

**Summer Term Edition**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
77	90	69	77

## **Message from the Head**

As usual at this time of the year, I have been reading everyone's end of year reports and adding my thoughts and comments. The children have achieved great things this year, not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. They have all been affected by the disruptions of the pandemic and have helped each other this year (despite more Covid and chicken pox!) to build strong bonds and reconnect with our school family in so many ways. I hope we will get to see you at one of our end of year events too – the Sponsored Walk, Sports Morning and the School Picnic are all coming up in July. Let's hope for some co-operative weather!

We are losing one of our longest-serving Meadowsiders at the end of this term. Mrs Natalie Smith (Y3 TA) has truly 'made a difference' in so many children's lives over the years she has been with us. We hope you enjoy a happy and healthy retirement, Natalie – thank you for all you have done for our school family.

## **Meadowside Class News**

### **Reception**

We have been continuing on our travels in Reception. Last week we were up in the air in a plane. This week we are afloat on the water and have been imagining what it would be like to go on a boat trip. There have also been lots of experiments going on to investigate what sinks and what floats. We found things around the classroom that would make a good boat. On Thursday we are visiting the local church. This is our first trip out in Reception. It is very exciting! thank you to all the parent helpers coming with us to make it possible. During this week we have also been welcoming groups over from Little Meadows. The class have been very friendly, letting these new friends join in with their play. This year has gone by so fast.

### **Year 1**

Year 1 have been excited to reach our final level and become knights this week! In preparation, we have been researching and writing reports all about knights so anyone thinking of becoming a knight can find out what life as a knight would be like. We have found out about their training, their responsibilities, their clothes and weaponry, the food they eat and what other people thought of them. Some of us have decided we aren't cut out for the hard work of knight life, while others of us are ready to sign up! In maths, we have been learning multiplication and division over the last 2 weeks and are now beginning to learn a little more about money by recognising UK coins. These are great skills to work on at home too. Don't forget our trip to Warwick Castle is happening next week! We are very excited, and it should be a brilliant experience for the children. Please see our reminder e-mail to familiarise yourself with everything you need on the day!

## **Class News Continued**

### **Year 2**

Year 2 really enjoyed their stitching experience and we came to realise just how talented those women were back in the Medieval times as they managed to create such amazing pictures. We found stitching a very tricky challenge- it took us all morning (and some of the afternoon) to get just our border completed!! We have only one more week before our trip to Warwick Castle so we have nearly learnt enough to become knights ourselves!!

In English we have been using the story The Adventures of Egg Box Dragon and practising our formal language/ tone to help us sound like 1950s news broadcasters. We noticed how very differently people spoke back then- we all thought they sounded very posh!!

In maths, we have been thinking about using all of the skills we have learnt to solve worded problems. We will continue this over the next few weeks and will work hard to improve our flexibility in maths problem solving- choosing the methods we use to solve problems.

We have also begun to discuss the changes that happen in Year 2- changes in our own bodies, including learning the correct scientific names for body parts, and changes in our school- preparing ourselves to move into Key Stage 2. This has generated lots of questions and discussions and we have encouraged children to ask trusted adults about any concerns they have too. We hope the children talk knowledgeably about what they have learnt!

### **Year 3**

Year 3 have continued to investigate plants. We designed and carried out an investigation into what a seed needs to germinate. When we looked at the results we were quite shocked to see the growth of the seeds kept in the dark! We also really enjoyed dissecting a Tulip. We were able to identify the stamen, anther, filament and stigma amongst other parts too! We were amazed at all the different parts of a flower and enjoyed learning about their special jobs. We hope your broad bean plants are growing well and your child has remembered to keep the diary up to date! Unfortunately a few of the seeds kept in school didn't germinate and we have had lots of ideas about what the problems could have been!

We have continued to enjoy sharing 'Charlotte's Web' during whole class reading sessions. We have used this for inspiration in our writing and have written several diary extracts from different character's perspectives. We have spotted a couple of resident arachnids in the corner of the classroom, and they have been named Charlotte and Wilbur! Inspired by this to learn more about spiders, this week we have been busy researching spider's ready to write a non-chronological report.

