

**Spring Term Edition**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
122	114	133	133

### Message from Miss Thomas

Term 4 is a busy one for the school family. We have dressing up (World Book Day), fundraising (Comic Relief and Friends of Meadowside events) and progress updates (mid-year reviews, parents' evenings). Year 6 and pre-school children will also soon have confirmation of their new schools for September. We are looking forward to sharing these different experiences with children and families, all of which bring our school community together.

As well as the road works mentioned below, you will notice some landscaping starting soon, opposite the main school gates. JCA are clearing the corner and moving the boundary fence over the next few weeks. This should have minimal impact for us, but please keep a watchful eye on your children especially at the end of the school day.

### Attendance

#### Lateness

The issue with lateness has reached a point where we need to change our procedure. When we leave the gates open after the whistle, some children are taking a long time to get to the classroom and are not there when the register is taking place. This is causing a safeguarding issue at Meadowside. From **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, the school gates will be closed and locked when the playground whistle goes at 8.45 a.m.** We are not being grumpy, we have to follow a procedure to keep everyone safe. **If your child is late, you will need to sign them in at the office.** This will mean we have an accurate record of your child arriving at school.

#### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96%**
- Unauthorised absences: **0.3%**
- Well done to **Year 3** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a brilliant **97.2%!**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.7% (National 94.8%)**

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Cherry class

After half term the children were well rested and ready to go so we seem to have already accomplished a lot! We have been scientists, looking for signs of new growth outside. We also used our scientific skills to wonder about different vegetables. As mathematicians we have been adding two groups and ordering numbers. In our 'What's the story?' topic we have been looking at the enormous turnip this week. It has been great fun acting it out and even having a small tug of war on the grass. We did not try any turnip but we did use the vegetables to make a delicious soup.

### Year 1 – Oak Class

Year 1 have made a really good start to the term this week! You should have received a letter from your child on Tuesday inviting you to share a story we are going to be writing in the style of Beatrix Potter. We know we have a lot of work to do in order to produce these stories but we are all up to the challenge! In the last week of term and this week, we have been working on our art skills with drawing, colour mixing and learning how to use water colours too! We want to be able to produce some excellent illustrations to go along with our stories!

In English, we are building the foundations of language in order to make our stories as good as they can be! We have been learning how to use the conjunctions "and" and "because" accurately as well as focusing on our common exception word spellings. We have also been working on letter formation too.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions – specifically, what a half is. We know that this means splitting something into 2 equal groups and have been having a go at doing this with shapes, objects and amounts too!

### Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 continue the topic we launched just before half term- Let's Pretend. We have planned two performances- one that we will do with other GSP schools AND one just for you- a Faerie Assembly! For this assembly, we will be making our own costumes and have been thinking scientifically this week about what materials would be the most sensible ones to use. We have completed 30 separate experiments to find out the properties of these materials and have learnt the words absorbent, transparent, malleable, flexible and delicate, along with their meanings- try asking your child to recall the meanings (and actions) that we discussed! Next week, we will continue our investigations!

Our English work this week has been grammar based- we have begun to learn about how published authors affect their readers with the powerful vocabulary they choose... we are aiming to do this for you in our Faerie Assembly!!

Maths this term has begun with fractions- we have recalled our Year 1 work on halves and quarters and have now begun to look at what two quarters looks like before moving on to  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$  next week. We also launched TTRockstars just before half term and you should have received a letter about this explaining how to access it. Please help your child practise their times tables every week so that we can use this skill to work out fractions of amounts this term.

### Year 3 – Elm Class

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to term 4. Today we have thoroughly enjoyed our topic launch visiting the SS Great Britain in Bristol. We have learnt about the amazing engineer and designer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We were also very lucky to be able to see two of his other masterpieces whilst on the coach - Bristol Temple Meads station and Clifton Suspension Bridge! Ask your child what they learnt about him! We also had a tour of the ship and learnt about why the SS Great Britain is so special. The

children were brilliant representatives of Meadowside and several members of the public and museum staff commented about their great behaviour, manners and attitudes! Well done Year 3!

