

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 1st December 2023

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational **E**nvironmental **I**ndependent **O**ppportunistic **U**nderstanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
108	91	109	100

Message from Miss Thomas

You may have noticed recent activity and signs out during the school run, linked to our Road Safety and parking issues. The Year 5 Mini Police have worked alongside our PCSOs to reward positive parking, as well as reminding drivers that stopping or parking outside school puts the safety of Meadowside children and all pedestrians at risk. We have also purchased some new signs and cones as a visual reminder to drivers about our concerns. We are frequently contacted by residents and families about traffic and safety incidents near the school and I will always advise sharing these with the police, who have the authority to take direct action. Our school community also has a moral duty to do the best we can daily, for the Meadowside family.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

There Reception classroom continues to fill with monsters, and they have even started to spill out to forest school. It has been great fun using our imaginations to creating them with different features and thinking about where they live and what they eat. So far one of our favourites has been the love monster. We created our own love monsters and then we were inspired to create cards for people we love. As usual we have also been busy with our phonics, working on phase 3 and learning lots of new common exception words. They are doing a great job with their reading and writing. Well done all those who have been supporting this at home, make sure you record reading in the red book. Don't forget to look at the information in there about how to say all the phonemes etc.

Year 1

What a busy fortnight we have had in Year 1! In history, we have continued to look at toys from the past on some adventures with Magic Grandad and we were even treated to some real-life toys by a very kind

grandad that we loved playing with! We have been looking at nursery rhymes in English in preparation for creating our own pop-up pictures next week. These are great to look at or recite at home as they help with rhyming, rhythm and they are a fun way to connect across generations! See if your parents/grandparents know any they can teach you. In maths, we have been learning how to count in multiples (2, 5 and 10) and this is something easy to work on at home in fun ways. You can count stairs in multiples, or ball up socks and throw them into the laundry basket for points! We are also looking in more detail at numbers and trying to really understand them – what do they look like, how can we make them, what can we take away from them and more!

Next week, we will begin rehearsing with the rest of Key Stage 1 ready for our play “Snuggle Up Stable!”. If your child has brought home lines to say, please work on these at home to help children to learn them.

Year 2

This fortnight in Year 2, we have travelled through history to find out about our varied British history. We were horrified to discover which country it was that colonised all the countries we learnt about last week- many of us were embarrassed and cross to find out that it was Britain. We discussed how we can learn from the bad things that happen from history to ensure that it never happens again (much like the lessons we learnt from the Great Fire of London). This week, we found out about a local man that invented the cure for small pox and so helped us to develop a wide range of vaccines and medications that help us fight diseases all over the world. Edward Jenner lived in Berkeley and had a huge impact on the medical world. We were proud to live in the same location as such an influential man! In maths, we have started to look at position and direction and have been learning our left from our right- try practising this at home. We have also been looking at moving in clockwise and anticlockwise directions. Start looking at analogue clocks at home!

Year 3

In Year 2 we have continued to be ‘History Hunters’, focusing on natural history, thinking about Plate tectonics and how it has shaped the world. We have learnt about the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes and Earthquakes are formed and how they can change the landscape. In English we have been busy writing a biography of Mary Anning, one of the greatest ever fossil hunters, I’m sure your children could tell you lots of interesting facts they have learnt about her! In maths we have been very busy trying to ‘build’ our x3, x4 and x8 tables, why not ask your children to tell you some of the rhymes they have learnt to help them remember the facts! We have now moved onto mental addition and subtraction.

Our class book is ‘The Wild Way Home’ by Sophie Kirtley. I know several of the children have their own copies of the text and are enjoying reading along with me. If you need an idea for a stocking filler, we will be continuing with this book after Christmas.

Year 4

It’s beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. Thank you so much with your support helping children prepare lines, recorders and sourcing clothing etc; it’s all blended seamlessly with our Ancient Greek topic! We have been learning about the Olympics and how it has evolved, the influence of Greek architecture on construction today and what an aqueduct is. We’ve been impressed by how the children have responded to the myth about Theseus and the Minotaur. Children have been writing extracts that relate to the original story and alternative endings and also, a plan of how to trap a minotaur. Our work in mathematics has focused on 6, 7 and 9 times tables and of our class have struggled to recall multiplication and division facts fluently. It has highlighted that broadly speaking, the TTR platform is not being used consistently or for long enough by many in Year Four. We work hard to develop a range of strategies to help children embed these facts and would ask that you ensure that your child is using the

platform frequently throughout the week for 15 to 20 minutes, it would make an amazing difference to their fluency.