### **Year 4**

In Year Four, we have started our final book of the year as a stimulus for writing. The author has cleverly interwoven brief vocabulary and detailed illustrations to create a thought provoking picture book; the title will be revealed later in the teaching sequence! We have been reading and converting digital and analogue times in maths; if you can support your child by asking them to tell you the time using an analogue clock face, better still, their own analogue watch, that would be appreciated. Time is an area of maths that many children find difficult, asking a child what the time will be in say 15 minutes is useful or how many hours/ minutes until say 2:00pm when we will go to the Supermarket, provides a context and helpful practice.

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 4 children used oil pastels to create artwork inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe. They loved the activity and there are tutorials on Youtube and you may want to consider buying some for your children to use at home over the summer break.

We have a few Anglo-Saxon activities to conclude as part of our topic and we are looking at plants and their structure as a mini-topic.

## **Year 5**

We have had a great couple of weeks in Year 5. We had an amazing time caving and climbing in the school carpark last week and the children really impressed us with their perseverance and the way they encouraged each other. If you haven't yet seen the pictures on Teams, check them out. In CSI, we have been looking at the results of the 2021 Census and how they impact on planning for the future. We have compared the data with previous census returns and considered our own ideas for our perfect place. We are continuing our work on angles in maths lessons and have become experts at working with protractors.

As part of our Curious Cases topic, we are still enjoying the London Eye Mystery in our English lessons and have used the events in the latest chapters to write restrictive poetry. In art, we have been working on improving our sketching skills and we have also been inspired by Banksy to try our hand at graffiti (but only on paper!)

We are finishing our logo projects in Computing and the children should be incredibly proud of the results. Next week, we are off to Severn Vale for a morning of science experiments and can't wait to use the Bunsen burners!

## **Year 6**

These past two weeks have flown by. It is actually all starting to dawn on us that we have days left now as a pupil of Meadowside. However we all know Beech Class will always be Meadowsiders. Leaver's hoodies are being worn with pride and it is lovely to see everyone's Year Books coming together. We are coming to the end of our last topic and getting our culinary skills ready for action. School production rehearsals are well underway and our dancing feet are preparing for some choreography now. 'Two Left Feet' springs to mind! (Actually one of the songs, but quite apt!)

However, the most important event of the year can now be reported on...the RESIDENTIAL! WOW! We think everyone is just about recovering from the jam packed fun few days. THIS is when children really shine. Friendships blossomed, fears were conquered, joy was witnessed, calories were burnt, plenty of food was eaten and Meadowside memories were made (in abundance). The weather was very kind and the days were glorious sunshine. We hope the children have shared with you some of the things we crammed in and that Facebook kept you in the loop. Let's hope the next two weeks don't fly by quite as fast!

## **Other News**

### **Summer Reading Challenge – Gadgeteers**

The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest free reading for pleasure programme for children.

The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to keep reading during the summer holidays. Please see the attached leaflet for further information.

## **Friends of Meadowside**

Our last event of the year is the Sponsored Walk on Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July – parents/carers can come along from 2pm. Please see Parent Pay email for more info.

The AGM is on Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July 6 – 7pm at The Thatch Inn – which is open for everyone to come along to as we vote in the 3 formal positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer ready for next year. If you are interested in finding out what FOM is all about, please come along or have a read below of one of our committee members experience of FOM.

### ***Why did you join FOM?***

*Initially I joined because I wanted to be involved with school when my eldest started – although I had absolutely no experience or knowledge of how school/learning worked, or any skills that I thought I could offer.*

*I quickly realised how valuable FOM is - when we were voting on maths resources, library books and the amphitheatre project. Since then, we've gone on to fund EPlatform, a computer suite refurb, and I'm excited to see the development of the meadow this year. It turns out that the only skill you need is to come along and help out!*