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

It has been a great start to this term in Willow class! The children started our new topic 'A Tale of two Cities' which is themed around the Romans and their influence on Gloucester (which was a very important city in Roman Britain). The topic launch included the children creating their own pop-up Colosseums! In maths, we have been learning different methods of multiplication, including the standard written method whilst in English we are learning about narratives (stories) through the story *Leon and the Place Between*. Ask your child about onomatopoeias, alliteration and comparative adjectives! Swimming continues to be successful and Thursday P.E. sessions will now be outdoor with a theme on net/wall games. In computing we took apart a PC and looked at the different components. The children found it fascinating! We will continue to look at parts of a computer next week. In R.E we have finished learning about Hinduism and have been beginning to learn about Easter. We crammed a lot into 4 days!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

It has been a great first week back for Year 5 – the children are working extremely hard. We are continuing with our 'Battle for the Middle Ages' history topic, and we are still working on the Anglo-Saxons part of this. The children have been busy finding out what Anglo-Saxon homes were like and have drawn some great diagrams to show what they were made of and what would have been inside them. The children have created some great information pages all about what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children have been using some wonderful descriptive language features this week in English lessons. They have used similes, metaphors, personification and prepositional phrases to write some fantastic setting descriptions of Grendel's swamp (the beast from our Anglo-Saxon story). In Maths, the children have been using short division to divide a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number including remainders. The children are very much looking forward to doing an art project next week where they get to design and make an Anglo-Saxon brooch.

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

It was an unusual start to the term this week in Year 6. Upon entering the classroom, it became clear to the children that they had stepped back in time to 1939! The usual Year 6 teaching team had been replaced by some rather strict, cane-wielding teaching staff. Unfortunately, lessons were interrupted when (over the wireless) Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced the commencement of war. Everyone reflected on what this would mean for themselves and their families. Later that day, we looked at the events that led up to World War 2 and the countries that were involved. We also unveiled our exciting new book- *When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle. It is set in London in 1941 and we have already begun to explore the characters and write persuasive letters from the perspective of one of them. Fractions continue in maths- we have discovered that multiplying them is actually easier than adding or subtracting them! Alongside this we are continuing with lots of revision of everything we have learned from Year 3 to Year 6.

#### Sporting News

**B Team Football:** Despite being very competitive, the B team lost to Kingsway in the cup. We scored 2 great goals and defended really well but lost the game against a very strong team 7-2. We are really proud of you, boys!

**London Marathon News:** One of our Meadowside family, Heidi Toogood, is taking part in this year's London Marathon. To read more about her story and to make a donation, please follow the link below:

[https://2025tcls londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/heidi-toogood?utm\\_campaign=website&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=enthuse#qrCode](https://2025tcls londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/heidi-toogood?utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=email&utm_source=enthuse#qrCode)

### **Friends of Meadowside**

Spring is in the air and Friends of Meadowside have lots of exciting events to look forward to this half term. We have been quietly recovering from Christmas but now we have lots of fun things for you all to take part in over the next few weeks. Please look out for our letters in the email for more details.

I want to share all the things we have coming up to help you plan your time and gather things you need (e.g. Easter eggs are cheaper now and maybe worth buying before the event needs them)

**14<sup>th</sup> March is Adults Only Quiz Night** at school starting at 7.30. Teams of six and included in the cost of your ticket your table will have some nibbles to enjoy and it is BYO drinks. Tickets can be purchased via the office or using the QR code (the simplest method of purchasing tickets) this is on the posters for you to scan.

**28<sup>th</sup> March - Kids Bingo Afternoon** - straight after school we will hold our bingo games in the school hall and we will have a little tuck shop open for some fun snacks. We will sell the bingo sheets the week before this event.

**1st April - Break the Rules Day** when students can pay fines to break a school uniform rule, such as wear nail varnish or non uniform or wear a tattoo - a full list of ideas will be shared with you all.

