

**Autumn Term Edition**

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
112	89	92	117

### **Message from the Head**

In our staff meeting this week, we discussed the impact of training and courses teachers have been attending this year. We talked about some of the experiences children have missed as a result of lockdowns and restrictions, as well as the gaps we have noticed in their vocabulary. We are going to introduce a 'What does it mean?' board in every classroom and encourage children to ask about unknown words in class stories and conversations across the curriculum. It's easy to forget that those gaps in their knowledge and experience exist and we are really keen for them to ASK. We'd love you to do the same with them at home too – it's always interesting to discover new words and meanings at any age!

### **Meadowside Class News**

#### **Reception-**

Our classroom has continued to fill with Monsters of all shapes and sizes. You name it and we can turn it into a monster: loo rolls, tissue boxes, which already have a 'mouth', and beautiful Autumn leaves. It is great to use our imagination and our creative skills. During our topic work on 'Marvellous Monsters' we have also followed instructions to make monster puppets, written letters to the love monster to cheer him up and met the colour monster. We have used this opportunity to talk lots about feelings and how it is important to talk about how we are feeling. There are always opportunities in Reception to choose your own learning and it is great to see what they all get up to with their friends. Who knows what monstrous delights we will have over the next few weeks.

#### **Year 1-**

In Year 1 we have been getting thoroughly stuck into some pirate adventures! We designed and wrote about our own pirate treasure islands (and stole ideas from other stories like a true pirate would!) Then we used our imaginations to take a paper pirate on some very exciting adventures! We have de-coded messages written in maritime flags and we have been investigating the properties of different materials in order to determine which ones would be best suited to building a pirate ship! We are now starting to collate all of our knowledge together to see if we are ready to pass the test of becoming powerful pirates, we just need to solve the problem of how we would survive on an island. If we manage it, we are hoping for an exciting reward at the end! (You should have already received our letter about our upcoming pirate day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December... arrrrrr!)

## **Class News Continued**

### **Year 2-**

We have been focusing on science this fortnight in our topic sessions, learning about the materials metal, wood, fabric, plastic, glass and paper and learning some of their properties. We will be putting this new information to work this week trying to decide why these materials are used for the different parts of a pirate ship. Later this week, we will be starting to think about how we will survive on the Treasure Island- what things we might **want** and what we will actually **need**!

Please look out in your inboxes for more information about our topic shine on 2<sup>nd</sup> December!

In English we are continuing our Pirate Treasure Map story, using our knowledge of Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales to add extra detail to our stories. In maths, we have been working on subtraction and are trying to extend our use of mental calculation strategies so that we don't have to keep counting back on our fingers! We are continuing to use our base calculation facts, so keep practising those number bonds to 7, 8 and 9 to make this even easier!

### **Year 3-**

Year 3 have continued with all things revolting!

We have thoroughly enjoyed beginning to learn about Ancient Egypt and mummification! We have ordered a set of mummification instructions and have designed and made our own canopic jars. We are very grateful to Costa Coffee for their kind donation of 30 cups and lids, which the children have transformed! They used clay to create the canopic jar lid, adding a sculpture of the head of either a baboon, a falcon, a jackal, or a person. These heads were then very carefully painted. They have also practised their use of hieroglyphics to write their name and decorate the jar. We are amazed by the results, well done Year 3!

In English, we have been finding out more about Howard Carter, the Egyptologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. We have read newspaper reports and even tried to write a diary entry from his point of view. Next week we will be moving on to fiction texts and reading the Egyptian Cinderella.

### **Year 4-**

We are enjoying exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt and are currently creating death masks, inspired by Tutankhamun! In English, we have just started reading 'Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirley Climo, (you can see and hear the story on YouTube if you so wish.) Our writing for the next 3 weeks will relate to this beautiful story.

In maths, we have been exploring the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals, moving on to symmetry. Please encourage your child to make use of TT Rockstars at least three times a week. We have some dedicated users who have seen their confidence and rapid recall of times tables facts really improve. Later this school year, all Year Four Children will take part in a national assessment of timetable facts up to 12 x 12 and regular use of this site will really help your child to feel confident and prepared.

When we return in January, we will start a new topic and our writing in Term Three will revolve around the novel, 'Brightstorm' by Vashti Hardy. This thrilling and engaging book proved a real hit when we used it with the current Year 6 when they were in Year 4! It would be really helpful if you were able to get a copy for your child to use – an ideal stocking filler! We will start to read it together in the first week back in January.

