

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 29th November 2024

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
93	93	74	79

Message from Miss Thomas

We are at the 'business end' of the term, with assessments completed and pupil progress due to be discussed and analysed next week. Rehearsals for the Christmas performances are also well underway and we still have work to finish across the curriculum!

We hope to see you at the Christmas Market on Wednesday – don't miss the carol singing at 4 30pm!

Attendance

I have been tracking attendance of individual children and in lots of cases, I have seen huge improvements in attendance over this term. Thank you for your support. As always, we are here to support you with your child's attendance.

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: 94.2%.
- Unauthorised absences: **0.1%**
- Well done to **Year 4 and Year 6** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a joint amazing total of **95.8!**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.6%**

Our overall attendance is still very good. We've had lots of poorly children this week as bugs are back with vengeance! Our unauthorised absence is at the lowest rate it has been this year but we still had **31 lates**.

Holidays

I am unable to authorise holidays unless in exceptional circumstances. Every day that Meadowside is open, the children are expected to attend. We have a new system which will follow a procedure when a holiday form comes in:

- 1) Parent/Carer submits a holiday request
- 2) The parent/carer will receive a letter from school about whether this has been authorised
- 3) If the holiday is not authorised, a letter will be sent **after** the holiday. This will explain when and how fines are issued.

4) You may receive a fine

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Cherry class

Last week we very briefly met Bernard. Unfortunately, he did not last very long as he was eaten by a monster. His parents were so busy they failed to notice when the monster stood on the TV and ripped the books. Please make sure you keep an eye on all your little monsters. This week our challenge has been to make a monster. So far we have made a love monster, a box monster and a sock puppet monster. I think we need a few signs up warning everyone about all these monsters! In our writing we have been learning to add labels and we have talked more about writing letters and notes. The love monster got some letters, and we sent home letters to people we love.

Our phonics is continuing well, keep practicing the phonemes you have in your bags and also try a bit of word building. In every spare minute we are working on the songs for the Christmas performance. Everyone is very excited to perform in front of an audience and to dress up in their costumes.

Year 1 – Oak Class

Year 1 have had a very busy couple of weeks! We have been adventuring in the past with Magic Grandad and finding out about toys from the 1950s and from around the time of the moon landing. We have also begun to think more about creating our toys to entertain the teddy bears at our picnic in January!

In English, we have been focusing on nursery rhymes. We went on a nursery rhyme hunt and had to answer questions linked to each rhyme. We then performed a nursery rhyme in groups to the class and was very impressed with our performances! This should mean you will be in for a treat when we do our Christmas production! We are also learning songs for the play too! Please take the time to learn lines with your child, if they have them.

In maths, we have been excellent detectives in our CSI lessons and have been investigating numbers. We begin by counting forwards and backwards to a number each day, then we draw it in different ways before finding ways to add and subtract from it. We are getting very good at using a part-part-whole diagram to show the parts hidden inside each number!

Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 have been learning about some pretty sad topics in our history lessons this past fortnight- we have found out about colonisation and what happened when British people took over other countries. We decided that we were appalled and never ever wanted that to happen again. We have also found out about smallpox and that most diseases did not have a cure many years ago. Thankfully we also found out about the man who invented vaccines- Edward Jenner. We were proud to hear that he came from Gloucestershire!

In our English lessons, we have finished our Great Fire of London diaries and have begun to think about Nursery Rhymes. We knew quite a lot already and have made it our mission to learn some others this week. Your children asked if I could share the website we have been using with you so that you can learn some more together at home too! The site we have used is

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/Rhymes.html> We'd love to hear what you have done at home!

Our maths work continues to look at addition and subtraction- a lot of the children said this was quite tricky when you did your Learning With Parents homework, so we have agreed to come back to it later in

Year 2! Keep using Numbots to help learn those basic facts- knowing these makes mental calculating MUCH easier!

Year 3 – Elm Class

We have continued our 'History Hunters' topic. We have been learning about the natural history of the world, focusing on fossils, and they have been busy researching the famous Palaeontologist, Mary Anning. We will be using what we have learnt to write her biography as part of our English. We have also started to learn about plate tectonics and how it has shaped our world, we were amazed when looked at some images of the recent volcanic eruptions in Iceland.

In Maths we have been working hard to learn our x3 and x4 tables. Please help your child to continue their learning by practicing their rapid recall of these facts. Next week we will move onto our 8 times table!

Please remember to send your child's PE kit back on Monday.

Year 4 – Willow Class

It has been another fortnight to remember in year 4! The children sat their assessments this week and we are so proud of how they have approached their tests. These assessments give us a clear understanding of how the children are performing in their subjects so we can help them even further. We have been doing lots of 'normal' learning as well. In maths, we have been learning what happens when you multiply a number by 0 and when you divide and multiply by 1. English has been really exciting! We have started to write our newspaper reports about Theseus and the Minotaur and all the children are very proud of their achievements so far. We have continued our ball game and gymnastic work in P.E. We are working towards a paired performance which includes balances, travelling, jumps and rolls. In computing we have been using Logo to solve the Minotaur maze – nobody has been eaten so far! In art, we have learnt to draw ourselves as Medusa whilst in history we have learnt about the Ancient Olympic Games. What a fortnight!

