

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 13th September 2024

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
56	58	77	73

Message from Miss Thomas

Happy New School Year everyone! The children have returned enthusiastically and classrooms have come alive with exciting learning experiences. We hope to see you on Monday after school for an informal Meet the Teacher and classroom visit. Hopefully the children can tell you more about their new routines and expectations. You are also welcome to have a wander within school. We want families to feel welcome and connected to the school community, so this is a good opportunity to find out more. Parents evenings are scheduled for a few weeks later in the term and they will provide a more focused conversation between you and your child's teacher.

Please bear with us on Monday – we will let you in through the Hall doors once teachers are off the playground and ready to welcome you in classrooms.

Meadowside Class News

Reception

It was lovely to welcome the new Reception class (Cherry) and their parents and carers last week for stay and play sessions. The children have made a fantastic start to school, coming in confidently and already independently putting their water bottles away and getting busy with things in the classroom. We have enjoyed getting to know each other, playing games, sharing stories and generally having fun. There is still lots to explore and learn about.

Year 1

Oak Class have made a brilliant start to life in Year 1! It is lovely to see happy and smiling faces each morning! They are already experts in our Year 1 morning routine and are learning the routines of the rest of the day speedily too! On Monday, we were very excited to launch our whole school Meadowside Explorers topic! The children buddied up with older children in their house groups to explore the school and learn facts about the 4 aeroplanes that our houses are named after. We had a great time finding the facts and building a puzzle of our house planes.

Maths and English this fortnight have largely focused on practical or game-based activities to help us remember what we learned in Reception. We are building our gross and fine motor skills to help us with our neat Year 1 writing and consolidating counting to 20 and counting out up to 20 objects.

Learning with Parents homework will begin to come out again from this week. Just like in Reception, these will link to what we have been doing in school. All children should now have their new reading books too. Thank you for helping to support your child's learning at home!

Year 2

What a great start to Year 2 we have had! We have all been getting to know each other and the rules and routines of life in Year 2. We have learnt some new words that will be key to having a successful Year 2, like cooperation, responsibility, honesty and perseverance. The children have been working hard to demonstrate these already! In maths this week, we have been finding out that there is mathematics all around us and in every subject we learn at school! We have found maths in nature, maths in art and even maths in stories! What a fascinating subject maths is! Our English work has linked to our work on our 5 values and we have been showing off just how good our writing skills are already!

Our first topic, as always, is Meadowside Explorers and we have reminded ourselves of the 5 values we have at Meadowside- Being Aspirational, Environmental, Independent, Opportunistic and Understanding. We launched our topic this week with a scavenger hunt to find facts linked to our 4 school houses- Comets, Hurricanes, Meteors and Spitfires. We learnt a little about why those houses were chosen and the links to the RAF fields that were in Quedgeley years ago. See if your child can remember any of the facts they learnt about their house's logo!

Year 3

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to their time in KS2! They have settled quickly and are getting used to some of the changes in timetable and routine. They have been particularly enthusiastic in their French sessions and have learnt to say 'bonjour!' or 'salut!' and how to introduce themselves!

In English this term, we are going to become authors. We have started to read 'The Green Ship' and we will be using this as the basis for our writing over the next few weeks. We have also enjoyed listening to the start of our class novel, we are reading the classic novel 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett. In maths we have started with Place value and have been investigating numbers to 1,000. This week's homework on Learning with parents is linked to this, please support your child's learning by sharing this with them.

We have also started our topic of Meadowside Explorers, thinking about what a plant needs to grow healthily, and we have set up an experiment to see if our predictions are correct. Watch this space to see what we learn!

Year 4

It's been a great start to life in year 4! We've really enjoyed getting to know the children and celebrating their successes (and failures!) in the first fortnight. In the first few days, we shared our favourite holiday moments as well as powerful memories from our childhoods. In maths, there has been a focus on 'Week of Inspirational Maths', which teaches us about the power of maths and the importance of a growth mindset. Following this, we have begun our work on place value. **We are also aiming to learn our 6 times table over the next few weeks so lots of practice at home will help with this!** In English, 'One Plastic Bag' is the story that we are using to ignite our eco-friendly minds and think about how we can use plastic in different ways.

Meadowside Explorers is our first topic and we've already learnt more about our local area and how important canals are to Gloucester. P.E has included dance and teamwork whilst computing has involved us learning more about coding. Please remember to hear your child read at least 4 times a week. This has been proven to make a huge difference to primary aged children's progress and

enjoyment in reading. We are really excited about the next fortnight and getting to know the children even more.

