

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September

At Meadowside, we are:

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

| Comets | Hurricanes | Meteors | Spitfires |
|--------|------------|---------|-----------|
| 69     | 81         | 80      | 66        |

## Message from Mr Port

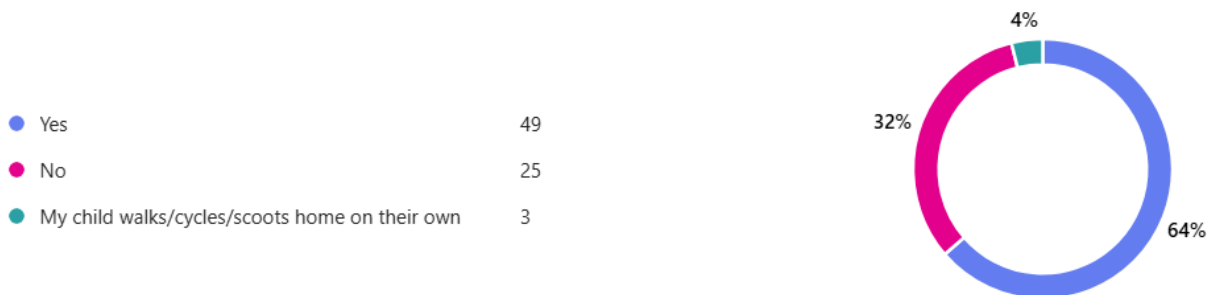
I feel privileged that this is my very first Friday Fortnightly entry as your Headteacher. I still can't quite believe it! It has been an honour to lead the staff and children through the first two weeks of term. Your children have made it a pleasure. I thoroughly enjoyed the Meadowside Explorers topic launch and the enthusiasm for learning across the school is inspiring.

It is vital that we embed our rules and values now. Our assemblies have focused on how values and rules link to uniform, attendance, lunchtimes and calm corridors. I've spent a lot of time in classrooms and in the lunch hall, observing the children's behaviour and attitudes. The staff are working hard to ensure that disruption is kept to the minimum whilst maintaining the positive and inclusive approach that makes Meadowside special. You will have all received a separate email about behaviour today. There is work to do but we have made a good start. School improvement has already begun and I will be updating you over the next few weeks about the long-term plans following the Ofsted report.

I also wanted you to be aware of a few areas I have been looking at after speaking to some of our parent community:

- Parents Evening will be in person and earlier on in the term. The opportunity to hear from your child's teacher in their classroom is an important start to life in their new class.
- A 'meet the teacher' event will take place in July 2026 so parents can meet the teaching team and are aware of expectations as their child prepares for the next year group.

- The survey on collection arrangements are below. Your leadership team will meet to discuss next steps and we will inform you of the outcome.



Are you satisfied with the current system where you collect your child/children from the playground?

## Attendance

September is a very important time for children as they settle into their new classes. Many parents booked holidays without notifying the school beforehand, or at the last minute. You **must** give the school at least 30 days notice if your child is going to be absent.

## Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **94.7%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **3.4%**
- Well done to **Year 1** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **97.9%!**
- There have been a total of 6 lates so far this term
- Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **94.7%**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2%**

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Apple class

It was good to meet parents and children again on our stay and play sessions last week. Then on Monday all the children were soon settled in the class room learning independently. So far we have all explored: the classroom inside and out, the hall for PE and had fun getting to know each other. Half of the class have been to the computer suite and forest

school. We will swap over next week and continue learning about who and what we will find at Meadowside Primary.

### **Year 1 – Cherry Class**

What a great start Cherry Class have had to Year 1! Everyone has been working hard to get used to being in a big group again and to negotiate and navigate a smaller classroom from the one they had in Reception! We were very excited to launch our new topic Meadowside Explorers this week and can't wait to get stuck into this properly in our topic lessons next week!

In English, we have been working on writing our letters accurately and neatly in our new Year 1 English books – which are a lot smaller than our ones in Reception!

In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of numbers as well as learning how to use a new piece of equipment to help us. Ask your child if they can tell you about our rekenreks that we have been using to help us count and calculate. (If they can't remember the name rekenrek, ask them about the beads frames we have been using!)

### **Year 2 – Oak Class**

Oak Class have enjoyed the extra responsibilities that come with being the eldest in our corridor! We are all very much looking forward to becoming the class helper so we can give out the fruit to Key Stage 1! We have been learning about the key skills that we will develop as we go through Year 2- perseverance, honesty, responsibility and co-operation. The children have been very interested to learn that their brain is like a muscle and how it has to work hard in order to develop, just like our body does.

Our topic launch this week lead us to our first science lesson, where we thought about how we know which things are alive and which are not. This was a tricky concept for us to grasp and we eventually came up with the idea that living things move, breathe, eat and grow. Your children will bring home a newsletter today which has more information about these key concepts so that you can practise at home. Living things would be a great place to start!

In our English lessons, we have started a book that will see us through the next few weeks of lessons. We have only seen the front cover and don't even know it's title yet, so it's all a bit of a mystery so far!

Our maths lessons this term focus on the number system and what numbers are made of. We have looked at the 10s and 1s parts of numbers and have been practising how to write 2-digit numbers correctly.

### **Year 3- Beech Class**

The class have had a brilliant start to their KS2 experience, they have settled quickly, and I have been very impressed with their behaviour and attitudes to learning! We have spent time revisiting the Meadowside School values and they particularly enjoyed think about 'E for Environmental' and being able to care for our school by using the litter pickers.

