

Spring Term Edition

Friday 9th February 2024

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
104	124	137	128

Message from Miss Thomas

Class teachers have reviewed your child's achievement this week and are preparing a **Mid-Year Report** which will be sent home on **Friday 23rd February**. We carefully track each child's steps of progress and effort, as well as measuring their skills against the **Expected Standard** for each year group. Knowing more and remembering more requires regular practice, so attendance between **95-100%** will really help your child secure the curriculum. It also helps build learning attitudes across the curriculum.

In addition, weekly practice of the basics at home (through phonics, reading, number bonds, times tables and Learning With Parents online tasks) really does help children consolidate the key skills they need. We certainly notice a big improvement in standards when all of these things are in place for your child.

We all hope you enjoy the half-term week and that the break is a refreshing and happy one.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

There have been wolves spotted in our classroom this week as we have been learning the story of Little Red Riding Hood. This wolf is lean and mean and comes to a rather unfortunate end once he meets the wood cutter. The class have continued to use their imaginations to act the story and retell it using puppets. After practising rolling and cutting with the playdough we made jam tarts for Granny. Unfortunately for Granny none of the tarts made it as far as her, they were too delicious! In a writer's cafe this week we used all our writing skills to write independent lists, descriptions and labels. It is amazing how much they have all learnt. I think you all deserve a half term break. Don't forget to read your reading books a couple of times and catch up on any learning with parents you have not done, there are lots of fun activities to try.

Year 1

What an exciting end to A Toys' Story we have had! Yesterday the children celebrated with a teddy bear's picnic where we were able to entertain the bears with a dance, a song and some games! We played "Guess the Teddy" to see which Meadowside staff teddy bears had come along for the celebration – it turns out some staff have a lot of teddy bears! In English, we have been writing re-tells of "Little Bear's Trousers" for our special writing portfolios and we have been learning all about proper nouns. In maths, we have been working really hard on our knowledge of number bonds (please don't forget, NumBots is great for this so please log on and have a go at home.). We have also been learning all about how to accurately measure length and height! Enjoy your half term, we cannot wait to launch a new topic soon!

Year 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed our **Step Back in Time** over the past two terms and were very excited to travel back to the Victorian times on our trip to the Dean Heritage Centre this week. We visited a Victorian school room and met Alex who told us all about the free mines that children would have worked in all across the Forest of Dean. The children were a credit to us and asked some very interesting questions. Ask them what their favourite fact was that we learnt... I wonder if it was the disgusting new fact that I learnt whilst there on Wednesday about how miners used to toughen their skin!! We reviewed our whole topic today to see how many facts we could remember about the Great Fire of London, the Great Plague, Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole, and the changes in women's and children's lives. What a lot of facts we have learnt!

We also this week introduced the children to TTRockstars so that they can now begin practising their times tables. The children were very excited to get this information and you should have received a letter to your ParentPay account giving you more information about what this is and how to help your child learn their times tables. I have already received some challenges via the Multiplayer option, so thank you for being so keen!!

Year 3

Wow! What a fantastic end to the term we have had. We have concluded our topic by looking back at some of our learning, we painted our Beaker People pots (Bronze age), we 'found' our fossils that we made at the start of the History Hunters topic, and we had a great time in forest school trying to create our own versions of wattle and daub walls. We also tried to decide what this era might be known as by future historians –why not ask your child what they decided and why!

We look forward to launching our new topic after half term and are excited about our visit to the SS Great Britain. If you have not yet paid, or made an instalment for our school trip on 28th February, please see your ParentPay account to do so as soon as possible- **we have currently (as of Friday 9th February) only had 73% of people make an initial payment, which is not sufficient numbers to allow the trip to go ahead.**

Year 4

We have enjoyed finding out about circus skills and we have completed our written work inspired by 'Leon and the Place Between.' In our topic sessions, we have been exploring the properties of different states of matter; solids, liquids and gases. In our maths sessions, having completed work on multiplication and division facts relating to x 11 and x 12 tables, we have moved on to written methods of calculation.

We are becoming more skilled at using tools like the heat map to help us target multiplication facts that we need to develop; please keep practising those facts to prepare us for the national Multiplication Times table Test after Easter. We will continue with our current topic, 'Ringmaster' after half term and there will be an opportunity for Maple class to showcase their diablo/ magician tricks or jokes or other circus skills in our topic shine in March, with another group of children as an audience.

