

**Spring Term Edition**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
134 Term Total - 503	150 Term Total - 542	119 Term Total - 507	156 Term Total- 551

## Message from Miss Thomas

It has been an eventful fortnight! Parents Evenings and family visits to classrooms, sporting and quiz events and the small matter of recruiting a new Headteacher! The summer term is always busy - with Y6 SATs, trips, residentials, and end of year events still to come. We also have the arrival of our Meadowside Lion in early May, which we will be decorating and preparing ready for the summer trail around Gloucester and Cheltenham. When we know exactly where ours will feature, we will let you know all the details.

I hope everyone in the Meadowside family enjoys a well-earned break – hopefully the sun will continue to shine!

## Attendance

### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.3%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.4%**
- Well done to Reception Class as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a brilliant **98.8%!**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **95.9% (National 94.9%)**

Remember, fines for unauthorised are issued from the 10<sup>th</sup> session missed over a period of 10 weeks.

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Cherry class

As next term is so short we have started our new topic already- How can we help? We have talked lots about how we can have helping hands and given out lots of kindness tokens as the children have been helping each other and us. We are trying to help make our environment better by feeding the birds and planting some pots up. It was also lovely to go into the meadow several times last week for a story. This week we have asked what we can do to make sure we have a smile like a star. It was good fun cleaning the big teeth and talking about our toothbrushes. We also talked about getting wobbly teeth and going to the dentist.

In maths we have been looking at 3D shapes and pattern. As it is almost easter it seemed a good idea to make patterns on eggs. Hunting for eggs in forest school was also great fun; we made patterns with the eggs that we found and won prizes.

It was good to talk to so many of you at parents evening. Thank you for your support. Have a happy holiday.

#### Year 1 – Oak Class

What a brilliant time we had at our multi-skills trip this week! The children got fully involved in all of the activities and even enjoyed a dance party with some chicks and the Easter bunny! We were also complimented by the coach driver on how polite and well-mannered all of Oak Class were!

As next term is so short, we have already launched our topic which will see us through to the end of the year and what an exciting launch it was! We had to decode a message, solve some riddles, build a map puzzle and unlock the treasure chest to find out what we would be doing! So far, we have learnt about the 4 countries of the UK and their capital cities, we have added some features to a map of the UK and had a go at drawing a key!

In English, we have been working on our descriptive writing to try and convince Mr Grinling, the lighthouse keeper, to eat a little more healthily. Having read the menus, I am certain that Mr Grinling will be ready to change his diet for what the children have designed! In maths, we have been focusing on our subtraction skills and methods to make subtraction speedier. Subtraction is an area that a few of us are still finding tricky and would be a good area to think about over the holidays to boost children's confidence.

Enjoy the Easter break, everyone in Oak class has certainly worked hard and deserves a good rest!

#### Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 have been exploring the wonders of the United Kingdom over the past fortnight- we have learnt about England, Wales and Northern Ireland so far and have found out their capital cities and flags as well as their locations and some of their key physical features. Try testing your child's knowledge at home as they will need to remember this because we continue Key Question 2→ What holiday destinations in the UK? when we come back after Easter. If your child wants to refresh their memory or find out some more information, we have been using the website [www.projectbritain.com](http://www.projectbritain.com) for all things British! Happy investigating.

In English, we have been planning stories and retelling folk tales from around the UK- ask your child to retell the sad events of the legend of Beddgelert- we were most shocked!

In maths, we have been working hard on money again! We have begun to learn about giving change too, so keep up the practise at home (as well as revising telling the time!)

Happy Easter!

#### Year 3 – Elm Class

Wow, what a busy term it has been! We've ended the term with a mathematical egg hunt – the children had to find 30 eggs with a wide variety of questions on them, based on all our maths learning so far! We had great fun, and all the children received a little filled egg as a reward for doing so well.

In computing we've been learning about spreadsheets and how to use a cell address, how to insert information and even using the formulae wizard to help us complete tables!

In science we have learnt about forces, including friction and magnetism, after Easter we will try to apply this understanding to help us design and make a moving vehicle. Please remember to send in a shoe box (or something similar) which will form the chassis of their vehicles.

Wishing you all a fantastic Easter!