In English, we have begun to read 'The Green Ship' by Quentin Blake, this is the text that we will be using for the next few weeks. In maths we have been discussing the importance of struggle and how making and then learning from mistakes can be marvellous! We have also been thinking about the place value of 3-digit numbers and partitioning.

We have also started our French lesson, which has been very exciting! We have been learning different ways to say hello and the phrase Je m'appelle \_\_\_\_\_. Why not ask your child if they can remember this!

#### **Year 4 – Elm Class**

Welcome back to school Elm Class – what a great start to Year 4 we have had! We have spent some time reviewing our school values and discussing our expectations for life in Year 4. In maths, we have started looking at place value for numbers up to and including thousands and being about to read and write these in both words and numerals. In English, we are studying the text 'One Plastic Bag' by Miranda Paul and have researched The Gambia, where it is set, and discussed the importance of recycling. We are gearing up to write a discussion text around the use of plastic. We had our Meadowside Explorers topic launch and are beginning to look at map work to locate our lovely Quedgeley, both on paper and using technology. In French we have also been using the atlases to look at the Geography of France and learned how to say, "I live in Gloucester." In P.E, we have really enjoyed playing bench ball. We also completed some beautiful watercolour paintings of our local community for our topic book front covers.

#### **Year 5 – Willow Class**

Year 5 have made a great start to the year. We have been working hard on setting behaviour and learning expectations for the school year and the children are responding well to their new routines. Last week, we discussed our school values, and the children created some lovely shields to reflect their aspirations and goals for the year ahead – they are displayed in the classroom. In maths lessons, the children have been writing 5-digit numbers as numerals and words and have been identifying the value of each digit. In guided reading sessions, the children have enjoyed focusing on our class text, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and have worked hard to answer a range of comprehension questions. In English, the children have been reading a biography text about the scientist Jane Goodall. They have explored the features of this text type and have practised writing some simple and

compound sentences. In geography, the children have looked at ordnance maps of the Quedgeley area and have identified the human and physical features of our location. The class enjoyed our whole school 'Meadowside Explorers' topic launch and created some wonderful front cover topic pages too.

### **Year 6 – Maple Class**

What a wonderful start to Year 6 it has been for Maple Class! Last week we spent time getting to know each other and going over the important expectations and routines that will hopefully help make the school year run smoothly. Each child created their own Maple leaf to represent who they are. They look beautiful and can now be found decorating our classroom door. We have been re- familiarising ourselves with the Meadowside school values and Year 6 were fantastic at being able to recognise where we can demonstrate these values at school. In maths we got stuck into some place value work and have also been tackling calculations using the four operations each day, just to get back into the swing of things! Last week in our English lessons we focused on alliteration (creating hilarious alliterative poems) and this week we have been using a story (The Viewer) to inspire some sentences which include parenthesis and some expanded noun phrases. Ask your child about their topic book front covers. Can they remember the name of the artist who inspired us?

### **Sporting News!**

#### **Gold!**

Mrs Bouvier met with a School Games Validator on Wednesday. This validation checks whether the school has met the criteria for the award they applied for. We applied for gold and the validator.... agreed! We can't use the official award around school or on our website yet but a huge thank you to Mrs Bouvier for all the work she does to ensure to create an inclusive and competitive culture of sport at Meadowside.

#### **Football**

It was amazing to see 30 children from years 5 and 6 at football trials on Thursday. All the children were amazing, despite the downpours! We are confident that all the children will be able to represent Meadowside this year but teams will be announced on Monday.

### **Young Voices**

Rehearsals started this week! We did a great job of getting stuck in to our first song- Disco Fever! If you have not yet signed up to the YV Music Room, please search your inboxes to find the login information sent before the summer holidays. This will be the ONLY way to purchase audience tickets and t-shirts for your child to wear on the day. The email will

have come from me, rather than admin@ so do check your spam folders too! If you have misplaced the email, let us know and I can resend it. On your child's ParentPay account you should also find the balance to pay- you should have received an email with all the details at the end of last week.

Keep practising at home,; Happy Singing!

## Key Dates for your diary

### INSET Days 2025/2026

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September                      | Meadowside Cross Country (Years 2-6) Children only. P.E kits needed. |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September                        | Year 4 Trip  |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> October                            | Black History Month Begins   |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October                            | Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6 p.m. (face to face)                        |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October                           | Year 3 Trip<br><br>Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6 p.m. (face to face)     |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October                        | Year 5 Trip  |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October                         | Year 2 Trip  |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                           | Friends of Meadowside Bake off                                       |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                         | Individual and sibling photographs                                   |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October                           | Last day of Term 1 (finish at 3.15 p.m.)                             |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October                            | INSET Day  |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October                           | Term 2 Begins  |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Year 1 Trip  |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Anti-Bullying Week   |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November                         | Remembrance Day  |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Children In Need (non-uniform)                                       |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Friends of Meadowside Discos!  |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov     | Road Safety Week   |

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November   | Year 5 Trip  |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November  | Happy 25 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, Meadowside!   |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December   | KS2 Christmas Performance 9.15 – 10.30 a.m.<br>KS1 Christmas Performance 1.45 – 3 p.m. |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December | KS1 Christmas Performance 9.15 – 10.30 a.m.<br>KS2 Christmas Performance 1.45 – 3 p.m. |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | Christmas Dinner Day!  |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December    | Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform)<br>Last Day of Term 2 (finish at 2 p.m.)            |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January      | Term 3 Begins  |

Next edition due: Friday 26<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)

