

Summer Term Edition

Friday 13th June 2025

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
168	155	191	171

Message from Miss Thomas

Preparing for change can be daunting but we try to anticipate and explore these feelings in our assemblies and life skills sessions during the term. We are keen to be **Aspirational** in our next steps, new classes or new school, gain **Independence**, take new **Opportunities** even if they take us beyond our comfort zone and show **Understanding** of our emotions, how we can manage these and empathise with others.

Year 6s have been meeting tutors and staff from their new Secondary schools. At Meadowside, children will meet their new class teachers and teams on Shuffle Up day - Tuesday 8th July - and their school reports will be sent to you in the final week of term.

And of course, Mr Port and I are working together to ensure a smooth handover. He and Miss Palmer have welcomed the new intake of families to Meadowside this week. Although it feels strange for me not to be involved this time, the staff team have it all under control! And in case you were wondering...we are not going to appoint a new Deputy Head as yet. Miss Mellersh and Mrs Whitlock will continue in their Senior Leadership roles next year and support Mr Port and the school family with enthusiasm and expertise, as they always do!

Message from Mr Port

The children have been getting used to my brand-new haircut this week! They've been incredibly kind and had lots of questions. I've answered them honestly. I have alopecia and decided to shave my head. It's quite patchy but it matches my Meadowside sign language sign, the leopard! I am fit and well and feeling positive about my new look.

Attendance

Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.9%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **1.3%**
- Well done to Year 6, who are on a roll with another fortnight of awesome attendance of **99.6%!**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.1% (National 94.9%)**

We handed out 'Improving Attendance' certificates just before half term for those children that have shown a positive improvement in their attendance over the past few weeks.

It's also important to recognise that 42 children at Meadowside have 100% attendance! A huge well done to all these children!

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Cherry class

A very energetic launch to our topic (Where shall we go? How do we get there?) involved scooting and cycling all around the playground. The children loved showing their friends their bikes and scooters and demonstrating their riding skills. During the session we managed to ask several of the questions that the children had generated in their planning session. Other questions have been trickier to answer, for example how do you make a road? Luckily the BBC have come to the rescue and Maddie's do you know? series has proved invaluable for explaining this and several other questions. This week we have asked how do you travel through the air. Apart from making hot air balloons for our Mini Mes we have had fun with paper planes and talked about going on a plane. We have planned our packing and looked at Atlases to try and comprehend just how big the world is and where we could go. In Maths we have been sharing fairly into equal groups and looking at odd and even numbers.

Year 1 – Oak Class

Year 1 have had a very busy start to term 6! We have been learning all about some other famous voyages from history including those of Christopher Columbus and Sir Francis Drake. We have been analysing how history sometimes doesn't tell us the whole story and some of us have even come to think that perhaps Sir Francis Drake may have been a pirate! By the time you read this, we will have done some pirate food tasting – ask your child if there was anything they liked (or didn't like!) and why pirate food wasn't necessarily the best!

In maths we have been learning all about money. We have started with the main coins under £1 and have been recognising them and solving problems. Next week, we will learn more about pounds and notes. This is a really important life skill to work on at home with children, thank you to those of you who have been doing the money skills Learning with Parents topics – it has made a real difference!

In English we have focused a lot on reading in the last week and have now begun a new mystery class book! We know it features a girl, a crocodile and a treasure map but this is all we have so far! We have started to create plans for finding gold and even drawn our own treasure maps!

Year 2 – Beech Class

Year 2 were very excited to learn that our planned holiday will be a traditional 1900s holiday- a day trip to our local beach Weston super Mare! We have been learning all about holidays from this era as we try to

answer Key Question 5- **How (and why) have holidays changed over the past 100 years?** We were stunned to find out that many people didn't go on holiday AT ALL and even if you did, it was just a day trip. How lucky we are to be able to afford many more trips than this nowadays! Please note that if you have not yet paid for this trip, payments are now overdue.

We will be studying 3 eras over the rest of our topic- 1900-1930, 1930-1970 and 1970-2000 and these will be the basis of our English lessons as we create 3 reports in our topic books- one for each era studied. We will be looking at the following aspects and comparing the eras with each other and nowadays- destination, accommodation, transportation, entertainment and clothing. We will be putting our historical skills to good use as we discuss the changes we notice.

