

**Summer Term Edition**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
150 Term Total 260	161 Term Total 275	155 Term total 265	120 Term Total 249

## Message from Miss Thomas

There has been a lot going on in this very short term; a quick read of this week's newsletter demonstrates this perfectly! The Meadowside school community goes from strength to strength, and I hope it is something you will all continue to nurture and treasure after I have gone, because it makes the school such a special place to be.

Changes are afoot this half term! The courtyard area is being transformed over the next few months, starting with the removal of the central structure over half term and block paving being laid. It will initially be open-plan, but phase 2 will be to redesign this 'quiet area' of our school. Watch this space, quite literally!

Have a lovely week off and we will see you all on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 8 35am!

## Attendance

### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.2%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **1.2%**
- Well done to Reception Class as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with a SATs induced brilliant **99.4%!**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96% (National 94.8%)**

It is very positive to see such a great attendance picture at Meadowside over the past few months. To all the parents and carers, you are doing a wonderful job!

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Cherry class

Our topic is coming to an end and we have learnt a lot about how different people can help us. Last week we had visit from St John's Ambulance. We learnt how to do the recovery position, we applied plasters and bandages. Thank you to Mrs Hamilton for showing us how to do this. We also loved our visits to Little Meadows.

In Maths this week we have learnt about shapes. In drawing club we looked at the book Lost and Found. We had our PE lesson with Pete. The children have learnt some new ball skills. Pete asked the children to keep practising and hopes to see the children again next year in year 1. Have an enjoyable half term break and we look forward to term 6.

#### Year 1 – Oak Class

What an exciting time we have had in Year 1 over the past fortnight beginning to answer Key Question 3 – Which voyages are the most famous? We have begun by learning all about Titanic and it has truly captured the children's interests! We have found out all about what the ship was like and how luxurious it was, we have charted the course it should have taken on a map, we have created a time line of events during the crash and even held a debate about who was to blame for the sinking.

In English, we have been linking our work to Titanic too. We have hypothesised about what some of the artefacts that have been recovered might be and who they may have belonged to. We have written postcards as though we were on board Titanic, describing how luxurious it was and then again from on board Carpathia describing the tragic ending. We even had the opportunity to touch an "iceberg" and see just how chilly those icy waters were!

In maths, we have been learning the beginnings of multiplication. This involves understanding that the x symbol means groups of and knowing that we need to make those groups equal. To support your child in this, please ensure they can count confidently and accurately in 2s, 5s and 10s. This will also be really helpful for our division work after half term too.

Please make sure you keep up your reading over the holidays – we have been working extremely hard in school to prepare for an important booklet that we will be reading after half term!

#### Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 have been busy this week answering Key Question 3→ What holiday destinations are there outside of the UK? We have continued to learn about the continents and oceans of the world and have found out about some of the foods that come from these different places. We linked this learning back to our Step Back in Time topic when Britain took foods from other countries as part of their colonisation. This week, we have learnt a little about one of the many countries that make up the continent of Africa- Morocco. We have compared this country's landscape, buildings and culture with Britain to help us understand just how different countries can be!

Our English lessons this week have been linked to the theme of holidays- we have been discussing postcards and how very few people send these nowadays as we use technology instead. We have been looking at the informal nature of postcards and will be choosing a book character to write to at the end of this week. If you are going on holiday over the half term break and would like to send us a real postcard, that would be a very exciting thing to come back to next half term!

In our maths work, we have been practising adding and subtracting two 2-digit numbers and learning how to find the calculations hidden within a written problem. Keep practising on TTR and Numbots every week to help your child become a fluent and accurate calculator!

**Please note- if you have not yet paid for our (secret) school trip then your payment is now overdue.**

#### Year 3

Year 3 have now completed their topic of 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles' and we hope you enjoyed coming in to our 'shine' recorder recital, which was the culmination of our recent music lessons. In Science have been learning about sources light and how shadows are created, and we enjoyed investigating how shadow sizes changes in relation to the distance of an object from a source of light.

In English we have been busy learning about Bessie Coleman and using her life as an inspiration for our persuasive writing. In Maths we have been finding fractions of objects and amounts - the children were amazed to see just how important knowing their times tables is and how knowing them made the calculations so much easier! Please continue to work with your child on learning the 2,3,4,5,8, and 10 times tables.

Next term we will be starting a new topic, and our new class text will be *The Ancient Egypt Sleepover* by Stephen Davies. We will be using this book for both whole class guided reading sessions and reading for pleasure. 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

Year 4 have had a jam-packed two weeks, with our highlight being the residential to The Wilderness Centre! The children braved two nights away from their parents and were all superstars! We took part in activities such as bush craft, low ropes, archery, crate stacking and tunnelling. Our evenings were filled with beautiful walks exploring the wilderness, campfires and making memories with our classmates. We tested our independence, surrounded ourselves with the natural environment and made the most of the opportunities given to us. It was quite a shock to get back to the classroom! In class, we have come to the end of our topic *A Tale of Two Cities* by thinking about the legacy of the Romans in Gloucester, pulling together all that we have learned. In Maths, we have started looking at fractions and in English we have studied some tenses in preparation for writing a recount about our residential for the purpose of parents reading all about it! We have still been working hard on our times tables – the multiplication tables check will take place in the first two weeks back after the half term so please keep practising at home and encourage the children to play on TT Rockstars. We started our ukelele lessons last week and the children are all thoroughly enjoying this. We hope you all have a lovely half term and come back refreshed for our final topic of the year!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

We have started our final topic for Year 5: *Curious Cases*. The children all enjoyed our topic launch day where they got to be detectives, take fingerprints and use their observational skills. We have been busy doing some science investigations this week where the children have classified materials and objects according to their properties. They have also identified materials that are absorbent and waterproof.

