

**Spring Term Edition**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
133	145	136	127

### Message from Miss Thomas

As you know, we have a set of values at Meadowside which bind us together as a school family. We use those values in our learning and in our daily life and we reward the children who embody these. Understanding is the last of these and one which, alongside the need to show respect, we are currently trying to encourage and highlight. All adults in the Meadowside family are role models for the children - they learn from us and they look to us for guidance and support when they are unsure or make mistakes. We feel it is important to champion tolerance, equality, and appreciation at a time when they are often under threat or devalued, especially online. We will continue to hold the children to account and have the highest expectations of them, because we know it will make a difference as they grow up and become adults. Please help us to do this in the conversations you have at home; we will have a greater impact if we work together.

### Attendance

#### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.7%**
- Unauthorised absences: **0.5%**
- Well done to **Year 4** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a brilliant **98.7%**!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.8% (National 94.8%)**

Thank you so much for your support with being on time over the past fortnight. We are now able to ensure children that are late are ending up in the classroom as quickly and safely as possible. We've noticed a drop in 15 lates compared to the previous fortnight. Keep it up! Mr Port – Attendance Champion

### Meadowside Class News

Reception – Cherry class. Last week smelt the best so far as we were looking at the story of the Gingerbread man. We ended up making and eating 3 gingerbread people each! We also watched a musical version of the story by members of the BBC philharmonic orchestra. The Gingerbread man had a special song which we learnt very quickly. This week we have made an enormous giant and thought about

what we would purchase if we had all the giant's gold. The whole school have been involved in science week, it was very loud in our outside area as we experimented with the egg zip wire. Counting down to egg release made it very exciting. We made lots of predictions and had a go at making our own egg carriers although this proved to be very tricky. In maths we are looking at numbers 8 9 and 10, putting them on 10 frames and comparing and ordering them. Well done those who had a go at the doubling homework, it helped with our confidence this week.

#### Year 1 – Oak Class

As we are nearing the end of our A Tale of Tails topic, Year 1 have been working very hard on their Beatrix Potter inspired stories this week! Like all real authors, we are drafting them this week ready for publishing in best next week! We will also be working on some illustrations as well. We know you are going to love them! (Reminder that you can come and share these with your child on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 9am-9:30 in the hall.)

We took a little break from our normal topic work this week to do some science work as it is British Science week! Ask your child about our egg zip lines and which materials work best for making an umbrella!

We have also been working hard on fractions this fortnight. We have learnt what a half and quarter are and how to split these into equal groups. We have also been solving problems linked to fractions too.

#### Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 are approaching the end of our Let's Pretend topic! You should have received an email this week with key information for our coming Topic Shine AND GSP Shakespeare festival. If you have not yet sent in a t-shirt for your child to turn into a faerie costume, please note that this is now overdue! We will be sewing costumes on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> between 1-3pm. If you are able to come and help us on either (or both) of these days, we would love all the help we can get!!

Our English work has focused on faeries as we eagerly create descriptions for you to hear and enjoy in our Topic Shine Assembly on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. We have been working hard on learning about new grammar features such as possessive apostrophes and positive and negative adjectives so that we can bring our faeries to life!

In maths, have completed our work on fractions and have turned our attention to telling the time! In Year 2 we have to be able to tell the time on an analogue clock (not digital) and be able to tell the time to 5 minutes. This is increasingly more difficult in a digital world, so please help your child practise this at home too. Smart phones and watches both usually have the option of displaying an analogue clock rather than a digital one- every little chance to practise will help!

The next few days are set to be a fun filled but busy end to the topic!

#### Year 3 – Elm Class

We have had a very busy few weeks following our visit to the SS Great Britain. In English we wrote a short report on the visit and answered the Key Question 'Why is the SS Great Britain so important?'. We have now moved on to think about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and why he is considered a great Briton. Why not ask your child to tell you all about the different things that he designed and created...you will be amazed! On Friday we also enjoyed a DT Day, where we were trying to be engineers like Brunel and we had to undertake a series of bridge building challenges!

In maths we have now finished our work on the formal methods of column addition and subtraction, we will however keep revisiting these methods to make sure that we remember them! Next week we will be starting a new unit of work on multiplication and division, the children should already know their 2,3,4,5,8

and 10 times tables. Please try to practice these with your child as a rapid recall of these facts will really be beneficial in this unit of work.