Year 5

It has been an awesome end of term for year 5! The highlight has to be completing our instructions on how to defeat Grendel. Both gruesome and incredibly well written. We shared them with year 6 today, who really enjoyed them. In maths, we've been fighting hard to perfect our long multiplication. Times tables are the biggest barriers so any practice on TTR over the holidays will be really valued. In history, we have completed our Anglo-Saxon topic by showing our understanding of life in these times through our model houses. The children have also designed and made Saxon brooches. In P.E, we have created routines using apparatus and year 5 have excelled. We've even had a competition, which has pushed the children to perform to their best. Remember, the first week back is Bikeability, so bikes and helmets on the first day back if your child is involved.

Year 6

I think Year 6 know Charles Darwin very well now; almost like a long lost relative! We have begun to build on the learning we did in Year 5 (writing biographies of David Attenborough) and have written some impressive Charles Darwin biographies. The Origin of Species has been a great topic to dive into and we have enjoyed all things 'evolution and adaptation'. We have also looked at the period of time Darwin lived in and made references to the Victorian Era... 'no I was not alive then' was a frequent answer from the teachers! William Morris has featured as another famous person, so we are currently investigating printmaking and designs within Art and Design.

In Maths we are securing 'order of operations' and are feeling confident with these calculations. We have been spending time practising arithmetic SATS style questions and moving onto the more deeper reasoning questions by unpicking them and making them accessible for all. In PE we continue with OAA and Dance: Watch this space for a separate letter regarding a dance festival we hope to attend soon too! Have a lovely half term.

Sporting News

Cricket

Every class had the opportunity to practice their cricket skills when we had a coach from GCC come in to work with the children. It was great to see everyone practising their batting and bowling. We look forward to more cricketing opportunities in the summer term. If you are interested in your child joining some sessions, Dynamo sessions run locally. [England and Wales Cricket Board \(ECB\) - The Official Website of the ECB](#)

Gymnastics

On Wednesday a team of Year 5 gymnasts went to St Peter's to compete in a Gloucester Schools Year 5 + 6 competition. The team performed brilliantly and produced some great vaults and very controlled floor routines. It was an exceptional event, and there were some truly outstanding performances. We have some incredibly talented gymnasts in our school!

Football

The A team finished their league campaign with a competitive 1-1 draw with Shurdington. This result means that the boys finished 2nd in the league, just missing out on beating Hempsted to the title by 2 points! The boys also played the first round of their cup match last week and ran out 3-1 winners over Barnwood. The semi-final will take place after half term.

The B team put in an energetic and determined performance against Kingsway. They eventually lost the game 5-1 but were unlucky not to score a couple more goals, which their performance was worthy of. Well done boys, we are very proud of you.

Diversity Team

During assembly this week, Mr Port introduced Chinese New Year to the school which starts on Saturday 10th February. The children learnt about China and Chinese traditions such as, where in the world China is located, how far away it is from the UK and that the population of China is 1.3 billion! The children listened excitedly as they heard that Chinese New Year is celebrated for 15 days and learnt some of the Chinese traditions surrounding this event. The children learnt that the Chinese year is represented by one of twelve Chinese animals and were excited to learn about their own birth year Chinese animal! The Chinese animals representing the teachers' birth year were also revealed! This year is the year of the Dragon. Ask your child if they can remember their animal.

Friends of Meadowside

We hope everyone enjoyed 'Break the Rules' day we are sure everyone was very creative and helped to break many rules and raise lots of money for our next projects! Thank you for your support.

We have been selling tickets for the adult quiz night held at school on Friday 23rd February if you wish to buy a ticket please come and see us or Mrs Noble to purchase. The deadline for this is Thursday 22nd or before if we sell out by then. Remember it is bring your own drinks and snacks and some cash to take part in a few games! We are also selling tickets for our amazing prize of a golf game for 4 people! All details are in reception if you'd like to play for a chance to win, we will draw a winner on the 23rd February.

A reminder that we are still looking for volunteers to support our school colour run. At the moment we have had very little volunteers or feedback for this event (thank you to those who have already). Could you complete this form to tell us your opinions, if you would like to attend the event, even if you can't volunteer to support as we need to know how many people are interested at all before we commit to our plans. If as many of you could click on the link and respond we would appreciate it. Deadline is 22nd February.

