

**Summer Term Edition**

**Friday 11th July 2025**

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
86	95	77	103
Term Total 371	Term Total 361	Term Total 403	Term Total 368
Year total 2214	Year total 2358	Year Total 2260	Year Total 2245

## Message from Miss Thomas

Can you believe we have reached the final newsletter of the year and my final Friday Fortnightly EVER?! It's impossible to describe in just a few words how I am feeling about leaving you all. We've had a wonderful 2 weeks in school, which has allowed me to soak in the very best of Meadowside every day. Year 6 children have all been on visits to their new Secondary schools and have no doubt also been reflecting on what they will miss most, as well as what they are looking forward to.

The school is changing as it always does each September, but it is also evolving. I will still be a frequent visitor, but I know that the things I believe are most important for our children will continue to be at the heart of Meadowside - kindness, inclusivity, excitement for learning, team ethos and the care and support for everyone in our Meadowside family.

I hope to see you all next week to say my goodbyes. Have a wonderful summer everyone!

## Attendance

### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **2.6%** This is slightly higher than usual due to holidays being taken in term time.
- Well done to **Year 2** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **98.2%**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.1% (National 94.8%)**

Thank you for working hard to help us improve attendance this year. We have had a really successful year. We will continue to monitor attendance next academic year and we are here to support and work with you through attendance difficulties.

For now, you can all have an authorised 6 week holiday, starting next Friday!

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

## **Meadowside Class News**

### **Reception – Cherry class**

Wow, last week was a busy one. On Tuesday we walked up to the church. The children were all great on the walk up and behaving in a polite and respectful way in the church. The children loved the stained glass windows and were great at spotting all the symbols we had been talking about. A big thank you to Rev Mark for welcoming us and talking to us about the church. Thank you also goes to the parents who walked with us. Then on Thursday, great excitement we went on a coach to Barnwood park to take part in their multi skills festival. We all had a great time trying out different games and activities. It was noted by the lady running it how well our children listened and behaved. Well done Cherry class. The week ended with our fantastic effort in the sponsored walk. I bet you were all exhausted by Friday at the end of school, I know I was!

This week has not been much quieter with sports day where all the class participated and had fun. The year 6 play was a great treat in the afternoon and then shuffle up to meet their new teacher on Tuesday. The end of term is fast approaching. The year has flown by. I have so enjoyed watching Cherry class learn and grow, getting to know them all and being part of their Meadowside journey. I look forward seeing what you will do next. Happy Holidays.

### **Year 1 – Oak Class**

What a brilliant time we all had in Weston last week! The children had so much fun playing on the beach, paddling in the water, showing off their sandcastle teamwork skills and avoiding pesky seagulls! It was the perfect end to our topic and a whole year of very hard work! We have now begun transition conversations and will continue this into next week to ensure that all children are feeling comfortable and confident about becoming Year 2s in September.

In maths, we have been finishing off our work on capacity and wrapping up everything that we have learnt during our time in Year 1. In English, we have been writing a special piece of work that we won't see again until we get to Year 6! Ask your child all about it!

Everyone in Year 1 has worked extremely hard this year and thoroughly deserves a nice long break over the summer! Thank you all for your support at home this year too, it really does make a huge difference to your child. It has been lovely getting to know everyone in Oak Class and I wish them all success as they move into Year 2! Have a wonderful summer break!

### **Year 2 – Beech Class**

What a brilliant time we all had in Weston last week! The children even enjoyed holidaying like a 1900s child and taking in the sea air! Well done for the costume efforts too (adults and children alike!) It certainly was a great way to round off our Buckets & Spades topic and finish Year 2 on a high.

Not only did we celebrate our topic, but we also celebrated life as we cared for and released our painted lady butterflies this week. For 2 weeks, we have been eagerly observing their development from tiny caterpillar to beautiful butterfly and this week, it was time to say goodbye! We released them into the meadow where they could feed on all the wild flowers that Friends of Meadowside have planted for us/ them! It was lovely to see 35 out of our 39 grow and mature into butterflies that can then go on to have their own young and pollinate our flowers. We said a sad goodbye to the 4 that didn't make it and the children were all very mature about Nature's circle of life!

We also turn our thoughts to our own transitions over this coming week and will be reflecting on everything we have achieved and how proud we are of our hard work. Beech Class have been great Year 2s and I know they will be great Year 3s, too! Have a lovely summer holiday. (feel free to send us a postcard from wherever you go!)

### **Year 3- Elm Class**

What a busy few weeks we have had! The children have really enjoyed learning about Howard Carter and his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. They have asked many searching questions about whether he was just an archaeologist or whether he was really a tomb raider! Why not ask your children to explain their thinking about this! Next week, they will be using their detective skills to investigate the curse of Tutankhamun. In computing we have been continuing to create our own PowerPoints, which share our historical learning. In maths, we have been working hard to learn about perimeter and calculate the perimeter of different shapes.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to say thank you to everyone for their continued support. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year teaching Elm Class, and I look forward to seeing them continue their learning at Meadowside over the next few years!

