

Spring Term Edition

Friday 28th March 2025

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
114	133	119	135

Message from SLT

We are proud of the way our children have conducted themselves during an important week for Meadowside. Our values were on display in the thoughts and actions of our school family and to have had such positive feedback from all our special visitors makes us smile.

Happy Mother's Day to all and let's hope for some sunshine. The lovely weather really does put a spring in everyone's step. See you Monday.

Mrs Whitlock

Attendance

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.4%**
- Unauthorised absences: **0.3%**
- Well done to **Reception Cherry Class** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a brilliant **98.2%**!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.9% (National 94.8%)**
- Lates: **49**

It has been a very positive fortnight for attendance at Meadowside. You can see there are still a lot of late arrivals. Please be on time to drop your child off in the morning and if they are walking on their own, they need to arrive in time.

As always, we are here to support you with attendance and if you would like to speak to me about anything, please get in touch with the office.

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Cherry class

It has been the best week getting ready for our ball for the celebration at the end of our topic. We have taken the ballroom dancing very seriously and have really enjoyed learning something different. Look out for some of us on strictly come dancing in the future! The children decorated the classroom with flags and banners. They also designed and made crowns to be worn on the day. Thank you so much to all the parents who fitted the children out in their best. They all looked fantastic! I hope they all had as much fun as we did.

As well as our topic work we have been continuing with our phonics and reading. The children are doing well with their knowledge of phonics and are really becoming more confident readers. Keep up the work on the common exception words, they tend to catch us out when we are reading.

In Maths we have been looking at number bonds to make 10, eg $1+9=10$, $5+5=10$ etc. We have also been looking at odd and even numbers. The number blocks were a great help with the latter.

Next week we will be starting our new topic. More information on this to follow.

Year 1 – Oak Class

How lovely it was to see so many of you yesterday morning to share your children's Beatrix Potter inspired stories! I am sure you will agree that the children have worked extremely hard on these and we hope you were impressed with their efforts! That signals the end of our A Tale of Tails topic, but we eagerly await launching our new one next week! (You will receive details about our new topic after the launch.)

In English this week, we have been showing off everything we have learnt so far in Year 1, including different punctuation, spellings, suffixes and independence! We will return to some more topic based English work next week.

In maths we have been working on addition, in particular, speedy mental addition. We have been looking at methods to make this quicker and even raced using fingers and calculating mentally to prove that mental calculations are faster! This is great to try at home! Test out giving your child two 1 digit numbers to calculate mentally (begin with numbers that will not total over 10) or a single digit and 10. If they're confident at this, try 2 single digit numbers that will total more than 10 or if they're really confident a single digit and a 2 digit number.

Year 2 – Beech Class

What a busy week we have had! This week, we finally concluded our topic Let's Pretend by performing on the stage at Ribston High School. If you came along to see it, I am sure you will agree that we were one of the best schools on the stage! You will be receiving information about how to order the DVD in the next few days, so keep an eye on your email inbox for details!

As if that wasn't enough, we also launched our brand-new topic Buckets and Spades! We will be taking the children on holiday as part of this topic but unfortunately everything went wrong during the launch and the adults all got muddled about our destination! So, the children have helped us plan a topic to learn more about holidays and, once we have learnt everything we need to know, we will be able to go on a successful holiday together! New topic newsletters, Top Topic Facts and knowledge organisers will come out early next week so that you know all the exciting things we have planned.

Our maths work this week has been particularly tricky- we have been trying to learn to tell the time to five minutes! We have got better at telling the time to the 5 past times, but the 5 to times are still quite a challenge! Please support your child at home by helping them practise telling the time on an analogue clock. The Learning With Parents homework from last week was all about this, so if you need to watch a video to know how we have done this in school, please log into your LWP account. The more the

children see an analogue clock, the better, so if you have devices where you can switch the display from analogue to digital, please do!

Year 3 – Elm Class

Once again, we have had a very busy few weeks. In maths we have moved onto multiplication of 2 digit numbers by one digit ... this has been quite tricky as it involves quite a few different steps. Please help reinforce your child's recall of the facts for the 2,3,4,5,8 and 10 times tables.