**31st March - 11<sup>th</sup> April Easter Egg Raffle** - We will be collecting Easter Egg donations for these two weeks and selling raffle tickets to win Easter Eggs! Prizes will be given out on the last day and most people who buy a ticket will win at least one prize (depending on amount donated before).

Thank you for your support with this - we have a big project coming up and all contributions no matter how big help enormously! We know that things are a little tight and we always aim to make sure all our events are as cheap for parents as possible.

Look out for further info and posters in our display board in the car park.

### **Governor Update**

The governors are having a busy period at the moment as we are settling into our new model of operation. We have partnered with an external provider of clerking services for the board following Ms Wilks decision to move on from this particular aspect of Meadowside life. The board are grateful to Kate for all her work over the years and glad that she is still around with her knowledge of the job and school.

Our meeting was a success with useful reports from all governors on how they have been engaging with their link teachers to define the priorities for their roles. I am sure there will be some more detailed updates on different aspects of that work in the future. We are short of a governor at the moment and will be looking to recruit in the near future, so if you are interested in governance, leadership and community volunteering please reach out to one of us to find out a bit more.

In the meantime, there is the matter of recruitment of a new head teacher for Meadowside. I know that Ms Thomas has been very touched by all the feedback from the school community at her news. I also know this momentous occasion will not go unmarked so I am going to spare her and all of us an emotional moment right now. However, I did just want to highlight that the governors are leading the recruitment process with a firm focus on getting the best for Meadowside and are being as collaborative as possible in the process to ensure that ideas of

what is best are shared in our community. We do also have support in our plans from senior teachers and the county school advisers.

If you would like to see the advert to get an idea of what we are hoping for all the information is on our website. I will try to organise some socials too and really encourage you to share these when you see them.

<https://meadowsideschool.co.uk/recruitment/join-us-headteacher/>

### **Lions at Large Fundraiser Update**

Thank you so much for your support so far—we are thrilled to have raised £560 of our £750 target for the Lions at Large project! To help us reach the final amount, we are holding a bake sale during break time on Friday 7th (and after school if there are any treats left!). Cakes will be 50p each, so please bring some change and enjoy a sweet treat for a great cause. Please also continue to share our JustGiving link with friends and family, every little bit helps, and we'd love to hit our target before June!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/meadowside-lion>

### **World Book Day**

Last half term, we sent you information about how we are celebrating World Book Day this year at Meadowside. Just a reminder that the key information is:

*This year, everyone in school will be studying the same picture book (for now, this is a secret – we will reveal all on World Book Day!)*

*As you will have seen from the school calendar and the Friday Fortnightly, we are asking children to dress up to help celebrate World Book Day this year. We would like the children to come dressed as their favourite book character.*

We spoke with the children last half term about not buying a costume and holding to our school value of Being Environmental- we discussed with them easy ways they can use things they likely already have in their wardrobes that could be put together to have a home made costume. Please see the World Book Day letter on your ParentPay account for the full details!

We look forward to seeing their costumes!

### **Planned Road Works**

And finally, just in case you have not seen the signs- there are planned roadworks due to start on the traffic lights at the entrance to Green Farm. The information we have says it is upgrades to the traffic poles and that there may be 'some disruption'! The timings are set to be between 9.30-15.00 but please bear this disruption in mind when travelling to school in the morning from further afield!

## **Key Dates for your diary**

### **INSET Days 2024/2025**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Date	Event
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Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day! Dress up as your favourite book character
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week Assembly and challenge. Welcome to Poppy's dad, who will be a guest speaker and set the children a challenge to complete.
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	World Down Syndrome Day (wear your favourite socks!)  2.30 p.m: Year 4 Residential Parent Meeting
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Comic relief
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Parent story sharing <i>shine</i>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	3.20 - 4 p.m. Parent Book Look. All welcome!
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Active Ambassador Day
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents' Evening
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 1 Trip
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Term finishes at 2 00pm
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term begins at 8 35am
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 23 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	DT (Design Technology Project Week)
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  Leavers' Assembly 9.15 a.m.

**Next edition due: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

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



**Meadowside School**