#### Year 4 – Willow Class

It's been a very busy fortnight in Year 4! We were incredibly proud of the children's effort during Sports Day. The relay and sprints were very exciting and we could see how hard the children were working to score points for their houses. Our topic is coming to a close and as part of this, the children have finished answering their final key question 'What makes a successful toy?'. Their cam toys are fantastic and should be coming home with you today. In English, we have been working on advertising these toys and the children came up with a little jingle to accompany a written advert. Ask your child about it and they may be able to sing it to you! We have crammed a lot of maths into the past fortnight, with area, perimeter, translation and statistics being covered. Luckily, Year 4 have dealt with all these concepts extremely well. We also enjoyed making dens in Forest School last week and Mr Jones tested them by throwing water over the dens whilst the children were inside. Luckily, most children remained dry! As our time in Year 4 draws to a close, we wanted to thank you for all your support this year. From Ancient Greek plays and residentials, to charity work and a Roman trip, you have helped us deliver a really exciting curriculum. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

#### Year 5 – Maple Class

Year 5 have continued to work incredibly hard this week despite the hot temperatures.

In English, the children have written some great poems about chocolate using some lovely examples of similes, metaphors and personification. They tried hard to use some good examples of rhyming couplets in their poems too. In Maths, the children have been reading tables and timetables and interpreting information from them.

In art, the children have been busy researching Banksy's artwork. They all sketched a picture of what they thought Banksy looks like – as the identity has been hidden! The children also produced a painted version of Banksy too – they had to think hard about mixing colours carefully. It was fun to see how many ways Banksy was perceived by the class. The children had great fun at Forest School this week. They worked well in teams to create volleyball posts out of long branches – the children really enjoyed it.

Next Monday, (14<sup>th</sup> June) the class will be visiting Severn Vale School to take part in a science morning. They will have a great time and participate in some interesting science experiments. They will be back at school for lunch.

It has been an absolute pleasure teaching Year 5 this year – they have been such a wonderful class. Have an enjoyable summer break.

#### Year 6 – Yew Class

Is this really our last Friday Fortnightly update?

Where has that time gone? We have had a busy time in Year 6 visiting our new secondary schools and having transition opportunities there. We are excited and nervous all at the same time, but certainly more than ready to begin our next chapter in our learning journey. As we are currently now preparing for our

infamous Leaver's Assembly, may we take this moment to remind you that it is next Friday 18th July @9am. White shirts and smart uniform are required, along with a change of clothing for later in the day.

Our amazing musical extravaganza needs a mention as we spent much of last week making props, costumes, scenery and learning songs, lines and dances to entertain you all. We do hope you enjoyed it. We certainly had fun creating it. Year 6 also made the school very proud as they took part in their last ever Sport Day and our wonderful leaders and House captains were there to support our newest members of the school in Reception. What a kind bunch we are.

Over and out Yew Class....cue LEAVERS!

## **Sporting News!**

Huge congratulations to all our children who participated so well at Sports day, it was a fantastic morning. It was fabulous to see the Meadowside Sporting values in action, with children running, jumping, throwing and skipping to earn points for their houses!

And the winners of this year's sports day were... Hurricanes!

What a fabulous sporting year we have had!

Well done to each and every child who has represented Meadowside this year. - We look forward to seeing you all in action again next year!

## **Don't forget reading over the summer!**

The holidays are always a great opportunity to relax and unwind- what better way than by travelling to exotic places and other worlds between the pages of a book! There are many ways to read over the summer- we had a visitor from the library services last week to tell us all about this year's Summer Reading Challenge- you should have received a leaflet but can find out all about it here→

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/join-in>

You could also complete the Lions At Large trail and visit many different places across the summer.

Museums, galleries and even shops all have opportunities for reading! Find out where you can see Thomas, our Meadowside lion here→ <https://lionsatlarge.co.uk/>

Lastly, if you want to buy a new book for your child to lose themselves in, please consider buying from <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> as every book you buy gives us 25% of the cover price so that we can continue to buy new and interesting books to go in classrooms, reading boxes and our library! I've just spent £60 on new books for Years 5 and 6 and £80 on new books for Year 3 and would love to do the same for our Year 4 class!

As always, we look forward to seeing your children's prizes and winnings from the Summer Reading Challenge and wish you a great summer holiday. Why don't you relax with a book somewhere cool, too!

## **Lions at Large**

Lions at large news 🦁

We're thrilled to share that our Meadowside lion "Thomas" will be proudly on display at Gloucester Museum as part of the lions at large Public art trail. The trail starts on the 11 th July and runs until 14th September.

