

**Autumn Term Edition**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
118 Term Total - 295	122 Term Total - 324	105 Term Total - 267	111 Term Total - 278

## Message from Miss Thomas

Many thanks to all of you able to attend the Christmas Performances this week. These are always a wonderful opportunity for individuals to shine but also for the Meadowside family to celebrate together after a long term! You will appreciate the amount of learning which has taken place already, if you are visiting after school for the Book Look. As Mr Port has mentioned below, the final week of term is still an important one academically and socially.

I hope everyone can enjoy some rest and quality time together over the festive fortnight – we all deserve some time to unwind and recharge! See you in 2025!

## Attendance

It's great attendance news all round this week!

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95.4%**.
- Unauthorised absences: **0.2%**
- Well done to **Year 2** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a whopping **97.4%**!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.6%**

Our overall attendance is still very good and **above local and national**, however we still had **38 lates**.

With lots of learning still to come next week, please do your best to ensure your child is in and in on time. The last week of term can often be seen by parents as less important. This is simply not true! Timetables continue in a normal way and usually there is work to be caught up on after Christmas rehearsals and performances. Children love to celebrate together at this time of year and whilst Friday is a very Christmassy day, the social and cultural benefits to children being in on the last day of this term are huge.

Thank you for your support. Please come and speak to me if you have any questions or concerns about attendance.

Mr Port – Attendance Champion

## **Meadowside Class News**

### Reception – Cherry class

It has been lots of fun learning the songs for our Christmas performance and getting dressed up into our costumes. I hope you were able to come and see the 'Magical Christmas Box' and that you enjoyed it as much as we did.

As well as rehearsals we have continued with our usual activities: Maths, phonics, writing etc. This week the book 'The love monster finds the perfect present' has inspired us to make a Christmas present for our families. Writing Christmas cards and Christmas lists has given us a good reason for writing. We have also been receiving and writing letters to Santa, who asked us to look after one of his Reindeer. If you popped into the classroom for the book look on Friday you will have met him. We have decorated the classroom to make sure he feels at home and will look after him carefully until Santa needs him back. We are giving him lots of love!

### Year 1 – Oak Class

What a brilliant couple of weeks we have had in Year 1! I am sure you will all agree that the children worked very hard learning lines, songs, actions and stage directions to produce a brilliant play! They thoroughly enjoyed their experience on the stage, and we hope you enjoyed it too!

Our "A Toys' Story" topic will continue after Christmas, but we have been working very hard on creating our own toys in our DT lessons this week. We have been producing slider pop up pictures linked to nursery rhymes which we are sure the teddy bears will love!

Thank you all for your engagement with Learning with Parents, Numbots, phonics homework and reading this term, it really does make a huge difference to your child's confidence and learning. While you are reading this with a week to go, there will not be another Friday Fortnightly before Christmas, so enjoy your Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

### Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 have had a fun-filled week what with the Christmas multi-skills events AND our Christmas performances! We thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas performances this week and hope that you enjoyed it too! We have linked our Step Back in Time topic with Christmas and have been finding out why we have some of the traditions we do today. We have learnt about Queen Victoria and how the Victorians invented many of the traditions that are commonplace nowadays such as Christmas cards and crackers! Ask your child how we used these ideas to decorate our classroom this week.

Our topic continues after the holiday and we will begin to think about some influential women that changed our lives for the better- the children have been disgusted to learn that women's lives used to be subject to extremely harsh (and derogatory) ideas- we will learn more next term!

### Year 3 – Elm Class

We have had a very busy few weeks and we are certainly getting into the Christmas spirit! Meanwhile, our learning has been continuing, and we have been busy looking at rocks and soils. We have learnt about the 3 different rocks in Geology – ask your child to see if they can remember them and how they are formed. They really enjoyed a science investigation, looking at the properties of different rocks, in particular how hard they are. We have now moved on to looking at soils and are looking forward to another investigation next week.

In English, the children have now completed their biography of Mary Anning and hopefully many of you will have seen them during our class book look. They have certainly learnt a lot about this amazing woman of science!

Our topic of History Hunters will continue after Christmas, thinking about pre-history and specifically the changes during the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age.

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

The children were amazing in their performances this week! Wow! They delivered their lines beautifully and were definitely the standout singers in Key Stage 2! We have raced towards the end of our topic on Ancient Greeks and our Shine on Monday will be brilliant! Parents and Carers are warmly invited to come and watch Year 4 perform Pandora's Box at 2.30 p.m, Monday. This is linked to the work we have been doing in school on Greek architecture, including amphitheatres. We have also learnt about Greek temples and etymology over the past fortnight. In English, we have finished the drafts of Theseus and the Minotaur and are excited to publish them next week. Maths has been a bit tricky as we have looked at mental methods to add 3- and 4-digit numbers, but the children have persevered and should feel proud of their achievements. In computing, we have remembered how to use the Micro:bits and will be programming them with some mini animations over the next few weeks!