Year 5

It's been a fantastic fortnight, with the children having made a positive start to this new academic year. We began with our topic launch of Meadowside Explorers this week and the children enjoyed the interactive scavenger hunt, during which they were able to learn more about the aircraft that our Meadowside houses are named after. Continuing with this topic through Geography we have been exploring our local area using maps, identifying familiar features and learning how to use a compass.

In Maths, we enjoyed our week of inspirational maths and are working on place value in 5-digit numbers. During English, we explored the features of a biography report and gathered information about Jane Goodhall, a famous scientist and naturalist. We are now working on sentence types and structures to put into practise when we write our own biographies about the legendary Sir David Attenborough. In computing we discussed elements of good online practise when accessing websites or apps on various devices used both at home and in school. We are in the process of selecting pupils that expressed an interest in becoming a Mini Police Officer this year. This is an excellent and exciting opportunity for the children to work in collaboration with our local police force to make a positive impact on our school and local community. I look forward to updating you on their progress and experiences as the weeks go by.

Year 6

What a wonderful start to Year 6, Yew Class. It has been a delight getting to know you all as individuals these past two weeks and seeing how much you have matured over the summer. This is to be harnessed as you now are ready to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. These have all now been applied for and shortlisted and some of the children already know their new job title. The rest are to be confirmed so watch this space.

We have enjoyed the launch to our Meadowside Explorers topic and collaborating with the younger children in our House task. It was so fun and informative helping everyone truly understand further the reason our houses are: Meteors, Spitfires, Comets and Hurricanes. As part of our first topic lesson we learnt about the artist Frieda Kahlo and began our own self-portraits in the style of her work.

In Maths we have enjoyed our Week of Inspirational maths tasks and then consolidating our place value skills in 7 digit numbers. In English we have been writing poems, recording our aspirations and reading a book called The Viewer and a classic namely, Watership Down.

We hope you are hearing this information from your Year 6 child also!

Sporting News

Year 5 and 6 boys are invited to trials on Friday 20th September after school. Mr Port will use this session to select players for a number of A and B team opportunities coming up this year.

We have selected a Girls Football team to play against Kingsway next Friday. Details about Y5 and 6 girls football training will follow soon.

Friends of Meadowside

Welcome back, the Friends of Meadowside team hope you've had a wonderful summer break. Over the summer we have continued to work on the Meadow area for our students and this is now almost fully functional, there are a few tweaks we are completing but school are now using this area for their learning and enjoyment. When you are invited into school on Monday 16th after school to visit classrooms we also encourage you to have a walk around the area to see what has been achieved.

This academic year we are hoping to continue to have a jam-packed calendar of events and activities. However, for us to be able to facilitate this we need your help and some new volunteers to join us. The start of the year is a great time to get involved with our charity. We discuss our events calendar, new ideas and work with the school to find out how we can support them this year. We really need some more people to join us to help make this all a reality. If you are interested please come to our **first meeting on Thursday 26th September in the school hall at 7.30pm for a drink, refreshments and plenty of welcoming faces.**

If you have any questions please ask at school or find one of us who can share their experiences with you.

Thank you for your time and we are excited to start the new year with you all.

Governor Corner

It is always good to see the school alive again as the community returns to the playground and corridors. An exciting time of returning to and creating new routines, relationships and experiences. A great opportunity for the experienced to shine as caring and helpful and for the inexperienced to find courage, independence and fun.

We hope all is going well and if you do have any uncertainties speak to staff who will be happy to help.

Governors will be meeting for the first time this school year in a few weeks and will be considering our own routines and experiences. We will be making decisions about whether we should change our approach to governance and voting in those who will take our agreed roles forward.

It has been great to see interest from parents and the wider school community for participating on the governing board. We look forward to introducing you to the new board and working with you all over the course of the year.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025

Monday 27th January 2025
Monday 24th February 2025
Monday 21st July 2025

Date	Event
Monday 16 th September	Nasal Flu Immunisations
Monday 16 th September	Meet the teachers and see your child's classroom. 3.30 – 4 p.m.

Wednesday 18 th September	Year 5 Trip
Tuesday 1 st October	Black History Month begins
Monday 14 th October	Year 1 Special Visitor
Thursday 17 th October	Year 2 Trip
Tuesday 22 nd and Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening (online) 3.30 – 6 p.m.
Thursday 24 th October	Individual and sibling photographs
Friday 25 th October	Meadowside Explorers Shine! Whole School.
Friday 8 th November	Year 1 Trip
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th November	Anti-bullying week. Wear odd socks on Monday 11 th !
Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd November	Road Safety Week
Monday 25 th November	Year 5 trip
Wednesday 27 th November	Happy Birthday Meadowside!
Wednesday 11 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. KS2 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m.
Thursday 12 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. KS1 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m.
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform) Finish at 2 p.m.

Next edition due: Friday 20th September 2024

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

