

**Autumn Term Edition**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

At Meadowside, we are:

**A**spirational **E**nvironmental **I**ndependent **O**ppportunistic **U**nderstanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
107	123	131	109

### Message from Miss Thomas

This term we have been trialling a 'radical' new approach, where each class in KS2 only has 1 day a week to play football!! Although the children didn't rejoice at the idea, it has actually resulted in a wider range of games, more conversations and much healthier relationships (which the adults knew would be the case!) Our playmakers and midday team received some training this week to develop active breaks and lunch times further and the school is preparing to submit a new application for its Healthy Schools Award status. It seems there really is a life beyond football!

### Attendance

We're approaching the time of year when coughs, colds and other viruses begin to spread quickly around schools. The NHS has developed a useful guide to help you at home: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-topics/illnesses-and-conditions/child-illness/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

### Attendance headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: 95.6%.
- Unauthorised absences: 0.3%.
- Well done to **Year 5** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an amazing 98.7%!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: 96.3%

If you haven't taken the time to read the attendance letter from the County Council via Parent Mail, please find it here:

<https://meadowsideschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Meadowside-Attendance-Letter.pdf>

Mr Port – Attendance Champion

**Meadowside Class News**

## Reception – Cherry class

Over the last 2 weeks we have started our phase 2 phonics, learning all the sounds we will need for reading and writing. The children have been trying hard to remember each one and are now starting to build words with them. I have given out lots of house points to those who have practised at home, well done. We also started Learning with Parents homework last week with a fun activity asking why? (let me know if you are not receiving the e mails) To help with our writing we have also been doing lots of big movements with hoops, ribbons, big painting, dough discos and using the climbing frame.

In maths we have been looking at sorting, making up our own sorting rules. We have also been practising our subitizing and started looking at size.

Unfortunately, we have several jumpers and cardigans in our box, they are unnamed. If you are missing one please come and have a look. Also check labels are not washing off clothes. Thanks

## Year 1 – Oak Class

Year 1 have been very busy this past fortnight trying to answer our Key Question – What do we know about animals? We have been naming a range of animals, sorting animals by what they eat, labelling animal body parts and finding out all about humans! We have been looking at our senses and look forward to exploring these a little more next week too.

In English, we have been re-telling the story of The Journey Home and finding out all about endangered animals and small things we can do to help look after their habitats and environments. We were very sad to find out that the dodo in our book is an animal that is now extinct and want to help stop other animals meeting a similar fate. We have also been writing some questions to ask our special visitor on Monday when she brings in her guide dog for us to meet ahead of our fundraiser next week! We really hope you'll be able to support us in raising money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. (see our whole school e-mail that went out earlier in the week.)

In maths, we have been focusing on understanding how to write addition and subtraction number sentences by working with simple numbers and adding/subtracting 1. We have also had lots of fun using rekenreks for our number project! Number formation has also been a big focus for us too so we can be accurate when we are recording numbers.

## Year 2 – Beech Class

This fortnight Year 2 have been thinking carefully about the needs of different animals. We have discussed some of the different types of habitat- specifically pond, woodland and under logs! We have discussed the fact that animals and plants live in habitats that meet their specific needs, and that plants and animals need the right shelter and food for them (and that this might be different to other animals!) We have also begun to learn about the different life cycles of a range of animals, again, learning that these are different depending on what sort of animal it is. Ask your children whose cat we saw grow from baby to adult in a photo montage this week!

We are eagerly anticipating our trip to the local nature reserve next week. If you have not yet paid your contribution to the sandwich ingredients, please send this in as soon as possible so that we can buy the sandwich fillings requested by the children. If you offered to help on this trip, thank you! You should have already received a slip stating whether we need you to come in and help.

Finally, well done to all those of you completing your Learning With Parents tasks. (We are regularly having more than half the class complete at least one of the games, which is amazing!) The class is very keen to have a week where every child does their homework, so if you are not receiving these, please let me know so we can try and fix the problem!