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

Year 4 have had a fantastic end to this term. We hope you all enjoyed your Roman libum- the children certainly enjoyed making them! We used this experience to write instructions in English and create a recipe for Roman libum, focussing on imperative verbs, adverbs and time connectives. In maths, we have been looking at place value: adding and subtracting hundredths and diving by 10, 100 and 1,000. In our topic work, we have made Roman shields and learned about the gladiators! Our swimming sessions culminated in a fun session and are now finished for the year. We had forest school this week and worked on our orienteering skills whilst partaking in an egg hunt. The Year 4 team hope all the children have a restful and enjoyable holiday, ready for our trip in the first week back after the holidays!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

Year 5 have had a busy term and have worked incredibly hard. The children have written some fantastic newspaper reports this week in English using our 'Viking Boy' text as their inspiration. They wrote about the Valkyries taking a hero warrior to Valhalla (Viking heaven). They have worked hard to include a headline, a strapline, reported and direct speech for their quotes as well as writing using cohesive paragraphs. They have also listened to the music, 'The Ride of the Valkyries' by the composer Richard Wagner and drawn a picture to show what the music represented to them. In maths, the children have been converting metric units of measure for length and applying their understanding of multiplying and dividing measures by 10, 100 and 100. In history, the children have been finding out about how Vikings travelled and have drawn some great diagrams of longships. In PE, the children have presented their gymnastics sequence to the class and assessed each other's work. Have an amazing Easter break everyone – you deserve it.

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

Year 6 are so ready for a two week break after a jam-packed half term! We have been working hard in revision groups to get ready for our SATs tests and had a taste of what the real thing will be like during our mock tests this week. The children were fantastic, and it was great to see them using all of the knowledge they have worked so hard at securing recently. Those exciting Year 6 treats are almost within our grasp, just a few more weeks of hard work to go! In English, we have started to learn the story of Hans My Hedgehog- an unusual tale of a baby who is born half-human... and half-hedgehog! We considered how this event might be presented to the world today and have begun preparations for some newspaper reports which we will write after the Easter holiday. In Science, we investigated which materials would be most appropriate to be used to cover windows during a blackout- considering transparency (we tested each material using a torch) along with cost and ease of assembly. Music has been in the air and children have continued to learn songs from World War 2 and have enhanced more notation skills by reading melodies and rhythms and practising some of these on glockenspiels. Have a wonderful Easter break!

### **Sporting News**

#### **Year 1**

What a brilliant time we had at our multi-skills trip this week! The children got fully involved in all of the activities and even enjoyed a dance party with some chicks and the Easter bunny! We were also complimented by the coach driver on how polite and well-mannered all of Oak Class were!

## Girls football

It was a pleasure to take a team of year 4 and 6 girls to The Croft School to compete in the brand new Croftside Cup! The girls competed extremely well over the entire match and took the opposition to extra time after a score of 0-0 at full time. It still couldn't be decided and so it had to go to penalties, with The Croft winning 3-1. We are so proud of our team as they represented us so well. Go girls!

## Golf

A team of year 4 children entered a Tri-Golf competition against in the sunshine at Hartpury College. For all of the children, it was the first time they had played golf and they were fantastic! They have all asked to play again next year which tells us how much they enjoyed it.

**Festival of Sport** – Children from Year 1 to Year 4 competed in a sports festival with a range of different events like Boccia and curling. The children all had a great time and represented the school so well.

### **Time Out for Parents: Children with Additional Needs Course.**

The course begins on **Thursday 15th May 2025, 10am- 12noon**, in person at Treasure Seekers, 52 Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2NF.

There are 7 sessions on consecutive Thursdays (There will be no session on Thursday 29th May during the school break). The final session is on Thursday 3rd July 2025.

The cost is £40 total

**Parents can book a place on the course using the link below:**

<https://kftseekers.org.uk/service/time-out-for-parents-children-with-additional-needs/>

This course is for parents of any child with an additional need for support, if:

- **You are struggling to understand or manage your child's behaviour, or**
  - **Your child has developmental challenges, or**
  - **Your child becomes overwhelmed by their emotions, or**
  - **You're feeling isolated because of your child's needs, or**
- **Traditional parenting methods are just not working well for your family,**

Absolutely no official 'diagnosis' is necessary, you don't even have to know what might be causing your child to need extra help.

Through the course we encourage a willingness to explore ideas and find out what works for you and your family. We recognise that all children are individuals and no-one knows your child better than you. The course offers practical, jargon-free advice and practical steps to engage and build relationships with your children with additional needs. The course is also a great opportunity to build relationships with other parents.

There are seven sessions, including:

1. Parenting Children with Additional Needs
2. Self-Esteem
3. Coping with Your Feelings
4. Understanding Behaviour
5. Managing Behaviour
6. Home and School Issues
7. The Wider Family

Time out for Parents: Children with Additional Needs is run by licensed facilitators for 'Care for the Family'.

### Key Dates for your diary

#### INSET Days 2024/2025

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

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> June)
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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

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

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



Meadowside School