Our maths work this term will be a culmination of everything we have learnt in Year 2! We have been practising all four operations and this week are focusing closely on fractions. Times tables and number bonds are the foundations of these and help with solving a variety of different areas of maths, so please help your child to learn these. Use TTRockstars and Numbots as fun ways to practise (and earn a house point each week too!)

Year 3

We have had a great start to the final term of the year! We started with the launch of our new topic - 'Tomb Raiders'- during this topic we will be learning about Ancient Egypt and making links with our previous learning about prehistoric Britain. We have compared the eras on a timeline and learnt about where Egypt is. We have also thought about how we know so much about life in Ancient Egypt.

In Maths we have been learning to tell the time on analogue clocks to the nearest minute. This is a skill that is quite tricky. Please help your child by regularly asking them what the time is!

In English, we have been looking at a variety of Cinderella stories from around the world, looking for similarities and differences. This week we have been looking at the story of the Egyptian Cinderella, thinking about the different characters in the story. We look forward to reading more of the story!

Year 4 – Willow Class

Year 4 enjoyed a musical start to our new topic 'Let Me Entertain You' when they split into groups to write their own song based on the story of the three little pigs. All children were brave enough to perform in front of the class and Mrs Whitlock, who chose two winning groups! In our topic, we have been learning about how sound travels by discussing vibrations and air particles and have begun looking at how we can change sounds. We did an experiment to see how differing amounts of water in a glass changed their pitch when hit with a beater. We have also begun to look at the CAMs mechanism in DT in preparation for making toys later in the term. In English this week, we have been writing a recount all about our time on the residential, which we will be sharing with you all soon! The children have made huge improvements in their writing. In maths, we have been looking at fraction and decimals equivalents. Our ukulele lessons are also coming along well; we have learned 4 notes now! The children all did fantastically in their Times Tables Check this week and should be exceptionally proud of themselves! A restful weekend is in order!

Year 5 – Maple Class

Year 5 have enjoyed being scientists the last couple of weeks and undertaking some investigations in class. They have been finding out which materials are magnetic, conductors or insulators. We set up an electrical circuit to see which materials let electricity flow through it to light a bulb and which did not. They tested a range of objects: a coin, blu-tak, rubber band, brick, lego brick, tin foil, brick, ruler and a pencil. They made predictions, collected and recorded results in a table and wrote conclusions to explain their outcomes. Another experiment involved thermal conductivity and identifying which drinking vessel kept the heat in the longest. We collected data by taking the temperature of hot water from four different drink

cups with lids (plastic, glass, ceramic and metal) every five minutes for thirty minutes. The children found that the metal drinking cup held the heat the longest! They presented their findings using a line graph.

In English, the children have been learning how to write a discussion text. They have explored the features of a balanced argument and have answered the question: Should dogs be kept on leads in parks? They have used formal language and structured their writing using a clear introduction, paragraph for the argument, paragraph against the argument and a conclusion. Next week, the children will apply their understanding of writing a discussion to write about whether Banksy is an artist or a criminal!

In maths, the children have explored how to calculate the area of rectangles and squares and investigated how to find a perfect rectangle!

Year 6 – Yew Class

Wow! What a start to our final term the residential was! It was a fantastic time filled with smiles, laughter, can-do attitudes and memories to last a lifetime. We could not have asked for more from the children and the adults came away feeling incredibly proud. Year 6 showed that they are ASPIRATIONAL, INDEPENDENT and OPPORTUNISTIC in a range of ways over the course of the three days- nobody was ready to come home! This week we returned to normal school life with a hilarious English writing unit- negative Trip Advisor reviews. Look out for these when your child brings their work home at the end of the year as they are sure to provide you with a laugh! In maths we have been problem solving and tackling times tables beyond the 12 x table, using mental methods. We also had our first RSE lesson where we focused on the reproductive body parts of humans. We managed to squeeze in some script reading too this week, although we do ask that children please learn their lines at home so that we can get started with the fun bit- the acting! Our final topic (Dreams and Aspirations) is about reflecting on how far we have come and where we want to go in the future. We have looked at inspiring stories of young people who have achieved great things, and started to talk about what we want to achieve in our own lives. Let's make this final term a special one!

