Meadowside team! The children's participation was brilliant and our teamwork skills were out in full force! The children have already been asking about our next topic, but they will have to wait for the big reveal until after the holidays! This week we have turned our attention to Easter and finding out the meaning behind it. We wish you a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again for the summer term!

Class News Continued

Year 2-

Year 2 very much enjoyed their quiz last Friday! We were very good at answering the questions and think we did really well! We all received certificates this week to say congratulations on such good participation.

Ask your child about our failed seed experiment that we had to try all over again!!! Miss Mellersh really is no good at planting because none of the cress seeds we planted germinated, despite having warmth and water! Luckily, our back up seeds worked and we were able to see just what plants look like when they grow in the dark- ask your children what they were like and see if they can tell you why!!! (If you're lucky, they might even act it out for you!!)

This week, we had the chance to meet Alex from the Life Education Service via Zoom, who talked to us about feelings. This linked in nicely with our work this term on what we want and what we need (and the fact that these 2 things are not always the same!!!) This week, we even looked at how to be patient and save up money for something we really want as this makes the item even more special than just getting something straight away!!!

Have a lovely Easter break. See you next term!

Year 3-

We've really been enjoying our class book 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' by Andy Shephard. We have used the book to help us produce some brilliant writing; we have written direct speech, persuasive paragraphs and detailed descriptions. On Tuesday last week Mrs Bouvier was able to record a dragon descending onto the school courtyard and breathing fire! This led to the children writing some fantastic reports, using ambitious vocabulary. We have also produced some great art, including clay dragon eyes, which we are looking forward to completing next term. If your child has enjoyed this book and would like to read more at home, there are four more books in the series...The next book in the series is 'The Boy who Lived with Dragons'.

In PE we have been enjoying cricket and unihoc. We are particularly impressed with the children's hockey skills and they have enjoyed playing small games, putting these skills to good use! In cricket we have been developing our batting and bowling techniques. We will be continuing cricket after Easter, using these skills in small team games.

Year 4-

I am very proud of the transition that Silver Birch have made to return to full-time at school; they have been a delight to work with! Our Roman topic has come to an end and we are finishing our class novel, 'Groosham Grange' by Anthony Horowitz so we can begin a new novel linked to our next topic! Many of the class are reading 'Where the World Turns Wild', by Nicola Penfold and if you want to join us on our journey, you are most welcome! Two reading groups meet for a lunch and munch on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes to discuss extracts from the book. Please encourage your child to read over the Easter break and if you wish to email a photograph of your child enjoying a book in an interesting place, please email it to me so I can create a display to celebrate reading.

We are consolidating Lock Down Learning in mathematics and continue to embed our multiplication and division skills in mathematics using TTR amongst other techniques.

Thank you so much for your support and partnering with us as this has helped your child transition and grow during this successful term. Enjoy Easter and I look forward to catching up next term.

Class News Continued

Year 5-

It has been another busy couple of weeks in Year 5. We have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the Maya, learning about their beliefs and traditions. We have been reading 'The Rain Player' by David Wisniewski and used it as inspiration for writing letters to Pik, the main character, offering advice on how he might beat the mighty Chac, god of rain, in the deadly game of Pok-a-tok. We have created masks and headdresses before playing the game ourselves (without the sacrifice at the end!) and created fantastic double page spreads on the subject. Chac even paid us a visit to answer our questions.

In maths, we have been revisiting key learning points from the year to see if we can remember them. There has been some excellent knowledge on show and we all know the concepts we need to keep working on to make sure we are confident with them.

In PSHCE we have been considering the elements that improve our mental wellbeing and we enjoyed our virtual Life Education session with Alex from Coram Life Education on Monday, where we learnt some mindfulness techniques that can help us all. Ask your child about the strawberry and candle technique or the strategy for staying grounded.

We wish you all a restful Easter break and are keeping our fingers crossed for lots of good weather.

Year 6-

In Year 6 we have loved the gore and violence of the Mayans over the past fortnight. We have been playing Pok-a-tok, but unlike the traditional game our losers have not been sacrificed to the Gods! We made some fabulous Mayan headdresses and acted out a scene from our book (Rain Player) where the hero has to win a game of Pok-a-tok to save himself and his people! Our topic has also seen us designing our own Mayan gods which we have made into felt dolls. In Maths we are well on our way to becoming 'fractions experts' and this week we had a go at some Mayan Maths! We have been enjoying the better weather while playing football and hockey in PE and look forward to more time spent outdoors next term. We wish everyone a wonderful Easter break!

Thursday 1st April

All the children got to say farewell to Mrs King today, as we organised an outdoor parade, class by class. We also joined in the Gloucestershire 'Clap for Children' initiative, to say a huge well done to Meadowside children for their resilience and positivity in the last 12 months!

We hope Mrs King and her family have a wonderful seaside adventure! Mary has been a true Meadowsider throughout her time here, always putting the children first and approaching each day with energy and dedication. We are so grateful for her loyalty and the care she has shown to every child.

Next term, we welcome Mrs Vicky Greig to our team, as full-time EYFS TA. Mrs King will be back for a couple of days, to help with her transition and familiarisation.

Friends of Meadowside

The Friends team held our first committee meeting of 2021 on Thursday 25th March via Microsoft Teams. We have discussed the options for events over the rest of this school year and unfortunately we have taken the very tough decision to cancel the planned visit from Happy's Circus. This event was originally due to take place in June 2020, but due to the unusual events of the past 12 months has been postponed several times. We are so disappointed to have made the decision to cancel this event as we know the children (and grown ups) thoroughly enjoyed it when they last visited us in 2018. We feel that it will still be very difficult to host an event of that size under the current restrictions and we feel that this would impact the overall experience. We will now be working hard to refund all of those people who had already purchased tickets for the event. We will be in touch with refunds as soon as possible.

On a happier note we will still be doing our best to hold some events for everyone to enjoy. This first one of these will begin after the Easter holidays. From Monday 19th April each class are invited to take part in our Loose Change Challenge! This will be an interclass challenge in which the classes will be provided with an empty 2L bottle and the aim will be to fill these bottles with any loose change they can find. The event will run until Friday 14th May and the class who collects the most loose change, in value, will win a movie with snacks event.

As always if you have any questions, suggestions or feedback for us please don't hesitate to contact us via our Facebook page or our email address: friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk. Please keep an eye out for our Spring Newsletter which will be coming out soon and will have lots more details of what we are up to.

Friends of Meadowside

Dates for your diary

Week commencing 26th April- Year 5 Bikeability

Parent Consultation meetings (via Teams) – Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th May 3 30 – 6pm. Booking details to follow.

Don't forget to check the website

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

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

**Monday 7th and Tuesday
8th June 2021**

**Wednesday 21st July
2021**

Date of next newsletter: Friday 30th April 2021



Meadowside School