In science our focus has been physics, we have been thinking about forces and how friction can slow vehicles down, we designed and carried out an investigation to see how different surfaces affected the distance a car could roll. We discovered that smoother surfaces had less friction, so the car would roll further.

In music we have been working very hard learning to play the recorder, we have had to show great resilience as it can be quite tricky! Whilst learning to play the recorder, we have been learning about notation too! The children have decided that they would like to share their recorder playing with their parents... watch this space!

Year 4 – Willow Class

This week, Year 4 have been learning all about Gladiators and some of their jobs. We have heard about how Greek society thought it was great entertainment to watch their fights! Our English work has focussed on our publishing skills. We have published our stories that we wrote on the book *Leon and the Place Between*. In mathematics, we have been revising our angles knowledge and have been practising recognising acute and obtuse angles. And finally, we have been learning more about our feelings and emotions in our Life Skills lessons. We have been using our acting skills to think about our reactions to situations and have been discussing whether the reactions portrayed in our sketches were reasonable and proportionate!

Year 5 – Maple Class

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their Viking day last week and had fun learning all about the Viking way of life. They got to try on helmets and lift the protective armour, sword and shield which were very heavy! The children have been busy learning about fractions, decimals and percentages in maths and converting these. They have really enjoyed reading our class book for our English lessons: *The Viking Boy* by Tony Bradman. The children have engaged well with it and have enjoyed learning more about the characters in the story as well as picking out key vocabulary. Our topic work has involved learning about key Viking beliefs and the children have created a fact page all about this. In French, the children have been learning about school equipment and school subjects and have put these into sentences both verbal and written. In PE, the children have been refining their paired gymnastics sequence and are looking forward to showing each other on the last week of term.

Year 6 – Yew Class

We have had a productive couple of weeks in Year 6. We continue to enjoy uncovering more knowledge and skills linked to our topic: 'A Child's War.' In music we have been learning more songs from the era and know of Dame Vera Lynn and the Big Band style. Our art skills explored a variety of media and some of our skilled artists have some work on display in the Key Stage corridor. It centres on a child evacuee against the backdrop of the countryside. Our cooking and nutrition skills were utilised when we made *Homity Pie*-a World War 2 favourite-and this was devoured by the children. Who needs expensive meat when you can make a pie out of rations and vegetables? I'm sure they will be requesting it for tea

sometime soon. In History we began thinking about our next Key Question: What did the adults do? This looked at the roles of the women and the part they played in the war effort.

In English we have written a continuation of a narrative from our class text: When the Sky Falls and in Maths we have learnt about ratio and proportion. This was particularly enjoyed on world maths day on Wednesday when we could look at this complex concept using jelly beans! Sweets does make maths fun for sure.

Sporting News

A huge congratulations to all our Year 5 and 6 gymnasts who represented Meadowside at the Gloucester Schools Key Steps 3 competition. The team had been practising very hard for a few months. Each child had to perform two vaults and a floor routine; the scores were then added together to calculate a team score. The team showed great determination and were fantastic representatives of the school. The team placed 4th overall (out of 12 schools)!

Special mention also goes to the two members of the team who were awarded individual medals, with Meadowside coming 1st and 3rd in the individual vault competition, with our winning vault scoring a huge 9.7!

Congratulations to all!

Friends of Meadowside

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 - 11th 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).

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.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Monday 31 st March	3.20 - 4 p.m. Parent Book Look. All welcome!
Friday 4 th April	Active Ambassador Day
Monday 7 th April	Parents' Evening

Wednesday 9 th April	Parents' Evening
Thursday 10 th April	Year 1 Trip
Friday 11 th April	Term finishes at 2 00pm
Monday 28 th April	Summer Term begins at 8 35am
Wednesday 30 th April	Year 4 Trip
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 23 rd June – Friday 27 th June	DT (Design Technology Project Week)
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 11th April 2025

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



Meadowside School