

Spring Term Edition

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
107	115	103	109
Term Total 299	Term Total 322	Term Total 291	Term Total 318

## Message from Mr Port

A huge thank you to Miss Palmer, who organised an amazing NSPCC Number Day! Not only were the children able to support a wonderful charity, they also had lots of fun with penguin maths along the way!

Since September, I have worked with staff on enhancing their knowledge of safeguarding. Each month, we focus on a specific area of safeguarding. The staff complete some reading on the topic and then fill out an online quiz to test their knowledge. This has been very positive and keeps all staff at Meadowside up to date.

Another area of focus since September has been the Meadowside Curriculum. Next week, Miss Akhurst and Mrs Allen will begin rewriting the Science curriculum for the staff and children at Meadowside. This is an enormous task and they are taking time away from their classes to work on this. Mr Jones will be teaching Year 5 next week and Mrs Knill will be teaching Year 1. We will be using the blueprint of this process to help us redesign other subjects within our curriculum, such as History and Geography.

Remember, you can view the progress at Meadowside via our School Development Plan here:

[Parent-Friendly-School-Development-Plan-2025-2026.pdf](#)

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Port (The Penguin!)



## Mr Grimmett

Mr Grimmett's last day as our School Caretaker will be Friday 13th February. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Grimmett for his many years of service to Meadowside. His three children all attended the school and his wife Louise also worked here for many years. We wish the Grimmetts the best of luck for the future!

The job will be live early next week, visit this [website](#) if you are interested, or know someone who is!

## Attendance

### Headlines

Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.3%**

Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.3%**

Well done to **Year 2** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **99%**!

There have been a total of **81 lates** so far this term

Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **95.1%** (National **94.8%**)

Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2%** (National **94.8%**)

Next week, I will be sending out letters to parents and carers where attendance is just above or less than 90%. This is known as persistent absence and has a significant impact on your child's learning. As always, come and speak to me if you are having any difficulties regarding attendance as there are lots of things we can do to help you.

### Mr Port

### Attendance Champion

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Apple class

Last week we were working on the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Granny is ill so we had to do her shopping, we wrote her shopping list so that we did not forget anything. We also made her some jam tarts as a treat to cheer her up. It was interesting to read different versions of the story. Sometimes Granny got eaten by the wolf and other times she was shut in the wardrobe.

This week the classroom has been full of goats, trolls and bridges as we have listened to a musical version of The Three Billy goats Gruff. While they are busy in the classroom there is often a little voice singing "Who's that trip trapping over my bridge?" In the version we listened to we have been introduced to the violin, the viola, the cello and the double base. Each instrument takes the tune for one of the main characters. No cooking this week as the goats managed to bamboozle the troll and he did not get his goat stew. Next week we are hoping to make some vegetable soup and will be asking the children each to bring in a vegetable to add to the pot. I wonder what the soup will be like

### Year 1 – Cherry Class

Cherry Class are really excited to be at the final stages of our topic and preparations for our teddy bear's picnic are in full force! We have been talking all things pizza this week! We have designed our own teddy shaped pizza, selecting the toppings that we want on top, and completed a survey of each other to find out what the most popular toppings are (and to help create the shopping list for pizza ingredients!). We will be making pizzas on the day of our picnic (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February). We have access to some cooking aprons in school, but not a whole class set. If you have an apron at home that you are able to send in for your child in a carrier bag on Thursday, this would be really helpful!

In maths this fortnight, we have been doing lots of practical work. We have learnt how to compare and order lengths and heights. We have also had great fun measuring things with non-standard units of measure. We have been using Lego, dominoes and cubes. We also learnt how to measure to the closest centimetre with a ruler too.

In English, we have finally reached the end of our Traction Man book and what fun it has been to read! The enthusiasm that each child has had for it has been amazing! We were treated to some lovely stories from

Year 6 children this week, so we plan to return the favour and are busy writing our own Traction Man adventure for them to enjoy next week!

### **Year 2 - Oak Class**

Year 2 are coming to the end of their topic Step Back in Time. We have turned our attention to the final key question--> How have children's lives changed? The children were horrified to find out just some of the jobs that children would have been expected to do during the Victorian era. We have learnt a little about coal mining, domestic service and pure finding- ask your child to explain to you what this is.... you won't believe it!

