

Spring Term Edition

Friday 7th February 2025

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
154 Termly Total 376	157 Termly Total 414	158 Termly Total 366	159 Termly Total 383

Message from Miss Thomas

As you will know, children from Meadowside have been taking part in an Oracy competition called Look Who's Talking. Each child who enters has the opportunity to present first to their own class as the audience. Winners then share their talk with the whole school and all staff, in the Hall. If selected for round 3, the children attend another school and compete against others in their age group, while parents and staff from other Gloucester schools listen in!

Three young Meadowsiders have just done this very thing and we have congratulated them all in assembly today for their bravery, confidence and skill in doing so. Presenting in front of unfamiliar faces is not an easy thing to do – well done to everyone who chose to step up and give it a go!

Attendance

It's been an absolutely brilliant fortnight for attendance at Meadowside! Well done everyone! We will be giving out certificates for **Excellent** and **Improving Attendance** in Celebration Assembly next week.

Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.9%**
- Unauthorised absences: **0.1%**
- Well done to **Year 1** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an amazing **98.7%!**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.8% (National 94.8%)**

Authorised absences – Exceptional Circumstances

Although we review each case separately, there are situations where we can authorise absences at Meadowside and they include:

- The wedding of immediate family member/s
- Respite for young carers
- Observing or attending a religious festival

- An opportunity to showcase an exceptional talent e.g. representing the school/county/country in a sport
- Serious illness or loss of a close family member. This is an incredibly distressing for a young person and their family. Our relationship as a school with you is as important as ever during this time. We are here to support you through these hardships.

Always fill out a request form (these are available on the website or from the school office) but do come and speak to us if you need to share more information.

Thank you,

Mr Port
Attendance Champion

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Cherry class

In our topic 'What's the story?' we have continued to create story maps, puppets and act out our traditional tales. There has also been some cooking going on: Bears flapjack, made with porridge oats and honey and jam tarts for Granny. So many different areas can be covered by cooking including talking, reading, motor skills, science and maths. Thank you all those who have contributed to our cooking fund so we can do more of this. We will be continuing with this topic for part of next half term as there are so many great stories to look at. In phonics we are becoming masters of the phonemes we learnt in phase 3. Another thankyou to those of you who have worked at home to fill in any gaps. It makes a difference and helps with your child's confidence and fluency for reading and writing.

Year 1 – Oak Class

This past fortnight has been jam-packed with excitement in Year 1! Not only have we made pizzas and celebrated our teddy bears' picnic (I am confirm, all bears were well-behaved and thoroughly entertained!) but we have also launched our brand-new topic too! On Monday, we received a mysterious note telling us to visit the bike shed. Once there we found another note and some clues that led us all the way around the school grounds! When we returned to class we were rewarded with a book and a toy cat! We are very excited to learn more about Beatrix Potter's life, work and stories!

In English, we have been focusing on our SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) skills in order to help us with a big project we have coming up linked to our topic after half term (more details to follow on this!).

In maths, we have been looking at measure. We have been comparing and ordering things by length and height as well as measuring length in non-standard and standard units of measure. We will continue this next week with height.

Year 2 – Beech Class

This week saw us conclude our Step Back in Time topic with a trip back in time to the Dean Heritage Centre! We all became Victorians for the day and our Victorian teacher complimented us on the effort we had made with our costumes, so well done everyone! The children took part in some activities from the time like hand washing Ma Meek's clothing and attending a lesson in the schoolroom! Well done to the brave volunteers who put themselves forward to demonstrate some of the punishments. Thankfully, Mrs Wright didn't cane any person... just a cushion- but it was still very shocking to witness! We have had a wonderful time wandering through Britain's history and we tried hard this morning to remember as many facts as we could. Dig out your Top Topic Facts sheet that we sent out at the start of this topic as poor Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell weren't mentioned until last!

We also concluded our Robot and the Bluebird story by David Lucas and were sorry to hear about our main character using up all his strength to save his best friend. We were pleased, however, that the Bluebird survived. This brought up interesting themes of giving and sacrificing something you like to help out someone else. In our maths lessons, we have begun to learn our times tables. We looked at constructing the 2 and 5 times and will think about the 10 times table next week. We will also be sending out information next week about how you can help your child learn these at home. The better you know your basic facts, the easier your maths in Key Stage 2 becomes, so please help your child in this new mathematical adventure!