## Year 3 – Elm Class

Last Friday the weather was finally kind enough to allow us to go out and explore the local area. We had a delightful walk along the canal and river. We were on the lookout for methods of seed dispersal and were quite shocked by the huge variety that we found. We also stopped and did several sketches along the way. We also followed our route on a map and were able to identify some of the features of a river.

Back in school, we used our sketches to help us create some paintings in the style of Seurat (Pointilism). The class were extremely focused and really enjoyed this work. Meanwhile in music, we have been busy singing in rounds and have written our own version of 'Row, row, row' to help us remember some of the features of the River Severn.

In Geography, we have used an atlas to help us locate the major rivers of the world! We decided that we all found it quite tricky, but we also loved learning new skills!

Well done Year 3 on a very busy and successful few weeks!

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

In English, we have started looking at a classic piece of literature – The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame. We have used picture stimulus to write a setting description, focussing on expanded noun phrases and adverbial clauses. In maths, we have been working on ordering and rounding numbers and looking at the rules for doubling in our mastering number sessions. We feel we have secured our 6 times tables and have moved on to practising our 7s! Our French is ever-expanding now that we can count past 20 and talk about places around town. The children have had a lot of fun working in groups to execute group dances and have really impressed all the adults with their commitment and smooth moves! In topic, we have been discussing changes within our local environment and thinking about possible future changes and if we would want them to happen or not. Another fantastic, hard-working fortnight in Willow Class!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

We have completed our biography writing about Sir David Attenborough this week and have done a great job in utilising all of the writing techniques we have learned over the past few weeks to create a successful one. We now look forward to sharing them with the Year 2 children – our reading audience.

Maths, this week has seen us explore reading, writing and representing decimals up to three decimal places and we will continue to learn about tenths, hundredths and thousandths next week.

We have enjoyed learning about the work of local artist Sir Peter Scott in exploring the key question: How do animals (birds particularly) change over time? As an integral part of our Meadowside Explorers Topic we visited Gloucester Docks with Mr Port and Mr Jones. The focus of this trip was looking at geographical and historical features of our locality. Using maps showing the original buildings from well over 100 years ago we were able to locate where they were in front of us and identify what they were being used for now. We were really interested to see how the Docks was a busy, bustling working hub for the transportation (via canal) and storage of wheat, corn, malt and other grains along with timber used for buildings and boats. We observed that now the land use is very different, with these buildings now being used for apartments, bars, shops and restaurants mainly. The children were all brilliantly behaved and were a credit to Meadowside. If you get the chance to visit the Docks in future, I'm sure you will enjoy a guided tour from our Year 5 experts!

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

In English we have moved away from any links with our local area and moved further afield to align with our Topic focus in Science and Geography. We are studying the magnificent Rainforests-The Amazon in particular. We have been researching, writing notes and analysing what a leaflet does. We will be replicating this genre in our non-fiction writing and changing techniques when considering our reader. In Maths we have been multiplying decimals and understanding what is happening with our place value

when this happens. We also are enjoying CSI on Fridays where our Maths is all about Challenge, Solve and Investigate. We have lots of great Maths Detectives showcasing some fabulous skills at the moment. Our Geography skills have seen us use 6-digit grid references from Ordnance Survey maps and locating a specific point on a map and then in Science we have been understanding Classification Keys and why we need them in Biology. Our orienteering is continuing in PE and we will be putting it to the test at the end of term. Watch this space!

### **Sporting News**

It has been fantastic to see approximately 50 children arriving at school early to take part in cross country club. We have talked about the importance of grit and perseverance. We have also been looking at the running style of some international marathon runners and tried to think about how the position of our arms can have a real impact on our running! Keep up the hard training!

### **Friends of Meadowside**

Our first event is starting next week, Meadowside Bake Off!! We will be selling plates next week in the car parks for you to create your amazing bakes over the weekend and bring to school on Tuesday 22nd. We will then sell all your delicious treats after school on that day.

