

Spring Term Edition

Friday 9th May 2025

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
110	114	110	129

Message from Miss Thomas

The children have demonstrated all of our school values in many different ways, over the last fortnight. We have made huge progress with our Meadowside Lion; every child has had the opportunity to paint something, with some of our Lion Leaders showing both artistic and leadership qualities during the project. We have also reminded ourselves of the reasons why the project is good for the Gloucestershire community.

Several classes have taken part in handwashing workshops this week, discovering more about how germs are spread and why hygiene is so important. A team from the Winfield did a great job bringing this learning to life for us.

Years 4, 5, and 6 had the first of their class music tuition sessions this week in Ukelele, Flute and Trumpet respectively. I am sure the progress they will make over the next 10 weeks will be impressive. Thank you to Friends of Meadowside for agreeing to fund this initiative.

Year 6 have their KS2 SATs Tests next week. Good Luck to you all, from the Meadowside Family!

Attendance

Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **97.7%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.5%**
- Well done to **Year 4** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a brilliant **98.9%**!
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96% (National 94.8%)**

We have spent time analysing our attendance compared to 2023/2024 and it has revealed that 2024/2025 is a very positive year for attendance at Meadowside:

- Overall absence has improved
- Unauthorised absence has fallen
- Persistent absence (children that have missed more than 10% of school) has fallen

- Compared to this time last year, there are 52 less lates

Well done everyone and thank you for your support!

We will contact you to offer support if we notice any sudden changes in attendance, but we are also here to support you with helping your child through the gate. Mornings can be challenging and the thought of leaving home to come to school can cause children to worry. Children are almost always fine once they cross the threshold into school and we are able to help you all through this challenge. If you need any help or advice then please speak to a member of staff on the gate or office.

Mr Port
Attendance Champion.

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Cherry class

We have been having a busy week learning about the people who help us in an emergency. We now all know it is 999 you need to call in an emergency. So far we have talked about the fire service and the police. The highlight was a visit from PC Murphy and her police car. She talked to the children, let them try on a variety of police hats, answered questions and let everyone sit in the front of the car. Next week we will talk about the people who help us in a medical Emergency, we are hoping to have another visitor. Well done to all those who got a learning with parents certificate, following up school learning at home makes a difference. In maths we are looking at numbers over 10 and doing simple addition sums. We are still doing lots of practical work but are starting to record more in our individual maths books.

It is the time of year when we start thinking about transitions in Reception. We will be going over to see the children at Little Meadows next week. We will tell them all about what we do at school and take time to get to know them a little better so they have a familiar face to spot when they come over to school next term. The children are trying to be more and more independent, getting ready for year one. Where has this year gone?

Year 1 – Oak Class

Year 1 have successfully answered Key Question 1 – How do sailors navigate? and have found a new respect for sailors in times before satnavs and Google maps! We have loved exploring the UK, creating our own maps and even looking at where different countries are too! We now move on to Key Question 2 – What stories did sailors tell of the seas? We have been finding out how sailors from long ago, truly believed in things like sea monsters! We also have been using our art skills from our last topic to paint a sea scape after finding out about the art of JMW Turner.

In English, we invented and described our own mythical sea creature. The children were very creative and I almost had to sleep with the light on because some of them were so scary sounding! Luckily, there were also some friendly and helpful sea creatures to read about too! We are really working hard on our phonics at the moment too. We have been putting our real and alien word knowledge to the test! Please make sure you are reading regularly with your child to build their confidence and develop their joy of reading. In maths, we have been telling the time to the nearest hour and half an hour. We only do this on an analogue clock; digital time is not covered until Key Stage 2. This is a brilliant thing to work on at home too as the more children look at clocks, the easier it is to recognise time.

Please ensure you have made the deposit (or spoken to us if you need more time) towards our trip to Weston. We do not currently have enough payments for the trip to go ahead. The decision will be made on the 23rd of May as to whether or not we can go.

Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 have now travelled all around the UK in our geography lessons! We have visited England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland finding out the capital cities and some key features of each of these places. See which of these facts your child can remember! This week, we have been finding out how different life on the Scottish islands in the Hebrides are and we have heard about the life of Katie-Morag, a fictional character that lives in a very different way to us in Quedgeley. We were astonished to find out that she doesn't have mains electricity AND all the year groups in her school are in 1 class! See what else your child can remember of life on a remote island!

This week we will be moving on to Key Question 3 to find out more about the rest of the world. We will learn 2 songs to help us name the continents and oceans of the world and you could use this [Continents and Oceans game](#) to help your child know where each of these are in the world.

In maths, we are continuing to look at measures but this time of real life things and their length, height, weight and capacity. You will see this reflected in our Learning With Parents homework over the coming weeks so keep logging on every Friday- every little bit of practise helps!

****The deadline for first payments for our trip are due by 23rd May, so if you have not yet done this, please do so in the next 2 weeks so that our trip is able to go ahead.****

Year 3 – Elm Class

We are drawing near the end of our topic of 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles'. The last few weeks have been focused on Design Technology, with the children designing and making a wheeled vehicle whilst thinking about forces. In maths we have moved from division onto money and calculating change. Next week we will move onto finding fractions of amounts. If you wish to help your child with this, keep practicing the 2,3,4,5,8 times tables and the related division facts, a quick recall of these facts will be really beneficial!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning to play the recorder in our music lessons. We have started to learn to read music, learning about beats in a bar, notation and rests. The children asked if they could share their learning with their parents, so we would like to invite you to the hall on Friday May 23rd at 9am for a very short recital. The children will perform a few short pieces for you!