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

Year 4 are always working at full steam! In maths, we have been using formal written methods of multiplication (our excellent knowledge of our times tables facts really helped us here!) and dividing by 10 and 100, looking at place value and mental division. In English, we have continued looking at our power of reading book 'Leon and the Place Between'. We have explored the vocabulary used and planned and written what we think happened to Leon when he became part of the magic show he was watching and disappeared inside a box! We have focussed on expanded noun phrases, prepositional phrases, use of speech and varied vocabulary. In our topic lessons, we have been learning about the Celts and what life was like during the Iron Age. We have studied Boudicca and why she is remembered as a brave and fierce leader! Our swimming lessons are coming along nicely but we only have a few sessions left now! It would be fantastic to have all children participating for the last few weeks.

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

Year 5 are working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum. Last week, in our maths lessons, we translated and reflected shapes within a grid and this week we have been ordering and comparing fractions with different denominators. In English, the children have continued working on the Anglo-Saxon legend, 'Beowulf and the Sea Hag' where they have written a super character description of the Sea Hag using figurative language (metaphors and similes) and a range of other descriptive language features such as alliteration and expanded noun phrases. This week, the children have been writing their own versions of the legend where they have worked hard to structure their writing using paragraphs and have used dialogue effectively to move their story on. In our art sessions, the children have enjoyed researching and designing Anglo-Saxon brooches. They have had great fun creating their brooches out of clay and painting them using metallic paints. They look amazing! The children had fun participating in Forest School this week too. Next week, the children will have a great 'Viking Day' experience to look forward to with our educational workshops and visitors. This will launch the second part of our 'Battle for Middle England' topic which is exciting!

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

Life continues to be very busy in Year 6, but the children are keeping up with the pace and doing us proud. In our English lessons we have been preparing to write a continuation of a narrative set during an air-raid in London during WW2. We have explored various literary devices and have been trying to polish up on our punctuation. We have constructed sentences where we 'show' the reader how our character is feeling (through their actions, body language and physiological responses) rather than telling them, written dialogue with reporting clauses which help build the picture of our character, explored simile and metaphor in our setting description and used rhetorical questions to show the thoughts of our character. We look forward to putting all of this together in our independent writes next week! In maths we have been trying out some more reasoning, focussing on determining what exactly the questions or directives are expecting of us. Many of us feel confident with arithmetic, but the reasoning can be more difficult and require an extra level of thinking. In our new learning, percentages are well under way. So many children chose to give up part of their lunch time on Wednesday for the 'SATs Surgery' where they continued to rehearse percentages- we are very proud of you for this enthusiastic approach to your learning! Beyond the core subjects we have experimented with eggs in Science (ask your child for more details), delved into the world of rationing and the menus of typical WW2 families (ready to create our own WW2-style dishes) and enjoyed some of the popular music of the era!

### **Sporting news**

#### **Football**

Last week the girls' football team played a match against Hempsted School. The children were great representatives of Meadowside and played well as a team with great determination. Unfortunately, the final score was 1-0 to Hempsted, but we were very proud of each and every member of the team. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Drummond for her continued support!

After losing to Shurdington last Friday in a penalty shoot-out, the A team were ready for a huge game against Huntsgrove yesterday. Despite playing brilliantly, the boys lost 2-0 in a really close game. Sadly, that marks the end of the season for the Meadowside football teams in years 5 and 6. I am really proud of the boys and the effort they have shown this year.

## **Friends of Meadowside**

A reminder from FOM - please remember that the more you are able to contribute or participate in any way the more your helping us support the school.

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)

**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).

Morrisons have some good offers on at the moment it will be worth buying now and bringing them in at the end of the month instead of waiting until then.

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**

Such a short term and such a lot going on for us governors!

This is the time of year we review and return our School Financial value Standard. This helps to provide schools with assurance that they are meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management. This document will be approved at our next board meeting.

We are also continuing our usual practice of reflecting on our practice and ensuring everyone in the school are all aligned in our thinking on school strategy, strengths and future goals. With the establishing of our Well and Good focused governor group we will be ensuring that goals and strategy are conducted in ways that make a meaningful difference to how we all feel in school. This group will present to the board their initial ideas soon.

Of course we are also working on the small matter of recruitment and we have had hopeful visitors kindly toured by Mrs Whitlock and Ms Mellersh who will be very good sales people because we now have a high level of applications to shortlist next week.

Interviews are at the end of the month, the selection process will be as widely involving as possible and include parent perspective. If you have a question you would like us to consider using on interview day please send it in to us via e-mail or the suggestion box in the office. We will review any supplied for common themes and a sense of what is important to you and make sure the key ideas are a feature in our process.

## Key Dates for your diary

### INSET Days 2024/2025

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

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
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Trip
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 28<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)**