### ***What are the rewards of being part of FOM***

*The fundraising events FOM put on are all organised by volunteers and is one of the most stressful parts of FOM – they are often only put together by 3-4 parents and setting up in time can be challenging. But, they are also the most rewarding when you see the children enjoying themselves at a disco, or making crafts at the Christmas market and it makes it all worthwhile. My own children still have memories of the Circus we put on in 2018, and I'm so glad I was part of putting that together.*

*The most surprising aspect of FOM is the friends I've made. I didn't know many people when my eldest first started school, and I'm now friends with parents across different year groups and into Severn Vale.*

### ***What would you like to see in FOM next year?***

*We only have a few parents to put together an event and several are leaving this year, so we are really struggling with the amount of people to help put together events for the children to enjoy. Quite simply we can't put on events like the Circus at the moment because we don't have enough help.*

*Everyone has busy lives and can't commit to helping all the time – but it would be amazing if a few people could commit to doing 1 thing for FOM; organising a stall with a friend, building a game, decorating a grotto, emailing companies for raffle tickets or making some cakes to sell – the list is endless, and FOM would be so grateful for any help you can offer.*

*I will genuinely be so sad if we do have to close FOM later this year because we don't have enough people so, please let us know if you can help out in any way – or come along to the AGM later this month.*

## Sporting News

### **Athletics**

Congratulations to all our athletes who took part in the 'Tremendous Athletics' event on Wednesday. It was heart-warming seeing all the pupils excitingly pouring into the Prince of Wales Stadium, full of hope and ambition. They ran, jumped, and threw throughout the day, showing great determination, self-belief and teamwork. The cheering could be heard. I'm sure, all the way to Cheltenham Town hall! Unfortunately, we couldn't stay for the presentation of medals but... we are planning to celebrate the extremely successful event next week in assembly! A huge thank you to the parents who accompanied us for the day and to those who came along to support us. Watch out for more news on the next Friday Fortnightly!

### **Cricket**

Congratulations to our cricket team who beat Kingsway last night in our penultimate league match. Many of our children have not played cricket this year and we are delighted with their effort and competitive spirit!

## Governors update

You'll never walk alone

Would you or someone you know benefit from the chance to..

- work as part of a leadership team and to learn from others with this experience
- learn new skills; demonstrate expertise; bolster a CV/work history/study application
- supplement trainee, management and education courses with practical experience
- enjoy a wide range of experiences and activities
- make friends; work as a team; share your knowledge and help us build an inclusive school
- interact, talk, laugh and learn with staff and of course, pupils who are always surprising with their insights...?

If any of these ring bells it could be that a governor role has something to offer you and if that sounds like a challenge too far don't let the 'words' put you off.

***Whilst you can be 'a' governor you can only operate as one as part of a body/board or, as we like to say, 'team'.***

Governors are a team of people working together to cover school leadership and support the whole school community in being the best it can be. The team work is important giving governors shared responsibility and shared accountability so that decisions are made as a group of school representatives and not by individual governors or teachers.

If you know someone who could be interested, we have identified some particular areas that it would be good for new governors to have enthusiasm about as an existing or, as a willing, 'new' expert. As well as governors linked to curriculum, we need coverage of the more 'business' side of school, our strategy, personnel, health and safety and premises management. Governors do not need to have a child at the school and can be anyone over the age of 18 so this really is an opportunity to share with everyone you know.

We will be soon be adding more detail to our website and making social media posts and we encourage you to spread the word to colleagues, friends and family to help us keep the governor resource strong at Meadowside.

In the meantime, if you have questions, you can contact [chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:chair@meadowsideprimary.co.uk) or, pick up an application form from the school office. We will be as helpful and supportive as we can to anyone exploring their options and understand that many will be uncertain and doubtful of their ability to operate as a governor as we once all were as well!

We would love to hear from you.

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

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

**Inset Days 22/23**  
**(School shut for pupils)**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### **Dates for your diary**

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July - Sponsored Walk sign in from 2pm**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Morning 9.10am**  
**doors open to start at 9.30am**  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – School Picnic. 4 – 5.30**  
**p.m.**  
**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July - FOM AGM**

**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> July 2022**



**Meadowside School**