We found out that it wasn't until the late 1800s that school became free for children up to the age of 10 and decided that school was a much better option than working .... next week, we will find out what a Victorian school was actually like and then we are going to experience one on our trip on Wednesday!!!

Please note- if you have not yet paid for this trip, then your payment is overdue. Children (and adults helping) are asked to come dressed in the Victorian style. Please see the trip letter for ways that this can be achieved without the need to buy a costume! (A cheap and environmentally friendly option is always best!!)

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

We have had a very busy few weeks and are really enjoying our learning in 'History Hunters'. We learnt about how The Beaker People brought Bronze to Britain, we looked at images of the remains of their pots and enjoyed using clay to try to recreate them. We also thought about why life changed in Britain during the Bronze and Iron Ages...because it made their lives easier! In English we have been writing paragraphs to include in an information text about Skara Brae., we look forward to publishing these next week!

In Maths we have been looking at Fractions, we have learnt the vocabulary of numerator and denominator and we have been learning about comparing and ordering them.

Please continue to help your child learn their tables. We have been working on our x3, 4, and 8s.

### **Year 4 - Elm Class**

Elm class have had a bit of a blow this past fortnight as we have temporarily lost our lovely Mrs Whitlock! We are wishing her a speedy recovery and are all missing her dearly. We are lucky enough that Mr Aiken has taken on her role for the next six weeks until her return. However, the loss of Mrs Whitlock has not stopped the hard work in Year 4! In our topic work, we have finished our work on the Celts, which culminated in a class performance of a song all about Boudicca. We hope you all enjoyed seeing our blue woad over our faces and arms as we transformed into the fierce Iceni tribe! This week, we have started to look at how and why the Romans invaded Britain and found out some information about some of the most famous Roman Emperors. In Maths, your children have been absolute superstars this past fortnight! We have focussed on the formal written methods of column addition and subtraction using 4-digit numbers, including exchanging in multiple columns. All children have achieved brilliantly with this! In English, we have finished reading our Power of Reading book 'Leon and the Place Between' and we are starting to write a parallel story based on one of the lesser explored characters we met. You can look forward to seeing these finished books coming home soon! We have also enjoyed some music based on the book, where we have been watching the London Philharmonic Orchestra playing some famous classical pieces and joined in with some new songs that retell the story. In science, we have completed two experiments: what materials are best to insulate a mug? And at what temperature does yeast grow best? Ask your children what the results of these experiments were!

## Year 5 – Willow Class

The children have been thoroughly enjoying their history topic all about the Anglo-Saxons. They have found out which countries the Anglo-Saxons came from and where in the UK they settled. They have also found out about Anglo-Saxon kings and the seven kingdoms that were occupied by Anglo-Saxons. The children have been busy finding out about Sutton Hoo and what was discovered there – they had fun guessing what a range of artefacts were used for in Anglo-Saxon times! In maths, the children have been multiplying a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number using long multiplication. They have also been multiplying a 1-digit number by a decimal number too. The children have been fully engaged with the whole class guided reading sessions based around the book, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' and have discussed what life is like for refugee children. In English sessions, the children have continued to work with the book, 'The Journey' which also has a refugee theme. The children wrote a persuasive letter to a border officer to persuade them to let a family through a border gate to seek refuge and safety in a new country – the letters were emotional and compelling. In RE, the children have been learning about Jewish festivals and celebrations, such as Shabbat and Rosh Hashana as well as kosher foods. The children are looking forward to participating in Bikeability next week!

## Year 6 – Maple Class

This week was this term's assessment week in Year 6. We used a previous set of SATs papers to see how far we have come and look at where we need to focus our learning next. We have been doing a lot of work on our arithmetic processes recently and it was awesome to see how proud the children were of beating their previous scores. The hard work that they are putting in in school and at home is really paying off. SATs surgery at lunch time is full of children choosing to practice their maths and helping each other out. Last week in English we looked at storytelling and with some top tips from Michael Rosen we rehearsed telling our Just So Stories and then told them this week (during National Storytelling Week) to our friends in Year 1. We had to be expressive and engaging to keep the younger pupils hooked; it was lovely to observe. In Science this fortnight we have explored the evidence for evolution and looked at how fossils show us changes over millions of years. We also looked at the impact of human intervention, for example selective breeding in dogs and cats. Our art lessons have been focused on William Morris and we have practiced replicating his intricate drawings before we replicate his style to create our own prints next week. In PE this week, the children created routines set to music that were quite simply incredible. What a talented bunch Maple Class are! We are missing Mrs Whitlock on a Wednesday afternoon and can't wait to see her again- the dancers did her proud at the dance festival; they were sensational. We made her some beautiful cards to let her know we are all thinking of her!