## **Year 5-**

It has been a really exciting fortnight in year 5! Last week, we had Mrs Ford (from Severn Vale) visit us to help us understand light. She set the children lots of different challenges with light boxes and filters. It was amazing! We also launched our bottle rockets (only a couple landed on the school roof!) to experiment with upthrust and gravity. Our Schoolbeat Officer visited to talk to us about the role of the police and how they can help us in our community. Photos of these events can be found on the Year 5 Silver Birch Teams page. The children have loved learning about poetry, using poems from the book Dark Sky Park, and the homework the children completed on the Snow Leopards was awesome – thank you for your support. We have recently moved on to our new class novel, Floodland. This story explores what the world would be like if climate change caused the level of the seas and oceans to increase... which ties in with our new topic OUR WORLD. This topic is all about our environment and how we can protect and influence it. Maths has consisted of exploring nets of 3D shapes whilst computing has involved debugging and P.E has moved on to gymnastics and tag rugby. Phew, it really has been a busy fortnight!

## **Year 6-**

We have had an exciting week this week as we have launched our new topic, Our World. The children are already demonstrating how passionate they are about the importance of protecting the Earth from climate change. To help us understand what is happening to our planet we have performed experiments looking at the effect of carbon on ice and what happens to the land when the polar ice caps melt. We have made predictions, planned and carried out investigations, recorded results and drawn conclusions. We have created Earth art work which reflects the human impact on our planet and been inspired by Greta Thunberg and all of the other activists who spoke out at COP26.

We continue on our adventure with our class text Floodland. We have just ended the week with a powerful debate after preparing speeches and presenting them. Year 6 have some wonderful potential leaders in our midst. We have been exploring shape in Maths and how they can be translated, enlarged or rotated.

We have more importantly been reminding ourselves of the power of one kind word. After all this is the most important attribute we can display. Happy Children in Need day one and all.

## **Christmas Planning**

Having heard about rising numbers of Covid cases in Quedgeley primary schools this week, I have taken the decision early that we will not be putting on live Christmas performances this year. Each class will be recording their own segment of The Meadowside Christmas Selection Box and this will then be available to share with your families at home nearer to the end of term.

I know this is disappointing, but it seems sensible, to ensure we all have a healthy Christmas break at home.

I hope we will be able to have more parental visits and events in school, as the year goes on and we will look for every opportunity to do so.

## Friends of Meadowside

It's been a busy few weeks at Friends of Meadowside with lots of upcoming fundraisers!

Thank you to everyone who sent in photographs for our **Neighbourhood Nature** competition. With over 60 photos to choose from it was very hard to choose our winners. We are busy trying to put the photos together for our 2022 calendar, more information will be sent out next week how you can purchase these in time for Christmas gifts!

We are very excited about the **Dis-glo** next week, and thank you for everyone who has purchased tickets from us this week. We are aware and monitoring the Covid19 situation closely with school and you should receive some separate communications on the extra measures, so please check your emails.

And then we'll be straight into December and our 2 Christmas activities.

We will be running our **Walking in a Window Wonderland** event between **4th - 12th December**; this will be a trail around the Green Farm community where members of the community have decorated and lit up their windows for us. Maps and quiz are going to be available from the end of November to purchase at £3 per map - and each map can be entered into a prize draw.

Finally, we are going to be hosting a **Carpark Carols** evening on **Weds 8th Dec (between 4-5pm)**. This is a free event and will take place outdoors in the carpark. It's going to be different to previous years as we're not holding our usual market in the Hall. There will be refreshments (inc hot choc, mulled wine and hot dogs), a small Christmas gift stall, and we will be joining in with members of the staff to sing some carols.

Watch out for follow-up emails on all these events. In the meantime, if you have any questions, or would like to help in any way please email [friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

### **INSET dates 21/22 (School shut for pupils)**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

### **Dates for your diary**

**Friday 26th Nov - 21st birthday dis-glows!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec – Y2 Sports Morning at Oxstalls**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Y1 and 2 Pirate Day**

**4th - 12th Dec - Walking in a Window**

**Wonderland trail**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Car park Carols**

**School will finish for the  
Christmas break on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
December at 2pm**

**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 3<sup>th</sup> December**



Meadowside School