The theme is local history of Gloucester. This ties in with the topic all the children are studying at the moment - Meadowside Explorers. You have been sent an email with loads of ideas on please have a look. You can be as creative or simple as you'd like the main goal is to have fun baking at home and being creative. Thank you for your support as all funds go towards helping make Meadowside an even better place for learning and fun.

One of our first fund raising goals for this year is to improve, replace and expand the playground equipment the children use from the shed at break times. There are lots of suggestions from staff and students and we would welcome the children's input too. We are going to put a suggestion box in reception, and we would welcome any ideas that your children have as it's their playtime. We will keep it there until the end of term.

Upcoming dates:

Next committee meeting (anyone is welcome) - 24th October

School disco - 21st November

Christmas Fayre - 4th December

Thank you all for your support without it we cannot support the amazing work Meadowside do for our children.

### **Governor Corner**

*Who said, 'To improve is to change; to perfect is to change often'?*

There have certainly been changes in the governor team...

Congratulations to Anamika Dan; Tim Leeshue and Phillip Barnes, who were officially approved to the board at our first meeting – welcome to the board!

I will be inviting them and the other governors introduce themselves and their roles to you in this section soon.

Governors were also asked to vote on whether we would change to a newer model of governance. We have been operating a traditional committee model for as long as anyone can remember so a bit behind the curve on changing to improve!

We want to work more effectively together and bring into focus some of the issues that have been raised most frequently in recent years but were not in specific governor remits under the committee system. The board was presented with findings and best practice from other primary schools and unanimously agreed to put in practice a model without committees so that:

- Decisions can be made quicker
- All governors have sight of all school business
- Items that cut across the traditional, 'Teaching and Learning' and 'Resources Committee' can be dealt with in the round.

We expect this change to take time and are implementing a phased approach that will include consultation with identified teaching leads but are hopeful that this will encourage fresh thinking and a stronger relationship between governors and the whole school.

I was also asked to observe, as a critical friend, changes in the end of day approach.

I was pleased to see a good system of secure pupil departure and a check on readiness before the flow of parents into the school grounds to collect children. At school start and day end we prioritise child safety. We thank you for your cooperation in this by using the school office staff, email or telephone to raise any questions or provide feedback so that those supervising this complicated flow of people and ensuring any non-routine pick-ups go to plan do not become distracted by conversations.

*'To improve is to change; to perfect is to change often' was Winston Churchill's response to criticisms he changed political parties.*

□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□ □

All county libraries are running Halloween costume swaps this Autumn. □□♂

The scary truth is an estimated 7 million Halloween costumes are thrown away every year, adding to 2,000 tonnes of plastic waste. That's the same as 83 million plastic bottles.

□ SWAP an old costume for a new one between 7 October and 1 November.

✓ YOU CAN STILL TAKE A COSTUME HOME IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE TO SWAP.

✓ Accessories, whole and part costumes accepted

✓ Donations will be accepted throughout the swap

✓ Both adult and child costumes welcome

□ Find out more: <https://gloslibraries.uk/greener-together>

## Key Dates for your diary

### INSET Days 2024/2025

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Date	Event
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 walk to The Orchard Nature Reserve
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>  October	Online Parents' Consultation Evenings 3 30 – 6 00pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Meadowside Explorers Shine – fancy dress day (see previous parentmail for details)  <b>Last Day of Term 1 – finish at 3 15pm</b>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Trip
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying week. Wear odd socks on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> !
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Key Stage 1 Special Visit
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Cross Country (children that were selected for the competition)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Road Safety Week
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 trip
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Happy Birthday Meadowside!
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	FOM Car Park Carols
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.  KS2 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.  KS1 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform)  <b>Finish at 2 p.m.</b>

**Next edition due: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**For all key dates, remember to visit the school website at**

**[www.meadowsideschool.co.uk](http://www.meadowsideschool.co.uk)**



**Meadowside School**