## Hamed Amiri

Before the Christmas holidays, we had a guest speaker visit us named Hamed Amiri. Hamed is a best-selling author and motivational speaker. In his work, he draws on his personal experiences as a refugee of escaping conflict and navigating a family health crisis. The talk was eye-opening and inspirational for both the children and adults of Meadowside!

Hamed is going to be visiting us again next academic year to discuss his new book, due for release in August, entitled 'The Other Boy'. If your child enjoyed Hamed's visit and would like to purchase his book, we will be putting in an order. During his next visit, Hamed will sign any books bought to school that day.

If you wish to purchase a book, please could you fill in this short form

[The Other Boy – Fill in form](#) and send payment of £9.99 through your ParentPay account.

Thank you,

Mrs Reed

## Friends of Meadowside

### BREAK THE RULES DAY - 13/02/2026

To help raise money for some games equipment to put on the new benches in the courtyard we are holding a Break the Rules Day!

For one day only you can break some of the school rules and for every rule you wish to break you need to pay a 50p fine! You can break as many on the list as you'd like but remember some school rules are not for breaking!

There will be collection buckets on the gates as you go into school in the morning.

## CIRCUS

Here's a reminder of all the circus details

Friday 24th April

Show Times:

4pm and 5.30pm\*

\*Each show is 45 minutes long

\*\*5.30pm show currently selling fast

Before and after the show you will be able to treat yourself to a variety of food and drinks, and fun games and activities will also be available for everyone for a small extra cost.

Early-bird tickets are on sale NOW!!

Early bird tickets will close on Friday 13th February so make sure you get them at the reduced price! The second show is selling fast, so if you prefer a quieter show we recommend the 4pm showing.

£8 per person Or £30 for a family ticket for 4

Under 2's are free when seated on a lap and all seating is unreserved. Buy your tickets today at <https://friends-of-meadowside.sumupstore.com/>

Please be sure to tell us your child's name so we can arrange delivery of the physical tickets to them.

Early-bird ticket sales will close on Friday 13th February 2026. Tickets are open to children, parents, grandparents, cousins, neighbours and friends... anyone you know. Children must be accompanied by an adult when attending the show.

## Meet the Governors

For the next few weeks, we will be including an introduction for each of our Meadowside Governors here on the Friday fortnightly.

### Vikki Whitlock

Governor type Staff: SEND; Curriculum;

**About Me:** I have been teaching for 26 years (yes, I don't look old enough!), and between Longlevens and Meadowside I have taught every year group. Before becoming a teacher, I ran my own dance studio in Stroud with a branch school in Longlevens, choreographed and ran Gloucester Youth Dance Company, and taught A-Level Dance at Ribston. I am passionate about ensuring children have the best possible offer from Meadowside, so being a governor also gives me a whole different perspective.

**Fun/Personal Detail:** Proud mum of three daughters who all attended Meadowside and are now thriving. I've played saxophone, clarinet and piano to a high level, and my favourite sport is tennis — I even worked at Wimbledon during my years living in London.

**Unique skill:** Finding the silver lining in every cloud; multi-tasking; and (less proudly!) forgetting where I put my keys.

**Meadowside memory:** Winning the trophy at Cheltenham Dance Festival, beating several prestigious private schools — go Meadowside!

## Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2025/2026	INSET Days 2026/27
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July

w/c Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Bikeability Ramadan Assembly
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Friends of Meadowside BREAK THE RULES DAY! Last day of term (normal finishing time)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	NSPCC Workshops: Years 2, 5 and 6
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 trip
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day! (Information to come soon!)
	Online Safety talk for parents. 17:30 – 18:30. All Meadowside parents invited.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 trip
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 trip
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Mock SATs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 trip
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Online Safety Trip

	Last day of term 2pm finish
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> Thursday May	Year 6 SATs week!
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 4 Residential
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Test Window Opens
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photos + Individual Year 6 Leavers' Photo
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (9am – 11:45am)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Maths Puzzle Day 1 Year 5 Science Trip (am only)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Maths Puzzle Day 2
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (time to be confirmed) Last day of the school year! Finish at 2 pm.

Next edition due: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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

