

**Spring Term Edition**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

| Comets | Hurricanes | Meteors | Spitfires |
|--------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 129    | 147        | 129     | 124       |

### Message from Miss Thomas

We are about to relaunch our Meadowside School Council. Each class has elected 2 representatives, who will have regular meetings with the school leadership team to develop ideas and new initiatives that benefit our children. The purpose of a school council is to ensure children have a voice in decisions we make at Meadowside. Once we are up and running, they will hopefully be able to share more on the Friday Fortnightly themselves!

### Attendance

#### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **94.2%**.
- Unauthorised absences: **1.8%**
- Well done to **Year 5** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an amazing **98.3%**!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.4% (National = 94.8%)**

#### Lateness

We have had 60 lates over the past fortnight. We understand that children will occasionally be late, but this is the highest it has been since the year began. If your child is late, they miss out on valuable learning opportunities in the morning.

#### Car Park

**DO NOT** park in the school car park, unless you have permission from Miss Thomas. This includes if you are late dropping your child to school.

Thank you,

Mr Port  
Attendance Champion

### Meadowside Class News

## Reception – Cherry class

It has been another couple of busy weeks in Reception. Last week we completed our work on the 3 little pigs story. After scientific experimentation we can confirm that bricks are better than straw for building houses. Sticks were fairly good but we thought they might let the rain in more than bricks. Our story telling skills are coming along well, we have learnt a version of Goldilocks and the 3 Bears this week. There are some very cross bear voices! The whole class are shocked by Goldilocks behaviour, breaking into a house and causing breakages, she is definitely the baddie of this story.

On Monday we took part in the Big Schools bird watch. We used the school hide in the meadow and also looked for different species of bird on the field and in the bushes around the school site. We saw 13 different types of bird and have sent our results in to the RSPB. Have fun if you are doing the big garden bird watch this weekend. I wonder how many you will see.

## Year 1 – Oak Class

We have been working very hard in Year 1 over the past fortnight; with our Teddy Bears' Picnic fast approaching next week, we need to make sure we can fulfil all of the things on the invitation! We have created a dance to show our teddies in PE, been learning a song to sing them and next week we will be making our own teddy shaped pizzas that we have designed ourselves! Phew! (We will be making pizzas next Wednesday – we have some aprons in school but if you have an apron at home that you are happy to send in for the day, please do so!)

This week in maths, we have been looking at 3D shapes. So far, we have covered cuboids, cubes and pyramids (more to come next week!). We have enjoyed looking for their properties and trying to find them from a huge selection of shapes! Can you find any real-life examples at home?

In English, we have continued to look at our book "Traction Man". We have created comic book style freeze frames using photos of toys and speech bubbles/thought bubbles, written a description of him and written some questions for him. There was even a visit from him to our classroom too!

## Year 2 – Beech Class

This week in our Step Back in Time topic, we have reviewed Key Question 4 → How have women's lives changed? And we thought about how much more choice we all have now (men and women included) than people had 200 years ago. We talked about jobs, homes, marriages and ways to live your life! We started our final Key Question yesterday- How have children's lives changed and found out that they also had much hard work to do... including jobs to earn money! Some of the jobs were very disgusting... Thank goodness, we live in 2025! We are due to go on a school trip to experience some ways that people lived in the Victorian times but **we still don't have enough parent helpers** to accompany our groups. If you are able to come with us on 6<sup>th</sup> February, please let us know as soon as possible.

In English, we have finally learnt the title of our Power of Reading book and we have met a second main character. If your child tells you all about it, please DON'T show them the whole story as we are keeping it a secret until next week so that we can make predictions about what the characters should do next!

Our maths work has seen us begin to learn what multiplication and division are. We have been using cubes to act out stories that help us understand these two operations and their links to each other. We will continue to learn about division next week AND we will be launching TTRockstars in the next few weeks when we begin to learn our times tables facts. Look out for the TTR letter before the end of half term.

## Year 3 – Elm Class

We have had a very busy few weeks, continuing our learning about the Stone Age. In English we have finished reading A Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura and we have planned and written our own stories

based on travelling back in time to the Stone Age. The children tried hard to include setting description, character emotions and write in paragraphs! We will now be beginning to write information texts about Skara Brae.

In Maths we have finished our subtraction unit – we have worked hard to learn lots of new mental methods and choose the appropriate method to use for different questions. Next week we will be moving onto fractions!

In French the children have been learning new vocabulary connected to food after reading the story *Le chien très gourmand*. They have enjoyed working with a partner to have simple conversations, asking for some food and then saying thank you!

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

Year 4 have been working harder than ever since the start of the term! In English, we have been writing a diary from the point of Joseph Swan (one of the men credited with inventing the electric lightbulb). We have been looking at the present tense, coordinating conjunctions and fronted adverbials. In maths, we have been studying the 11- and 12-times tables and looking at mental methods of subtraction using rounding and counting on. We have now moved on to formal written methods of addition. In our theme work, we have answered the question, “What happens to food when it enters our body?” by looking at the different types of teeth and the digestive system. We also finished our work on electricity by testing for conductors and insulators. We are in full swing with our swimming lessons at GL1 and having a great time! In French, we have been looking asking for and giving directions. We are continuing to build our knowledge of Hinduism and have made some Diwali lamps from clay. Our work on the times tables is going well. Please remember to keep on with your work on TT Rockstars! Also, children should be bringing their school reading book in every day so please encourage this. Thank you for your support.