In Maths, we have been subtracting fractions. The children have worked hard to subtract a proper fraction from a mixed number and they can now confidently convert fractions to equivalent fractions with the same denominator. In English, the children have been busy writing their own mystery stories inspired by a picture of their choice from the book, *'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick'* by Chris Van Allsburg.

The children performed their Viking Rock song to the school this morning - they have had great fun learning this song in their music sessions this term!

Have an amazing half term, Year 5 – you have worked incredibly hard this term.

## Year 6 – Yew Class

Yippee! We have finally completed our SATs! Last week the children wowed us with their attitudes to every test. Breakfast club was full of smiles and positivity and every single child gave it their all. We are very proud. From conga-ing around the school to getting soaked in the water fight, we have certainly celebrated in style. On Friday, the big reveal of our class production was announced, and children began preparing audition pieces at once! The auditions were fantastic- monologues, poetry, singing and dancing... some of these children have been hiding some real talent! It did make for a difficult casting job, but the children now all have roles and can begin the job of learning lines over the half term. Please encourage your child to do this so that we can focus on the acting, singing and dancing next term! The learning does not stop either and we have been very busy editing and publishing our newspaper reports, investigating maths mysteries and constructing our own air-raid shelter designs in DT. On Wednesday afternoons, the delightful sounds of the baritone horn and trumpet can be heard as your musical children continue with their brass tuition. You would be amazed at how quickly they are picking it up! Have a wonderful bank holiday and half term break before the madness of our FINAL TERM AT MEADOWSIDE begins!!

## Sporting News!

### Mountain biking

Huge congratulations to our amazing Year 6 Mountain Biking team. They competed yesterday in their first ever competition... and won! □ Congratulations to each and every one of them for showing grit, determination and perseverance. They were great representatives of Meadowside and were commended for their teamwork and also for showing great kindness to other teams as well!

### Clubs

It has been great to see so many children sign up for our sporting clubs this term, making the most of the glorious weather and many of them trying out a new sport for the first time.

### Next term

We are busy planning events for next term and are excited that we will be able to offer some new for Meadowside events and the return of a few of our favourites. We hope to be able to report more good news very soon!

## Y4 Big Sale

The Year 4 children who were responsible for organising this event did an incredible job! With the support of their parents, they prepared cakes, a lucky dip, hand-made jewellery and a Name the Teddy competition. Thank you also to the Meadowside School Family – your donations raised £210 for Maggie's cancer care in Cheltenham. A great initiative, super teamwork and an impressive total – very well done!



## Staffing News

I'm delighted to tell you that Mrs Nicholson (Y1 TA) is expecting her first child in the Autumn. Congratulations to Ellie and her husband on this exciting news!

## Friends of Meadowside

Friends of Meadowside have had a quieter couple of weeks but we have been busy organising in the back ground. Through our fundraising events we have be able to fund music lessons in years 4-6 which we hope to continue to fund for subsequent year groups for the children of Meadowside. We have also seen the benefits brought to the children learning to play the percussion instruments and recorders which were bought by Friends of Meadowside. We are very proud to be supporting the wider curriculum at Meadowside school.

We are also beginning an exciting change over the next term to the courtyard area outside the Glade to turn it into a new play area for the children. This is a big project and hopefully you will see the changes soon!

Thank you to everyone who came yesterday afterschool to purchase items at our table top sale. If you weren't able to make it but need some pre loved uniform please get in contact with us and we can let you know what stock we have left.

Upcoming events: the end of the year is fast approaching and we have a couple of our long standing events scheduled.

20th June Summer Disco - tickets will be on sale from the first day back.

4th July - Sponsored Walk event - this is always a fun afternoon. Details of how to sponsor your child will come next half term

Unfortunately we are not holding a summer event this year, you may have noticed no spring hunt has happened. This is partly due to a busy spring/summer term but more largely to do with lack of volunteers and help. We are a really in need of some people to who are able offer some of their time to help at events or even better be a part of our committee and help us to shape future events at FoM. Each year people leave our group as their children move on and we are struggling to replace them. Without your support all these extras like musical instruments, lessons, play area upgrades etc will be lost as we cannot run events with just 2 or 3 volunteers.

We have our AGM meeting on Friday 11th July which will be held at school at 7pm. Please come along to see what we have done for the year and be a part of the plan ahead.

As always thank you for your support and if you have any questions please contact us via Facebook or email.

## Key Dates for your diary

### INSET Days 2024/2025

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

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)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent reading event (Details to follow)

Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	School Discos
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	DT (Design Technology Project Week)
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Athletics Competition (team selected from Y2-6)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June/Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Maths Puzzle Workshops (all year groups attend a 1 hour slot)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	'Shuffle up' day! (move to new classes for a lesson)
	Year 6 End of Year Performance!
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
	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9.15 a.m.

**Next edition due: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**For all key dates, remember to visit the school website at  
[www.meadowsideschool.co.uk](http://www.meadowsideschool.co.uk)**