We begin a new topic after Christmas and we're excited about sharing this with the children!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

In addition to writing our Star Logs in English, multiplying and dividing 4-digit numbers by powers of 10 we have absolutely loved learning about Christmas traditions from places such as Spain, Hungary and the Caribbean. Some great singing, percussion instrument playing, dancing and acting was displayed by the children in Year 5 and we hope you enjoyed our performance with the rest of KS2 over the last few days. Next week, we look forward to completing our Watch This Space topic by exploring classical music inspired by planets and space, investigating the effect gravity has as a force and making our pre-designed moon buggies in DT. If your child would like to keep their moon buggy complete with motor, wires and batteries we would ask for a kind donation of £2.50 to cover the cost of the equipment. This has been an excellent first term for Maple Class and we look forward to another successful one in the Spring as well as welcoming Mrs Allen to our classroom. We would also like to acknowledge and show our appreciation for Mrs Bevan who sadly, leaves us next Friday, to begin teaching at another school. We have been very lucky to have her and know that her next school will be too! Have a wonderful Christmas and see you all in 2025!

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

In English we have been putting our suspense writing to the test and been trying to create our very own thriller story, after reading Thornhill. We have learnt the way an author will use certain techniques to build some tension and not give away too much...leaving the reader hanging by a thread. The children have engaged well with this as you can imagine. In maths we have concluded our first fraction, decimals and percentages unit and started looking into some geometry and calculating missing angles on a straight line. Our Mayan artwork has involved research, design and we are now working with clay to explore what 'relief' work is. Quite tricky skills at play. Of course, lots of time this week was spent rehearsing and performing for our Christmas play. The performing arts is really quite a skill: drama, music and dance are all part of the curriculum and hopefully you saw them shine like the stars they truly are. Next week is looking exciting too. Please do not forget your donations for our STEM workshop on Tuesday morning which should be on Parent pay. Thanks so much and Merry Christmas one and all. See you in the new year! Let's make it a happy and healthy one for the last two terms at Meadowside for Yew Class.

## **Sporting News**

We are very pleased to have been awarded an 'Equal Access School Award' for 2024. This was in recognition of our work to ensure that we provide equal access to sports for girls and boys. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have helped us to achieve this award!

## **Friends of Meadowside**

A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported Friends of Meadowside at this years Car Park Carols and Christmas Fair. This year was truly wonderful and with your help we have managed to raise over £1600, which is incredible and beats last years total, again!

I want to say some specific thank yous to those who went above and beyond (just like the badges our students get), firstly the staff of Meadowside who rally around this event and throw themselves into manning stalls, games and refreshments! Mrs Thomas for organising the songs they were wonderful as always! The Gloucester Brass band who came and volunteered their time to help create the festive mood music. Our local Santa Claus who read a wonderful story to our children and took time out of his busy schedule of present making with the elves to come to our event. The whole of the team at Friends of Meadowside (past and present and partners of) who gave an inordinate amount of time in the background leading up to this event. Lastly, but by no means least our brilliant Christmas event coordinator Rosy Francis without whom this whole event would not have been half as good, it takes so much work to pull off these events and we are extremely grateful to those who helped made it possible. Thank you everyone and have a very Merry Christmas and half term holidays! We will share the next events in the New Year but for now it's time for a well-earned rest.

## **Governor Corner**

### Governor Update

Under our new model of working together as a governing board we all have new roles to help us focus our support to the school. We have welcomed Tim Leeshue and Anamika Dam as governors and look forward to working with them:

### **Introducing Premium Budgets Governor**

I am Anamika Dam and am a chartered chemical engineer and have worked in the Nuclear Power Industry since 1998. I moved to Quedgeley from the Lake District in 2001 as I started a position at Berkeley nuclear decommissioning site (near Cattle Country!). Since joining the Meadowside family, I have been an active member and Trustee for Friends of Meadowside (FOM) and now have the huge privilege on becoming the Pupil Premium and Sports Grant Parent Governor. I am a solo parent of my son who is in Y5.

### **Introducing Governor Communications**

I'm a gamer, a fair-weather Mountain Biker, a father to two (mostly) amazing kids, and a Service Delivery Manager/Consultant. I'm incredibly proud of everything Meadowside has done for my children, which inspired me to give back to the community. Becoming a School Governor felt like the natural way to show my gratitude.

As Premium Budget Governor Anamika will ensure that budgets targeted on specific needs and outcomes are monitored and effectively used and Tim will support the school in maintaining and developing good links with the school and its wider community of parents, carers, residence and businesses.

## **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
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	7 30pm Holy Trinity Christmas Concert
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform) <b>Finish at 2 p.m.</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to School
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices Concert

**Next edition due: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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