<https://forms.office.com/e/244bzMwTYv>

Thank you all for your support our next meeting is on Thursday 22nd February, all are welcome.

Governor Update

At Meadowside we are fortunate to have a mix of experienced and new faces on our governor team. We will soon be launching a recruitment round for both community and parent governor roles and we don't want you to count yourself out too soon:

10 REASONS, FROM 'ACTUAL' GOVERNORS THAT YOU COULD BE A MEADOWSIDE GOVERNOR...

1) Increase the value of your own relationship with the school:

"...I have learnt loads about my children's school, staff, education, how children are assessed, what they are learning, how I can help them at home. It's been a valuable experience..."

2) You can make it work for your own circumstance:

"Other parent governors ... didn't have as much time to commit, but brought invaluable skills, such as finance, or in our case an architect and surveyor when the school was being re-built. I think you can put in pretty much as many hours as you have, but meetings would be a minimum."

3) It's low risk:

"If you try it and hate it you can stop"

4) It can add value to you:

"I enjoy it and I've learnt a lot. I like being involved with the school and making a contribution - watching and learning how others deal with and solve problems. I have gained in self-confidence and speaking up in meetings."

5) You would be part of a much bigger movement:

School governors are the largest volunteer group in the UK. More than 300,000 people support schools in this way across the country. They come from all kinds of backgrounds, bringing a range of skills and perspectives.

6) You will be respected, wanted and needed:

"I was surprised the head and chair wanted me to come back as much as they did, but it turned out to be mostly down to how reliable I am - looking back I did realise that while some people may have said more in meetings, if they only turned up to half the meetings, it wasn't so great"

7) It can be a route to that 'experience' future employers need:

Those aged under 25 are very valuable as governors with a much closer empathy to the pupil experience than more experienced counterparts. You can be a governor if you are over 18.

"People often think I'm too young to be a governor... as a governor I've had the opportunity to develop personally and professionally. I've been involved with so much in the school that my day-to-day role doesn't entail, such as working with leadership on strategy and sitting on interview panels. It's rewarding - I'm helping make sure children achieve their full potential, but it's good for me too."

8) It really does 'give something back'

"I remember going to a governor meeting... I was thinking, you know what, I could really, really do without this. I could do with being at home. But then you think about the bigger picture... young children that I could make a difference to. And then you remember why you got involved to

begin with. Become a governor because you fundamentally care about the community and the children that are coming up into our future. Solutions can't happen in isolation...Being a governor is good for your resilience. It's good for your wellbeing, it's good for your existence."

9) Your uniqueness counts:

"I was the first in my family to get a good education – when my parents came to this country they barely had any education at all. Now that my own children are in school, I want to make a positive difference to not just their futures, but to other children's too. I think I bring diversity to the governing board, which is important because the school is very diverse and encourages inclusion. That's a big strength, and it's one I want to see grow."

10) You will make a difference:

In recent times Meadowside governors have been instrumental in:

- Modernising teaching and learning with new whiteboards
- Influencing spend of PE budget and encouraging and supporting teachers to deliver broad, inclusive activity
- Monitoring pupil progress and staff professional objectives
- Ensuring vital repairs to our building fabric
- Improving classroom comfort by investigating and solving heating problems and enabling the repainting our classrooms
- Developing a positive school community in advisory capacity on issues such as home school agreements
- Reviewed with teachers the whole school curriculum to understand the development plans for all children.
- Visiting school and spending time with teachers and pupils and participating in school events.
- Ensuring fair treatment and well being support to staff and pupils

If you want to know more please get in touch with Meadowside governors via the school office or look at more info from the sources of these quotes which include, voices from, mumsnet, governors for schools.org and national governance association.

INSET Days 2024	Term Dates
Monday 3 rd June Monday 22 nd July	Term 3 finishes on Friday 9 th February at 3 15pm. Term 4 starts at 8 45 am on Monday 19 th February and finishes at 2 00pm on Friday 22 nd March 2024

Date	Event
Monday 19 th February	Bikeability week for Y5
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th March	Really Wild reading week
18 th and 20 th March	Parents' Evenings (online)
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 1st March 2024

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



