

**Autumn Term Edition**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

| Comets | Hurricanes | Meteors | Spitfires |
|--------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 124    | 142        | 123     | 124       |

### Message from Miss Thomas

Thank you all for your support with learning at Meadowside this term. Without your regular input at home, children miss vital opportunities to consolidate and practice their skills, so keep up the good work. Every class has Learning with Parents Mathematics homework this half term, with a financial focus, so please make time for this over the next week if you can. And read, read, read!

We wish you all a relaxing half term – I've even arranged an extra hour in bed for you all, this weekend!

### Attendance

Whole school attendance has dropped slightly over the past fortnight and overall. We all need to make a big effort to improve this as we move into Term 2. Unauthorised absences have risen by a whole 1%. We have received lots of requests for term time holidays over the past week – we have not authorised any of these.

I have been on some training this week about attendance, and I will fill you in on my longer-term plans for attendance in the next issue of the Friday Fortnightly.

### Lateness

There have been 131 lates this term! We understand that sometimes children won't be able to make it to school on time, however, there are a number of children who are persistently late. This does not help a child start their day in the way that will help them learn best. They are missing key information from our teachers and teaching assistants, learning opportunities and chances to socialise with their friends. Lateness also causes problems for the office staff, with children arriving in a constant stream between 8.45 - 9.10 a.m.

### Attendance headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: 95.4%
- Unauthorised absences: 1.3%.
- Well done to **Year 3** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with 96.4%!

- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: 95.9%

Mr Port – Attendance Champion.

## **Meadowside Class News**

### Reception – Cherry class

This first term has flown past and Cherry class are all settled into the Meadowside family. We have learnt lots about each other, our classroom and our school. It has been great to get to know them all and see them increase in confidence. Dressing up for the whole school topic celebration was great fun and helped us see how we really are part of the wider school community.

They have all made a great start on their phonics, keep practising over the holidays to keep it fresh. Take a few minutes to look at reading books too. Make sure you have a good rest, you deserve it and have lots of fun this half term. I look forward to hearing about what you have all been up to. There will be lots more to learn and do when you come back.

Thank you to everyone who has donated toys and games to Reception Class.

### Year 1 – Oak Class

What a brilliant first term Oak Class have had in Year 1! This past fortnight we have met a guide dog, presented an assembly, run a fundraiser and sponsored not one but two guide dogs! Thank you all for your kind and generous donations, having met Marty and his owner Debi, we know how much of a difference these dogs will make to their lives! We have also been finding out about the work of David Attenborough, as well as the things Meadowside does to help look after our planet!

In English, we have created some amazing guide dog posters by working on a different section of information every day. In maths, we have been looking at numbers up to 100! There are some terrific games online to help support your child with this if you have 5 minutes to fill over the holidays!

Enjoy a well-earned half term and we look forward to starting a new topic after the break! Meanwhile, enjoy these photos of our sponsored dogs Custard and Jack!



### Year 2 – Beech Class

We have thoroughly enjoyed finding out all about being Meadowside Explorers this term! We have learnt about animals and plants that we had never considered before and found out a little about how they work together to create food chains. We also enjoyed finding out about how different animals grow.

One of the highlights was our trip to The Orchard and making our sandwiches. Lots of children said they had never made sandwiches before, and would now be able to make their own at home too!!

The end of our topic saw us learning about how artists use nature to inspire the work that they do- we looked at the work of William Morris and Eloise Renouf. We created our own pieces inspired by these great artists!

As part of our topic shine, we have set up a science experiment linked to cyanotype pictures! We are attempting to create sun prints! If you would like to find out more, go to [the Natural History Museum page here!](#)

We hope you received the optional holiday homework that will set up our new topic that we launch on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. With your help, we can make it a GREAT success!!!

### Year 3 – Elm Class

As this term draws to an end, we have been concluding our topic of Meadowside Explorers. We have been thinking about the key question 'How can we keep our bodies healthy?' We have thought about what our bodies need and the importance of a healthy diet. We have also been thinking about the job of our skeletons and muscles.

In English we have been extremely busy authors and illustrators and have produced our own books based around the story of 'The Green Ship'. The class have all worked very hard on these and created some work to be proud of.

We have finished reading our class novel of 'The Secret Garden' and we have compared our version to a film version, we were able to spot quite a few differences! After half term our new class novel will be 'The Wild Way Home' by Sophie Kirtley. Many children like to have their own copy of this text to read along, however this is not compulsory. It can be purchased online or from a book shop, alternatively many children in Years 4 and 5 might have a copy that you could arrange to borrow.