Sporting News!

This week, a group of 12 children from years 4-6 took part in a rounders tournament at Denmark Road playing field. Although we did not win any of the matches we took part in, the team were absolute star players. It was a fantastic opportunity; they worked well as a team, we saw some fantastic hits and fabulous fielding. They were even true sportsmen by soldiering on through the rain! Great fun was had by all and they should be extremely proud of themselves!

Reading Afternoon Parent Event

Hopefully you have now seen your invitation to our reading event on Wednesday 18th June! We love reading at Meadowside and know that it has huge benefits in terms of developing children's understanding of the world, broadening their horizons and helping them feel happy and content by taking time to relax with a good book. Story time is often our favourite bit of the day and the English Team would like to invite you to a huge 'story time' - our Reading Afternoon Parent Event which will take place around the school on Wednesday 18th June from 3.30-4.15pm.

In a busy world, we know that it is becoming more difficult to make time for this precious part of the day so the aim of the event is to demonstrate to you some ways that you can easily build reading into your daily life and allow you and your child to make positive links to snuggling down and getting lost in a good book. Children from some of our classes will show you how they use stories and reading opportunities to enhance their learning across the curriculum and all the different ways that reading can be enjoyed.

Governor News

Governor Update - New governors wanted

As we approach the end of the academic year it is time for us to consider the governors we need in place to support our new head and teachers next year and so, we are launching our recruitment round for new governors.

Almost anyone can become a school governor but many feel it is not for them because it sounds so formal and official. It is true that it carries a level of responsibility to your governor colleagues and the school to give it a meaningful effort but no special qualifications are needed—just a commitment to making a positive impact and a willingness to give it a go and learn. Training and support are provided, and you'll be part of a team working together to ensure the best outcomes for all our children.

School governance is about giving to your community but it also gives back, evolving your business and leadership skills and broadening your perspectives and experience of the education system and those that deliver it.

School governors play a vital role in supporting the leadership team, ensuring high standards of achievement and helping to shape the vision and direction of the school. As a parent governor, your voice can bring a valuable perspective to discussions and decisions—grounded in the real-life experiences of families like yours. If you know someone who maybe interested but does not have a child at school please also encourage them to apply as their experiences, culture, talents and interest can all make a positive difference to our school.

There could be several new roles in the new academic year so if you're interested, please contact the school office and leave your name and contact info so we can give you more information.

Friends of Meadowside

As we head speedily through our last term we have a few more events to highlight to everyone at home

Summer disco - 20th June. Tickets are being sold in the car park until Wednesday 18th June. After this point no more tickets will be issued, please make sure you have got your tickets by this date.

If you are able to help at either or both discos please let us know on friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk as without help we cannot run the events without you.

Sponsored Walk will be happening in school on Friday 4th July. All info on how to sponsor will come home in a letter soon and this will happen in school on that day.

FOM AGM will be held in school at 630pm on Thursday 10th July. Here we will have our yearly round up of what we have achieved and what we plan to do next year. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate our year with us.

Finally, many of you will have noticed that we have had work done in the courtyard which is situated between the KS1&2 classrooms. We have made the space a blank canvas so we can plan some more outside activities for the children in the new year. We will begin fundraising for this in September and the children and school will help us plan what would be best suited for the spot. Exciting changes happening to school!

Thank you all for your continued support.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th June	Readathon! Pyjama day on Friday 20th June
Wednesday 18 th June	Parent reading event 3.30 – 4.15pm
Friday 20 th June	School Discos
Monday 23 rd June – Friday 27 th June	DT (Design Technology Project Week)
Wednesday 25 th June	Athletics Competition (team selected from Y2-6)
Monday 30 th June/Tuesday 1 st July	Maths Puzzle Workshops (all year groups attend a 1 hour slot)
Thursday 3 rd July	Year 1 and Year 2 trip
Friday 4 th July	Sponsored Walk
Monday 7 th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 8 th July	'Shuffle up' day! (move to new classes for a lesson) Year 6 End of Year Performance!
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 Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9.15 a.m.

Next edition due: Friday 27th June 2025

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



Meadowside School