

**Spring Term Edition**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
78	110	79	100

### Message from Miss Thomas

Welcome to 2025 and Happy New Year! I wanted to make sure you are all aware of the INSET days fast approaching (dates below). On INSET days, children do not attend school but staff do, so they can take part in any training or collaborative work which will benefit the school further. For our January INSET, teachers and TAs will be learning more about how to support children when their emotions are disrupting their learning. This may be because of an additional need, trauma they have experienced or a sudden event in their lives which throws them off-balance. We want to be able to respond to these needs sensitively and effectively if they arise at school and help them get back on track with their learning and social interaction. Our training is being delivered by Gloucestershire's Educational Psychology Team.

### Attendance

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95%**.
- Unauthorised absences: **0.6%**
- Well done to **Year 2 (once again!)** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an amazing **96%**!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.5% (National = 95.1%)**

### Holidays

We have had conversations with parents and children this week about holidays. In some cases, children have told us they are going on holiday and we have not yet been notified. It is disappointing that parents are not being honest as although we are rarely able to authorise holidays, we expect honesty from our school family.

As always, if you would like to speak to me about any attendance issues with your child/children at Meadowside, please contact the office to arrange a meeting or see me on the gate before school on a Monday or Wednesday and after school most days.

Thank you and please be honest with us.

Mr Port

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Cherry class

After catching up on holiday news we launched our new topic – What's the Story? The story chest contained clues for our first story: straw, bricks and 3 pigs. We are learning a version of the 3 little pigs with actions to help us remember it. So far we have painted pigs, made puppets and built houses for pigs. Look out for any big bad wolves lurking about. Traditional tales give us lots of ideas for fun activities and learning.

Well done to the 8 children (and parents) who got a certificate for their learning with parents homework. Keep up the good work. Don't forget to go over the phonics regularly and share reading books too. It all helps us on our learning journey.

### Year 1 – Oak Class

Happy New Year to you all! We have had a very exciting week in Year 1 this week! Not only have we enjoyed talking about and sharing some of our favourite toys (and how brilliant we all were at sharing!), but we have also worked out that the teddy bears' picnic is fast approaching and that we still have lots to learn first! We have launched a new book in English that we are thoroughly enjoying this week – we have been thinking about the illustrations, making predictions and also working on our prosody (storyteller voices) to make ordinary things sound even more exciting!

In maths, we have been consolidating our CSI work on exploring numbers as well as securing our number bond to 10 knowledge. Please make sure your child is confident on number bonds to 10 as this will really support their calculation work over the coming months.

In phonics, we are consolidating our new phase 5 sounds – please be sure to look at the phonics homework each week as well as reading books as this really helps secure children's knowledge.

### Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 have continued the topic Step Back in Time this week and have been remembering some of the famous women from our British history. We have been learning about a special 'lady with the lamp' who helped shape the lives of women **and** changed our understanding of infectious diseases. Ask your child if they can remember her name and the name of the hospital that she worked in! We will hear about other amazing ladies in the coming weeks too in order to answer our Key Question- How have women's lives changed. The children have been appalled to hear what men from the Victorian era thought about their women!

In English, we have been learning some more grammar rules to help us construct and correctly punctuate sentences. This week's Learning With Parents homework will allow the children to practise this, so check it out online! Our maths work this week has been all about position and direction- we have been learning the correct words to describe movement, including rotating right angles in a clockwise and anticlockwise direction!

Well done to all the children who took part in our Class Heat of the Look Who's Talking competition. Our winner goes through to the School Heat which will be on Wednesday next week!

### Year 3 – Elm Class

Happy New Year!

We have had a great start to the new term. We are continuing with our topic of 'History Hunters' but we have started to consider the key question: What do we mean by pre- history and how do we know about pre-history? We learnt about 'The Red Lady of Paviland' and tried to look at the evidence discovered and interpret what it could tell us about life in the Stone Age. We also looked at several examples of pre-historic cave art and had great fun under our desks, trying to recreate it with charcoals, chalks and pastels.

In English, we have begun looking at the story of 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. We have used the book to help us learn more about the Stone Age, but we have also been inspired to write some poetry which includes prepositions and adverbs.