### Year 4 – Willow Class

It was lovely to meet the parents that were available to speak to us at Parents' Evening. It was valuable to talk about how your child has settled in, the next steps they need to take in their learning and behaviours and attitudes. In Maths, we have been learning about the different types of triangles and their properties. We had Daffodil Equilateral, Elloise Isosceles and Maybellene Scalene! See if your child can remember their properties! During English we have been finishing our work on Wind in the Willows with some independent writing that includes speech (dialogue) between two characters. We are really impressed with the work that Willow Class produced. In geography we have learnt about the threats to our local area and came up with some ideas on how we could improve The Orchard. Year 4 experienced their first official Forest School session with Mr Jones this week and absolutely loved it! Computing has been all about Coding whilst P.E has involved improving our ball skills through different games. We hope you have a lovely half term, and we look forward to welcoming Year 4 back after the break!

### Year 5 – Maple Class

Wow. What a brilliant end to a busy half term this has been! The children have proudly shared their Sir David Attenborough biographies not only to the rest of the school in the topic shine assembly but also with their target audience of Beech Class on Wednesday afternoon. It was lovely to see the interest and engagement between the children, so thank you Year 2 for allowing us to visit and share our work with you. We have been absolutely loving our work in English using the book 'Flood land' by Marcus Sedgwick. It tells a dystopian story of what life could be like in the UK in the not-so-distant future and the children have produced some impressive pieces of writing ranging from character descriptions, letters home and rousing speeches. In Maths, we have been comparing, ordering and rounding numbers with mixed decimal places and to the nearest whole number, so quite complicated stuff!

In completing our Meadowside Explorers Topic we have explored how plants and animals reproduce in Science. A big well done to everyone in Maple Class, you have settled into life in Year 5 beautifully and have worked very hard. Half a great half term, see you all in November!

### Year 6 – Yew Class

What a fantastic fortnight it has been for Yew class! We concluded our Meadowside Explorers topic by showcasing our Amazon Rainforest information leaflets- we have worked so hard on these (finding out everything we need to know in our Geography lessons and putting our facts together in well-structured sentences in our English lessons) and they not only look brilliant but are also incredibly informative! On Wednesday morning we had the best time exploring the local area on our geocaching trip. We had to use maps to navigate our groups to various checkpoints around Green Farm, where we had clues to solve to find numbers. We used these numbers in a series of calculations which gave us a four-digit code. The winning group were the first group to crack the code and use it to open a padlock where they found the prize! Maths is getting tricky in Year Six and we have been dividing three-digit numbers by two-digit numbers- including where we have to show the remainder as a fraction. Our brains are ready for a break now- have a wonderful half term everybody!

## Sporting News

### Boys' Football

The A team kicked off their league campaign against a very strong Beech Green side last week. They lost 4-0 but hit the post twice and created lots of chances. We were very proud of their determination and teamwork. They bounced back with a 3-1 victory over Waterwells yesterday evening. Well done boys! We learn a lot from winning but even more from losing.

### Girls' Football

Our team competed in their first league match last week against Field Court. The team worked well together and gained confidence as the match progressed. Unfortunately, we lost 3-1 but were able to reflect on our game and learn from this match. We look forward to our next match on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## Friends of Meadowside

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our amazing Gloucester History themed bake off! We had some amazing designs that were not just tasty but very creative - well done. We raised over £250, amazing thank you for your support.

Next half term is one of our busiest as we have a lot happening:

**DiscGlow Thursday 21st November**- all information for this will be sent out during our first week back.

**Non-Uniform Day - 27th November** - for this we will be asking for donations for our Christmas Fayre to make raffle prizes and selling. If you have anything you would like to donate for this event beforehand please bring into school.

**Christmas Fayre - 4th December** 330-530pm. More details will follow soon but if you would like to request a stall for the hall, have a raffle prize you can donate or can volunteer your time please email [friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

We are hoping to exceed our fundraising total from last year so if you have anything you can donate or can support us with we would be very grateful.

Keep an eye out for letter and posters coming soon!

FOM Team

### Remembrance Day fundraising

As we do every year, we will have poppies and poppy-based merchandise available in exchange for donations to the Royal British Legion. These will be on the gate every morning from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. One item per child in the first instance will allow everyone a fair selection.

## 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   |
|--|---|
| 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> !                       |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November | Road Safety Week  |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November                         | KS1 and KS2 DisGlo!   |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Year 5 trip   |
| Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November                        | Happy 24 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Meadowside!   |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                         | Christmas Fayre 3 30 – 5 30pm   |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December                        | KS1 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.<br>KS2 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m. |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December                         | KS2 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.<br>KS1 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m. |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December                           | Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform)<br>Finish at 2 p.m.                                |

**Next edition due: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

For all key dates, remember to visit the school website at  
[www.meadowsideschool.co.uk](http://www.meadowsideschool.co.uk)