All of the information you will need can be found on their website [www.lionsatlarge.co.uk](http://www.lionsatlarge.co.uk) however we've pieced together some quick info to help you get started...

❤️ SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE

Money raised on the trail will go to The big space cancer appeal, helping to build a new cancer center for Gloucestershire.

📍 EXPLORE THE TRAIL

There are 32 large lions created by artists and 54 small lions created by schools and community groups to discover across Gloucester and Cheltenham

#### GET THE APP

Download the Lions at Large app to tick off the lions as you go, unlock rewards and learn more about the artists and their lions

#### PREFER PAPER?

Pick up a paper trail map for £1 from the pop up shop Quays, a great base to start your adventures at Gloucester

#### POP-UP SHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Sticker books and lion-themed goodies and raffle tickets to win some amazing prizes including a mini lion.

Artist take over day on August 13th, meet some of the artists behind the trail

#### THE END

All lions will go to a farewell exhibition at Cheltenham racecourse 3 rd - 5th October, Large lions will then go to auction and small lions will go back to the groups that created them.

## Governor News

As we reflected we spoke of the challenges and achievements that make us proud to be part of Meadowside and thanked Miss Thomas for her dedication to making Meadowside a respectful, caring and engaged learning community. A headship is a massive undertaking no matter what size or catchment you are in as it requires such a diverse range of aptitudes to take responsibility and be a leading example to staff and pupils in all the things that you have to do, from last minute lesson stand ins, making the most of a very tight budget, ensuring everyone is safe, happy, successful and even, being great at picking up litter, unblocking sinks and dressing up! Miss Thomas has taken on all the challenges with strength of character and good humour and leaves a legacy of good behaviour standards in our pupils and a strong culture of positive reinforcement and reflection as a teaching and learning principle. This is definitely something we can work with going forward, without this it is very hard to achieve in other areas of school life as there is greater risk of disruption and challenge. So we thank Miss Thomas for solid foundations as this really helps us make good on her ask: we 'look after Meadowside for her'.

There will also soon be goodbyes for year 6. We hope that you truly enjoy these last few days of school with the friends you will never forget. You have really worked hard to move yourselves on and so many achievements and personal bests will follow you in your next steps. We wish you all the best!

This is also my last Friday Fortnightly article as Chair. Governors serve a term of 4 years and I am looking at my final year of round . I have decided to step back from that role so that there is a proper handover and support for the new chair and I promise to stick around till that job is done! Governors will reconvene in September and each year all roles must stand for election again so the actual board arrangement will be announced in Autumn.

Have a lovely break when it arrives, take care in the heat!

## Friends of Meadowside

This is the last update from us this year and what a year it has been! I am going to keep it short and give you the headlines:

Money raised this year: **£7780**

Amount of events held during 2024-25: **10**

Key achievements: **the Meadow is up and running and looking amazing, the courtyard is ready for phase two (equipment), music curriculum has been supported across the school by FOM in the form of lessons and new instruments and this will continue into next year.**

Number of members of FOM: **Eight but losing one this year - we need more support to help us run more events.**

Special notices from Friends of Meadowside to two very important people:

*Leaving FOM this year —Michelle Winters*

*Mic has been a truly committed member of our PTA. Her dedication, reliability, and willingness to show up—again and again—have made a real difference in our PTA and school. Whether it's organising events, offering thoughtful input, or simply being there when something needs doing, Mic leads by example. Her involvement is a reminder that a strong PTA isn't built on titles or grand gestures—it's made up of people who care, who consistently show up, and who give their time because they believe in supporting our students.*

*Mic, thank you for everything you've done. You've helped set the standard for what being part of the PTA truly means.*

Lastly, a very special thanks to Miss Thomas;

*Friends of Meadowside want to express our heartfelt thanks for everything you've given to our school community over the past 20+ years. Your kindness, dedication, and unwavering support have left a lasting impact on generations of pupils, families, and staff. You've led with compassion and integrity, and your presence has shaped the spirit of our school in the most positive and inspiring way. Your support in Friends of Meadowside is truly valued and appreciated.*

*Though it's hard to say goodbye, we're excited for the adventures that lie ahead for you. You truly deserve every happiness and success in this next stage of your journey.*

*With deep appreciation and warmest wishes,*

*Friends of Meadowside.*

## Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2024/2025	INSET Days 2025/2026
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July

W/b 14 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports out to parents
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Science visit
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4-6 Music recital
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 - <b>don't forget we finish at 2pm!</b>  Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9.15 a.m.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET Day (school closed for children)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	First Day Back at Meadowside!
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Individual and sibling photographs

**Next edition due: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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



Meadowside School