In Computing we had a very exciting lesson using Microbits for the first time. We used code blocks to write code which made LEDs light up to show a beating heart. The children are very excited to continue working with Microbits for the duration of this term.

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

It's been a wonderful start to the new year in our classroom! Our new topic 'We are Scientists' began with a flurry of science experiments on Monday as the children and staff launched the topic in style! We've begun to answer our first question 'How does electricity work?' by creating circuits and playing with switches. The children have absolutely loved this! In English, we have begun working on the features of a diary to enable us to create our own based on the discovery of the lightbulb by Edison and Swann. We've continued to work on mental methods of subtraction and addition in maths and although this is tricky, we are definitely on the right track. During Computing over the next couple of weeks, we are learning how to create an animation of a volcanic eruption on our Micro:bits! It's complicated but will definitely be worth it. A huge well done to all the children who took part in their swimming lessons on Tuesday – you were fab! The other P.E slot enables us to continue working on our gymnastics. The paried routines the children created this week were brilliant. Finally, we are very proud of all the children that took part in the 'Look who's talking' heats this week. It takes bravery to stand up and talk for 2 minutes in front of your class. Well done guys!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

In Maple Class this week, we have enjoyed studying the first chapter of our class book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q Rauf during our guided reading sessions. The children have shown a good understanding of the text so far and are looking forward to working on the second chapter next week. We had lots of children in Year 5 participate in our 'Look Who's Talking' school competition. The children were well-prepared and chose some interesting topics for us to listen to. Thank you to all the children who participated in this – you were all brilliant! We enjoyed our topic launch for the new spring term history topic: Battle for Middle England – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children worked extremely well in teams to research some key topic areas about the Anglo-Saxons and created an interesting, informative group poster for our topic wall display. They presented their information to the other groups using good speaking and listening skills. We look forward to more learning next week. Homework and PE will start in week 2.

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

Welcome back and we wish you a very Happy New Year. We have launched our new topic this week called the Origin of Species. We have looked at the meaning of 'evolution' and how we came to exist. It is rather mind blowing but also extremely interesting to explore. We have written poetry this week, inspired by a picture book called Moth-a beautiful story all about evolution and adaptation. Maths has seen us develop our geometry skills and use rulers and protractors accurately, whilst still keeping up our daily arithmetic practice. We have found it tricky, but with some grit and determination have made good progress overall. Some children have decided to be brave and step up their oracy skills by volunteering to take part in the Look Who's Talking competition. Our class winner will be announced soon, so watch

this space. In PE we have started a Dance Unit of work and in our art, we have been exploring the famous William Morris. Pattern and symmetry all play a part in his designs and we will explore this before we create our own printing. All in all-a highly successful first week back to 2025! Keep it up Year 6.

## **Sporting News**

### **Sportshall athletics**

A team of 12 Year 5 and 6 children took part in the annual Sportshall athletics competition at the University of Gloucestershire. The children ran, jumped and threw with energy, skill and heart. It was a fantastic event and each child took something very positive away from it. Although we didn't finish in the medals, we competed fiercely and created great memories. A big thank you to Ana (parent helper and governor!), who helped organise and cheer the children during the event. Well done, Team Meadowside!

### **Look Who's Talking Competition**

Well done to all the brave people who entered their Class Heat this week. It takes bravery to talk in front of a group of your peers, so you should be very proud of yourselves! The next round will take place NEXT WEEK on Wednesday. The School Heat sees the class winners pitted against each other- Year 1 will take on Year 2, Year 3 goes up against Year 4 and Year 5 will try to beat Year 6. Miss Thomas will then decide which 3 winners progress through to the next round. If your child won their class heat, please work hard with them between now and Wednesday to polish their performance- the tips we gave them today were about speaking slowly, clearly and with good intonation to make their speeches entertaining for their audience. We can't wait to hear what they say!

## **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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Young Voices concert
24 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 3 SkillZone
30 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 1 Teddy Bears picnic
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	Year 2 trip
Week comm- 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	Year 5 Bikeability
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Trip

**Next edition due: Friday 24<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)