Year 3 – Elm Class

As we are drawing near the end of our History Hunters topic we have been thinking about how and why life changed in the Bronze and Iron Age. Next week we will be concluding the topic by thinking about whether the prehistoric diet was a healthy diet. As part of our 'shine' work to conclude the topic, we are hoping to visit our forest school area on Wednesday afternoon, please send in a change of old clothes for your child... it may be very muddy!

After half term we will launch our new topic of 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles'. We are hoping to visit the SS Great Britain on Friday 28th February for the launch, however, at present _____.

Year 4 – Willow Class

Year 4 have been continuing our topic 'We Are Scientists' by learning about the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. We explored these in a fun experiment where we used ice cubes and salt to turn flavoured milk into ice cream. As you can image, all the children enjoyed eating the end product! In English, we have started look at explanation texts and ultimately, we will be writing on our own all about the digestive system. We have been focussing on the present tense, time connectives and subordinate clauses. In maths, we have been looking at the formal written methods of column addition and column subtraction. In computing, we have been using purple mash to write code and in French, we have learned the names of some vegetables, role playing with the phrase 'Je voudrais (I would like)'. In RE this week, we had a special visitor speak to us about the religion Hinduism to complement our RE learning this term. We have all been working hard on our swimming abilities on a Tuesday and on a Thursday, we have continued with gymnastics. We also had forest school this week, where we had lots of fun building dens.

Year 5 – Maple Class

The children in Year 5 have been enjoying their topic, 'Battle for Middle England' and have found out about the importance of Sutton Hoo and the Anglo-Saxon artefacts that were found there. They created a lovely page in their topic books describing what the artefacts were and what they were used for. They have also been finding out how the Anglo-Saxons have influenced many place names in England too. In Science this week, the children were busy being scientists by making predictions and observing over time how shadows change direction and size because of the Sun. Year 5 have also written some amazing instructions in our English lessons about how to catch Grendle (a beast from an Anglo-Saxon tale). They have worked hard in Maths to understand how to use the long multiplication method too. The children that have been signed up for 'Bikeability' are looking forward to their sessions that are starting next week.

Year 6 – Yew Class

Thank you for everyone who attended our Sats information evening on Monday. For those of you unable to attend here is a link for some of the information shared <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H2D1UI4pjE>. It was lovely hear your questions and to have had your support so thank you. We have completed our Just So Stories and we also met the Year 1 children who heard them. Our storytelling skills came into play

and they were gratefully received. It was so lovely to watch our oldest and youngest children interact so positively with one another. A beautiful moment. We have now started to research all about Charles Darwin and looked at examples of biographies in order for us to create our own. In Maths we continue to work on mixed numbers and fractions. It is by no means an easy concept but we are gaining more and more confidence. As part of Children's mental health week we have looked at regulating our own emotions and enjoyed the discussions. We welcomed also our School Beat officer to talk to us about online safety. In Art we are beginning to investigate printing techniques in the style of William Morris.

Sporting News

B team football – The B team attended a football tournament at Oxstalls. They played 4 games and unfortunately didn't win any, however they did show real grit and determination and scored two fantastic goals in their final game! They also showed great respect towards the referees even when the decisions didn't go their way! Well done boys!

Cricket Festival – On Thursday a group of 10 Year 3 children went to a cricket festival. This was a non-competitive taster opportunity. They had a great time learning new skills and taking part in batting, bowling and fielding activities. We do hope to see some of you at Cricket Club after Easter!

Gymnastics – Next week we are taking a team of 6 year 3 & 4 gymnasts to a competition. Good luck to the team... we will let you know all about it after half term! Gymnastics club for Y3&4 has now finished, well done to all those who attended and a HUGE thank you to our Meadowside Sport Leaders who came every week to help Mrs Bouvier with training!

World book day

As we reach the end of Term 3, we are beginning to turn our attention to next month's upcoming World Book Day! World Book Day will be in the second week of Term 4 and always comes up quickly! As stated on our school calendar, we will be inviting children to dress up as their favourite book character (see your ParentPay inbox for a letter with more details) but we are always looking for a brand new favourite read for our classes.

