

*Spring Term Edition*

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
76	103	82	97

## Message from Mr Port

Welcome back, everyone! It's been a brilliant start to 2026. My first message of the New Year has a theme of thanks!

- Thank you for the lovely cards and gifts for the staff before the Christmas holidays.
- We arrived to brand new blinds in the hall, courtesy of Friends of Meadowside. This has already made a difference to the day-to-day life at Meadowside. Thank you FOM!
- A huge thank you to the Miss Mellersh, Miss Davies, Mrs Whitlock, Mr Jones, parents and children who made Young Voices a resounding success. There were a few tired bodies the next day but it was all worth it.
- Thank you to Miss Akhurst and the Key Stage One team, who have put together a book all about the rules at Meadowside. The legendary Bramble Bear steals the show once again. We shared this in assembly on Monday. It's available here: [Our vision, values and rules - Meadowside Primary School](#)



Have a wonderful weekend and I'll see you on Monday!

## Attendance

You may have noticed that Mrs Stevens, Mrs Weaving and Mrs McDade are at the front door at various points during the week. They are recording lateness but more importantly, welcoming and helping children who have had a tricky morning begin their day at Meadowside positively.

## Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **94.2%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **1%**
- Well done to **Year 4** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **96.3%**!
- There have been a total of 27 lates so far this term (this includes authorised Young Voices lateness as it's quite a large number!)
- Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **95.2% (National 95.1%)**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2% (National 94.8%)**

Our whole school percentage has dropped off slightly due to lots of illness (including staff!) in the week leading up to Christmas and as returned to Meadowside this week. If you're not sure if your child is well enough for a day at school, you can use the handy guide to help you make a decision: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

## **Wassail in the Green Farm Orchard: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2.15 p.m - 4.10 p.m**

Start the new year with magic, music, and ancient tradition ...

Join us for a joyful community wassail, where we honour the orchard, chase away bad spirits, and welcome in a year of good harvests.

Our fantastic Community Producers – local artists Carrie Sermon and Nicola Wilson – will lead families on a playful journey through the folklore, stories, and natural wonders of Quedgeley's very own hidden-gem orchard.

In the run-up to the event, Carrie and Nicola are teaming up with the talented children and teachers at Meadowside Primary School to create beautiful tree decorations. And on the day, the orchard will come alive with:

- Spoken word poetry
- Morris Dancing from Lassington Oaks
- A captivating performance by the Tewkesbury Mummers
- Crafts and tree decorating

Bring the whole family for fresh air, creativity, and community spirit – a perfect, heart-warming way to welcome the year ahead!

The event will be free – just book all your places in advance to help manage numbers please. [BOOK HERE](#)

**2.15pm – 2.40pm** Lassington Oak Morris dance with music

**2.45pm – 3.10pm** Tewkesbury Mummers with singing of the Gloucestershire Wassail

**3.15pm -3.25pm** Procession to Tree' to be celebrated in Green Farm Orchard with music and dancing by Lassington Oak and Tewkesbury Mummers

**3.25pm – 4.10pm** Tree Celebration, tree decorating and a celebratory toast

Thank you to Miss Mellersh, who has been working closely with Voices Gloucester and Year 2 to make this happen.

Year 2- if you are coming, remember to bring your lanterns, shakers, masks and headdresses with you! We will send these home today so you have them ready- Miss M!

## **Young Voices**

Mr Port has already given us all a shout out, but it is definitely worth mentioning again! YV- you were AMAZING (we always knew you would be!) The choir really did us proud and we could not have been more impressed with how well they tackled this opportunity. It is always a really long day and we all flagged a little between the rehearsal and concert... we may have even had a little 'nap' in our seats during the tea-break so that we were ready to shine for our audience! Meadowside was the stand out school in our section for enthusiasm, smiles and knowing the songs and dances off by heart. Some children have already asked me when they will find out the songs for next year's concert and how they can sign up!!!! We've got lots of other exciting things to think about between now and then, but we'll let you know before the end of the school year about how to be part of YV2027!!!!

## **Look Who's Talking- Oracy Competition**

Congratulations to everyone who took part in Round 1- The Class Heats this week. We had a wide variety of topics and themes – everything from octopuses to Meadowside to kindness! Thank you to all of you at home who helped your child decide on a theme, make props and rehearse their speech- you made the job of picking class winners very difficult indeed!

Each class winner was announced in Celebration Assembly today and these people go forward to Round 2- The Whole School Heat. On Wednesday next week, Year 1 will go up against Year 2, Year 3 will go against Year 4 and Year 5 will be against Year 6.... It will be Mr Port's decision about who wins from each of these pairings!

If your child comes home with the exciting news that they won Round 1, please practise with them again over the weekend. They can add or amend their speech but keep the same amazing topic- it won Round 1, after all!!