Next term we will be starting a new topic, and our new class text will be The Ancient Egypt Sleepover by Stephen Davies. The children really do enjoy being able to read along in class, if you have a copy or decide to purchase one, please make sure it is named.

Year 4 – Willow Class

We've really enjoyed that past couple of weeks in Willow Class. The trip to Gloucester really helped the children understand the importance of our city to the Romans. Being able to go under the city streets to see what the Romans left behind was fascinating! Elsewhere in history, we have been learning about Roman numerals to 100! In P.E, we have begun units of work on Athletics and Rounders, whilst in Computing we have been learning about how to use the web to search effectively. In maths, we began with comparing decimals before moving on to converting between pounds and pence. We've been learning all about adverts and the powers of persuasion in English. We are working towards creating an advert for a Roman Villa, similar to the adverts for properties you may see on Right Move! The writing will include prepositional phrases and subordinate clauses as we have to consider the grammar carefully in order to make our selling points clear. In Life Skills, the children are learning about making good choices. This is something to talk about in all areas of life so why not explore this idea with your child at home. It could be

choices about their health, safety or when it comes to friendship challenges. The next Friday Fortnightly will be written once residential has happened! We cannot wait to share our adventures with you all!

Year 5 – Maple Class

We have had another busy couple of weeks in Year 5 since the Easter holidays. The children have enjoyed participating in their weekly swimming lessons at GL1 and are gaining more confidence in the water. The children have started to learn to play the flute. They had their first lesson this week and did brilliantly. They have ten lessons altogether and we are looking forward to next week's session already! We are busy finishing our Viking topic and the children have worked hard to create a mixed media collage of a Viking longship in their art lessons. They look great displayed in the classroom! The children have written some informal letters and a setting description based on the class book Viking Boy. In Maths, we have been busy converting metric units of measure for length, capacity and weight and we have converted some imperial units of measure to metric units too. We will be moving on to a long unit calculating fractions next. In Guided Reading sessions, the children have been studying, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and have loved learning about the characters. In RE, our Christian unit this term is, 'What would Jesus do?' and the children have written some wonderful, creative poems about love. The class also attended a hand washing workshop this week where we worked with some nurses to understand the importance of hygiene.

Year 6 – Yew Class

We would like to start by thanking you all for the time and effort put in to ensuring Year 6 kept their skills ticking over during the holidays with their Easter homework packs. Every bit of revision counts and this, along with the hard work we are doing at school, just helps the children ensure they are going into next week's tests feeling as confident as possible. Revision can get a bit dry, so we have been learning through games, quizzes and hunts this term- it can get quite competitive! In our history lessons we have been looking at Anderson shelters and their use during the second world war. The next job is to design and build our own in DT lessons! We have also celebrated VE Day by performing the wartime songs we have been learning in our music lessons. Speaking of music- on Wednesday we had our first whole class ensemble tuition where we all had our own brass instrument to play. We will be doing this every Wednesday for the next 10 weeks. The teachers were speechless as we were THAT good....seriously! WOW..... new Glen Miller band may well be the way to go! We continue to put our journalistic skills to the test in our writing sessions. It really is not as easy as you think we have discovered. Sensationalistic journalism has a real craft to it. We have loved some wellbeing opportunities out in Forest School where we really do enjoy our problem solving and team efforts. This will mean we also are showing great signs that the residential will be a welcome opportunity in a few weeks' time. Hopefully all parents received the arrangements and notifications regarding next week's breakfast club and water fight? Meadowside memory making at its finest.

Sporting News

Quad Kids

On Friday May 2nd we took a team of year 2 and year 4 athletes to the Blackbridge Athletics Track to compete in a Quad Kids event. Every child had to compete in 4 events: a sprint, a middle-distance run, a long jump and a throwing event. We were extremely proud of the many sporting values displayed by the children, respect, teamwork, honesty, self-belief and determination to name a few!

We were delighted to be placed 3rd out of 18 schools in the year 2 event AND 3rd out of 19 schools in the year 4 event! **Every child who competed helped us achieve this fantastic result.**

We were also particularly proud of two of the year 2 children, who won individual **GOLD** medals for each winning the overall individual event (1 boy and 1 girl) - CONGRATULATIONS on this amazing achievement, with both children coming in 1st place out of 160 children!

Year 2 Pupil muddy run for Cancer research

During half term Zach in Year 2 asked several times if he could do a 5K run which his Parents were delighted to hear! A couple of days later he then watched an advert for cancer and said he would like to do his race to help lots of poorly people get better. His sister Harper also said she would like to do it and help, so the family are now all doing it together as Team Davis.

Please see the just giving links below, any help is very much appreciated.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/zacharys-race-for-life-405>

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/sallys-race-for-life-273754>

Charity Cake Sale – Friday 16th May at break time and after school

A group of enterprising Y4s are organising a cake and bracelet sale and lucky dip next Friday, to raise money for Maggie's in Cheltenham – the centre supports people going through cancer treatment as well as their friends and families.

All purchases are 50p and any leftovers will be sold at the end of the school day in the car park.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025

Monday 21st July 2025

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 June)
Wednesday 18 th June	Parent reading event (Details to follow)
Friday 20 th June	School Discos
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 23rd May 2025

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

www.meadowsideschool.co.uk