Year 5 have had a busy week! We have been working hard in Maths on factors and multiples and have completed some great problem-solving activities linked to this. The children have been introduced to a class book that we are referring to for our English lessons which is called *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo. The children have worked incredibly hard writing character descriptions and creating wanted posters for the gruesome beast ‘Grendel’ in the story. They have used some fantastic vocabulary. Year 5 have been busy with their topic work: Battle of the Middle Ages and have identified who the Anglo- Saxons were and where they came from. They used maps with colour coded arrows to show where the three main Anglo-Saxon groups came from and where they settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

Year 6 have embarked on one of our most ‘full-on’ terms, and we are busy little bees! Alongside our new learning in maths (this week we have been working on calculations where we use BIDMAS to help us with the order of operations) we have also been doing daily revision of other processes. In English we have begun to write our own Just So stories in the style of Rudyard Kipling. We spent last week reading the original stories and planning our own stories- from *How The Giraffe Got His Long Neck*, to *How The Snail Got His Shell*. Once we have written and edited them we will be telling them to the Year 1 children, just like Rudyard Kipling who told his stories to his young daughter. Last week in our music lesson we began to create rhythms with percussion instruments to emulate the movement of different creatures. In Biology this week we looked at how animals adapt to their environments in order to survive. The children have been enjoying dance and gymnastics in their PE lessons and considering the performance element behind this.

#### Young Voices

This time last week, we were midway through our rehearsal, singing and dancing at the BP Pulse LIVE arena! We had such an amazing time and our YV choir was an absolute credit to our school. Well done to each and every one of our children and thank you to the staff who made this experience possible (including Mrs Rowntree, who made a guest appearance!) We had a lovely email from one of our parents from the audience to say "I just wanted to tell you how wonderful it was and how much I enjoyed it! I am still singing and dancing in the car!" Thank you for your email- it means a lot!

If you want to relive the experience, a digital download of the concert is now available. We did have a close up when we were disembarking the coach and the camera crew were right next to us for quite a while during the concert, so we may well feature prominently! You can get the YV2025 concert video by heading over to [yv25film.co.uk](http://yv25film.co.uk) . The YV Choir of 2025 concert video is a unique and treasured keepsake, capturing joyful moments of the concert day from rehearsals to the performance. *PLEASE NOTE: All concerts will be available to stream for 6 months and downloadable to keep at the end of this period. Click [here](#) for more info.*

### **Friends of Meadowside**

Friends of Meadowside have begun the year strong and in our first meeting back after the Christmas break we discussed all our events for the rest of this academic and we have lots of fun events to share with you. Once we have sorted out the calendar in it's entirety we will give you a more thorough run down. However it is looking like our first two events will begin in March with our Annual Adult Quiz Night and bring back the Kids Bingo afternoon!

In preparation for these events we are once again looking for prizes we can offer for winners, so if you have any unwanted Christmas gifts or left over bottles then please consider donating to FOM to go into our prize pot. There is a donation box in reception you can place things in.

In the background we are currently working on supporting the school with a number of new purchases. Your children hopefully have mentioned the new playground equipment and we are hoping to buy more for the children soon and we will be asking them what they would like to have. We are also in the middle of sorting out a refresh and renewal of musical instruments for all students to use in their music lessons.

Reminders: Pre-loved uniform, we still have a good selection of branded school uniform for £2 per item in lots of sizes, if you need anything please email [friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)  
VOLUNTEERS - we would absolutely love and welcome some new people to join our ranks, if you would like to join our committee or just come and support when you can please get in contact with one of us or email with any questions you may have and we will be thrilled to have your support.

### **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>  |
|--|---|
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January                          | Year 3 Trip   |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January                          | INSET   |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                   | Year 1 Teddy Bears picnic   |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February                          | Year 6 SATs Evening 6.45 - 7.30 p.m.  |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                   | Year 2 trip   |
| Week comm - 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025                    | Year 5 Bikeability  |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February                      | Non-uniform fundraiser with the theme of LIONS. Children can dress up as one, choose similar colours, textures or prints, paint their face. Why? All will be revealed on the day! |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February                         | INSET   |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March                           | World Book Day! Dress up as your favourite book character   |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April                             | Parents' Evening  |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April                          | Parents' Evening  |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May  | Year 6 SATs week  |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May | Year 4 Residential  |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> June         | Year 6 Residential  |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June                          | Whole Class Photos (+ Individual Year 6)  |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June   | Readathon! (Pyjama day on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May)  |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                              | Sports Day  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                             | 'Shuffle up' day! (move to new classes for a lesson)  |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July                             | End of year reports out to parents  |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July                          | Whole School Picnic (4 – 5.30 p.m)  |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                             | Last Day of the School Year<br>Leavers' Assembly 9.15 a.m.  |

**Next edition due: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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

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



Meadowside School