We do not ask for a donation when dressing up for World Book Day, but if you would like to help us promote the day with a new book, Meadowside has an Amazon wish list of many titles that teachers have added! You can find our list here <https://amzn.eu/hqMrkSN> if you want to help us update and refresh our library and book corners!

Look Who's Talking Oracy Competition

A HUGE congratulations to our 3 Meadowside representatives in the 3rd round of this competition. We sent a Year 2, a Year 3 and a Year 5 to local schools where they each had to present their 2 minute speech in front of a brand new audience. They all did a fantastic job and the teachers that went to support them came back very proud indeed. Unfortunately, our Meadowside winners were not chosen to go on to round 4 but we would like to say a very big thank you and well done for everything you achieved- you should be very proud of yourselves too!

Lions Dressing Up Day February 12th

This is a reminder that on Wednesday 12th February, children are invited to dress up for the day, in exchange for a donation to a 'mystery cause'. All will be revealed to children and families on the day itself!

The theme for the day is Lions and we'd like as many of those as possible! BUT, we don't want you to go out and purchase new outfits, so please use the suggestions below as a guide

1. Animal print items linked to any Big Cats
2. Brown, beige, yellow, orange, grey, black shades of t-shirts with any non-uniform items. Face paints, ears, headbands can be added.
3. Any clothing/pyjamas with pictures of Big Cats or patterns/prints (tigers, lions, panthers, cheetahs, Lion King merch etc)
4. Fluffy/furry clothing, preferably in the colours above.

If you are struggling for inspiration, please catch a member of staff for anything you'd like to confirm/run past us!

We hope it will be a successful fundraiser to launch the 'mystery project'!

Governor Update

Our next meeting will be on 12th February but in the meantime we have been working to get new governors up to speed with induction training for general governance and some specifics including budgeting and safeguarding. We have also started to establish our ways of working under the new model we adopted at the start of the year. We have two working groups. One focused on Budgets and Strategy and the other, affectionally titled, the 'Well and Good Group' works for the benefit of the whole school community and has been discussing which topics and themes will be the priority focus of its workplan. These groups will be presenting their updates and plans next week for the approval of the board.

Friends of Meadowside

Hello Meadowsiders! Friends of Meadowside have been quietly working behind the scenes so far this year, we are busy planning and buying!

We have just bought for the school a new class set of glockenspiels and recorders to help the students develop their music curriculum, we are sure the children will love playing these!

We have some dates for your diaries and further letters will be sent out in the coming weeks:

14th March Adult only Quiz Night!

28th March we are bringing back our Kids Bingo afternoon!

11th April we are holding our annual chocolate Easter Egg raffle.

Reminder: WE NEED YOU! Volunteers to help support FOM would be hugely welcome as we will struggle to hold future events without the kindness of people offering their time to support our endeavours. If you feel this is something you can help with please get in contact by finding one of us on the playground or contact us via our Facebook page.

If you have any left over items from Christmas presents or bottles you would like to donate to us to help with future raffle or bingo prizes please bring into school and we will gladly accept them.

As always thank you for your support as without your participation we would not be able to support the children of Meadowside and their education.



Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025

Monday 24th February 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Date	Event
Week comm - 10 th Feb 2025	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 12 th 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 th February	INSET
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day! Dress up as your favourite book character
Monday 31 st March 3 15 – 4 00pm	Classroom visits for families to look at Spring Term work
Monday 7 th April	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 9 th April	Parents' Evening
Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 19 th – Wednesday 21 st May	Year 4 Residential
Wednesday 4 th - 6 th June	Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 11 th June	Whole Class Photos (+ Individual Year 6)
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th June	Readathon! (Pyjama day on Friday 20 th May)
Monday 7 th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 8 th July	'Shuffle up' day! (move to new classes for a lesson)
Monday 14 th July	End of year reports out to parents
Wednesday 16 th July	Whole School Picnic (4 – 5.30 p.m)
Friday 18 th July	Last Day of the School Year
	Leavers' Assembly 9.15 a.m.

Next edition due: Friday 28th February 2025

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



Meadowside School