Year 5

Life in Year 5 has been brilliant! We've learnt a lot in Watch this SPACE, such as how day and night occurs, why we have time zones and the movement of the Earth, Sun and Moon. We also completed some scientific research to compare the different planets in our Solar System. In English, we began writing our 'Star Logs' – these are like diaries, and we are recounting an adventure on the Moon! Ours are in the style of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' which make them fun and interesting to read. In maths, we have been continuing our work on addition and subtraction. The decimals made it tricky but we nailed our methods. In computing, we have been working hard on creating our own databases whilst in PE, we have been learning new skills in basketball. The children (and staff!) are REALLY excited about our trip on Monday. Please remember, the children need to be in at 7.45 a.m. and we plan to return around 5 p.m.

Year 6

Things are getting spooky in Year 6 with the launch of our new English text- Thornhill. We have been busy crafting sentences to create suspense for our readers and have been using the book to inspire us. Relative clauses, expanded noun phrases, similes, alliterative adjectives and lots of different punctuation types have been used for effect. In maths we have begun our work on fractions. It has been tricky but we have persevered and are now feeling confident comparing and ordering fractions with different numerators and denominators. In our topic sessions we have continued to learn about the Murderous Maya- looking in depth at their number and calendar system, and climate zones and biomes in Geography. The sound of Christmas carols has begun to drift down the corridor as we begin preparations for our KS2 Christmas production and next week's car park carols. Year 6's contribution will be a singing, dancing, acting and drumming extravaganza- we can't wait!

Sporting News

Football

Last week, the boys' A team played brilliantly to beat a spirited Highnam side 2 – 0 and followed that up with another convincing win against a strong Hempsted side 2 – 0. Well done, boys!

Football leadership and Refereeing

A group of year 5 girls took part in a refereeing course with the Gloucester Schools Sports Network this week. They learnt about the laws of the game before putting them into practise with year 3! The girls were magnificent but let's hope giving them a whistle hasn't sent the power to their heads!

Gymnastics

Year 3 and 4 gymnasts have one final week of club left (last training session is Wednesday 6th December) We would like to say a huge thank you to our Year 6 gymnasts who have been helping at training! Next week a team of 6 children will be representing Meadowside at the Year 3 / 4 gymnastics competition – watch this space to find out how they get on.

Friends of Meadowside

Thankyou to the school community for the very kind donations last week. We hope the children enjoyed their non-uniform day to celebrate Meadowside's birthday. The FOM Elves have been very busy putting together the donations into a selection of raffle hampers, tombola and prizes to be won at our Christmas Market.

The Christmas Market is planned for next **Weds 6th Dec 3:30 – 6:30**. We have a number of local market stalls coming so that you can purchase Christmas gifts, as well as raffle, crafts and games (priced at 50p - £1). Please bring cash if you can; we do have a small number of card machines. Refreshments include Hot dogs, Toasted Marshmallows and S'mores plus a variety of warm drinks.

Car-park Carols will start at **4.30pm** and this year we are very pleased to be joined by Mrs Rowntree and the Frampton Silver Band. Please bring your torches!

There are still a few slots available for Stories with Santa – please see a FOM representative in the Car-park for a ticket, £2 each to include a gift from Santa.

Finally – these events don't run without the incredible parents and staff who volunteer to put them together. **We are in desperate need of any additional helpers**, particularly in the time-slots 4:45 – 5:30, and 5:30 – 6:30, as we will unfortunately have to close games if we don't have anyone to run them. Please email friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk if you can spare the time to help out.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2023/24	
Friday 22 nd December Monday 3 rd June Monday 22 nd July	Term 2 finishes at 2 pm on Thursday 21st December Term 3 begins at 8 35 am on Monday 8th January

Date	Event
Monday 4 th December	Year 5 trip
Wednesday 6 th December	Christmas Market and Car Park Carols
Monday 18 th December	Key stage 1 and 2 Christmas performance
Tuesday 19 th December	Key stage 1 and 2 Christmas performance
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas lunch
Thursday 21 st December	Last day, 2pm finish CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY at MEADOWSIDE!
Friday 22 nd December	Inset day
Monday 8 th January	First day of Term 3
Tuesday 23 rd January	Young Voices Concert

Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
18 th and 20 th March	Parents' Evenings
Monday May 13 th - Thursday 16 th	Year 6 SAT tests Please do not book holidays during this week if your child is in Year 6.
Wednesday June 5 th – Friday June 7 th	Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 12 th June	Class photos (and year 6 individual leavers photo)
Wednesday June 19 th - Friday June 21 st	Year 4 Residential

Next edition due: Friday 15th December 2023

**For all key dates, remember to visit the school website at
www.meadowsideschool.co.uk**