Year 5 – Maple Class

The children of Maple Class enjoyed an early start to the week, as we made our way to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester. What an amazing time we all had! We began by learning about space exploration and programmed our own mini robots using iPads. Then on to the Planetarium, where we were immersed in a spectacular, stellar display above our heads. We absolutely loved the interactive displays within the museum and were a credit to Meadowside the whole day. In our Maths lessons, we have continued to explore using a range of efficient methods to calculate addition and subtraction problems. In English we have been looking at features of recounts, writing our own about our trip but also to prepare for writing a diary-style 'Star Log'. Through our topic lessons over the last two weeks, we learned about the movement of the Earth, Sun and the moon and have begun to design a moon buggy in DT that will be powered by a motor and connected via an electrical circuit. A very busy, fun and productive fortnight – Year 5, you are all stars and have been out of this world!

Year 6 – Yew Class

Another busy but brilliant fortnight for Year 6! In maths we have finished with geometry and started our fractions unit and have been comparing and ordering fractions with different denominators. This has involved some tricky work and has used a lot of brain power! Positive attitudes and determination have been essential. In English we have been using a sentence stacking approach to create suspense and mystery, thinking carefully about how our grammar and punctuation can change the way our sentences sound and the effect on the reader. After a focus on vocabulary at the beginning of the year, we are now blown away by the word choices of the Year 6 children! It got a bit grisly in History this week when we

learned of some of the horrific and gory ways that the Maya honoured their gods... ask your child for more information if you have a strong stomach! In Geography we have studied biomes and climate zones. We may also have started thinking about.... Christmas! All children should now have come home with a costume letter.

Sporting News

Cross country -

Last Wednesday was a very proud day for Meadowside! 52 of our children represented our school in the Cross-Country Championships and we are absolutely delighted with the teamwork, grit and passion on show. All the children should feel incredibly proud of their effort.

13 children finished in the top ten but more importantly, each and every child contributed to us finishing **SECOND** overall!

A huge thanks to Miss Thomas and Mrs Knill who helped Mrs Bouvier with the training, and to the staff and parents that supported the event.

Footballs

A big thank you to Hardwicke Football Club for donating some new match footballs.

Friends of Meadowside

Wow! What amazing support we have - thankyou all for your kind donations at Wednesday's school birthday, we are looking forward to making them into raffle and tombola prizes. We hope that all the children have enjoyed the past 2 fundraisers - the disco was another epic turnout, thankyou to all the parents and teaching staff that helped during the disco, we can't put on these events without this incredible support so **THANKYOU**.

We're straight into our Christmas Market, which is on **Weds 4th December 3.30 - 6pm**.

- There will be market stalls in the Hall to add some gifts to your Christmas Shopping, as well as refreshments, games and crafts. Most of these stalls will take cash only, with the card machine on refreshments.
- Christmas Carols will be led by Miss Thomas in the carpark at 4.30
- Santa is making an appearance in the ICT suite --- please get you tickets from FoM so that Santa knows how many gifts to bring.
- Please return any raffle tickets - either unsold, or sold with monies to Miss Noble in the office as soon as possible.

We really need some extra help with running a few of the stalls, especially for the timeslot 4.45 - 6pm, so if you can help at all, please do let us know. Also any help setting up from 1.30 is appreciated, or if you want to come along to our Christmas hamper making evening - please feel welcome to this evening in the Hall.

Thanks as always for your support

Friends of Meadowside

Email - friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk

Governor Corner

Our second meeting under the newly organised governance structure is planned for 11th December. This is going to be a big evening for us governors as we are also taking part in a staff meeting focused on the plans for the foundation subjects which include:

Art, Design, Technology, Citizenship, Computing and IT, Languages, Geography, History, Music and P.E.

Governors recognise these are very important for introducing a wide range of skills and knowledge, encouraging creativity and developing practical skills, such as designing and creating functional products.

These subjects are likely to be where the love of learning is found when the core subjects are challenging. They provide a foundation for learning that creates links between subjects and can ease access to literacy, numeracy and science skills.

We are looking forward to hearing from staff, many of whom have great enthusiasm for these areas of the curriculum. We are interested in hearing how they plan to share this with your children through their plans.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025

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

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 th December	Friends of Meadowside Christmas Market and Car Park Carols
Wednesday 11 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. KS2 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m.
Wednesday 11 th December	Year 2 Sports Trip
Thursday 12 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance: 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. KS1 Christmas Performance: 2 – 3 p.m.
Tuesday 17 th December	Holy Trinity Choir 7.30pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform) Finish at 2 p.m.

Next edition due: Friday 13th December 2024

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



Meadowside School