## **Meadowside Class News**

### **Reception – Apple class**

It was great to see everyone back after the holidays and hear about what they had got up to. After that excitement we started our new topic on Tuesday- What's the story? The magic story chest appeared with clues for our first story. We found sticks, bricks and 3 pigs in the box. Clearly our first story is The 3 little pigs. Since then we have had lots of retelling the story, with actions so we all know it well. There are some great 'story telling voices' when the indignant pigs are telling the wolf he can't come in. Some budding architects are emerging in the class as fantastic new houses for the pigs have been built. We have also learnt to draw a pig and have been working on our colour mixing to paint a pink pig.(other colours of pig are also available). Even our writing and PE has focused on pigs this week. Next week we will be continuing with the 3 pigs. As we know the story so well we will be able to order the story and create our own books.

### **Year 1 – Cherry Class**

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all! Cherry Class have hit the ground running this week, continuing on with our A Toys' Story topic! We know that we have until the end of this term to be ready for the picnic and are keen to keep learning! The children have loved bringing in and sharing their own modern toys this week and were so respectful to one another, not only when talking and listening about their toys but when playing as well. Well done Year 1, what a kind and considerate group you are!

In English this week, we wrote thank you letters to someone and have begun a new mystery book! We don't know much about it yet but are loving the mystery surrounding it! All will be revealed soon enough but until then, we have enjoyed thinking carefully about the pictures in it and having a go at making our reading voices sound more exciting!

In maths, we have completed our final CSI lesson in our count it, draw it, make it work. The children have been absolute experts at understanding numbers from 5-19. They have been exploring what each number looks like in different ways by doing things like drawing around Numicon, making part-part-wholes and colouring the correct number of squares, as well as using equipment to help them create calculations adding to each number and subtracting from each number!

### **Year 2 – Oak Class**

Happy New Year! Year 2 have made a great start to 2026 and kicked off by tackling Key Question 4 of our topic *Step Back In Time*- How have women's lives changed? We have heard about one famous lady who stood up for what she believed in and would not take no for an answer! Florence Nightingale is celebrated as the 'mother of modern nursing' and we will be finding out next week that she was not the only one!

Our English lessons have been inspired by this inspirational lady as we have begun to learn about formal writing. Florence wrote every week to Queen Victoria to explain how bad things were at Scutari Hospital and we will be doing the same next week! We have practised using exclamation sentences, learnt about commas in lists and have discussed contraction so that we can write strongly, but politely to Queen Victoria and petition for here help!

We started something brand new in maths this week- we began to learn about multiplication (and division) and what these operations actually **mean**. Look out in your email inboxes on Monday for details of how your child can join TT Rockstars and begin to learn their times tables at home. I will be showing the children how to use this platform on Monday afternoon, so you don't need to do anything with it yet!

Finally, a huge well done to those of us who entered the Look Who's Talking oracy competition on Thursday this week. Thank you to all those parents who helped the children practise their speech- you made our job very tricky indeed! Good luck to our winner in the next round- the Whole School Heat!

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

Happy New Year! Year 3 have had a great start to the New year, we are continuing with our topic of 'History Hunters' and to link to this our English unit is based on The Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura. We have been using the illustrations to help inspire us to write sentences which include both adverbs and prepositions and today we have started to write a poem based on a page of the book. In Topic, we are now focused on History, looking at what is meant by Pre-History and how we know what life was like. In Art this week, we studied art by Shamsia Hassani, she is an important artist from Afghanistan who uses art to share powerful messages. She paints colourful murals, often showing strong women, to talk about hope, peace, and freedom. Year 3 studied her pictures to see what we could learn about life in Afghanistan and then created a page in our sketchbooks, where we tried to emulate her style.

Well done to all the Year 3 children for their great behaviour and attitude at swimming, they coped well with changing quickly and waiting to be assessed. It is helpful if children don't wear tights (as these can be tricky to put back on afterwards). Please also name your child's clothes, as this makes it easier to identify clothing that is misplaced.

### **Year 4 – Elm Class**

Year 4 have had a fantastic return to school this week. They have been full of energy but working extremely hard. Our new topic is 'A Tale of Two Cities', which focusses on the Romans and their legacy in Gloucester today. We launched the topic by making pop-up Roman Colosseums, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We have also been busy making mosaics for our topic book front covers. In English, we have begun a 'Power of Reading' module based on the book 'Leon and the Place Between'. We have been looking at the illustrations on the first few pages and setting the scene. In maths, we have been practising using mental methods of subtraction, using numbers up to 4 digits. We also began our swimming lessons this week and had a fun day of music on Wednesday- whether it was at the Young Voices concert or in school learning about the Beatles and expressing our views on music through artwork.

### **Year 5 – Willow Class**

Year 5 have had a brilliant start to the new year. Our new topic will be 'The Battle for Middle England' and we will be starting this next week. It will focus on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. The children have been introduced to the key questions that will be covered in our new topic, and they have shared what they think they know already in a pre-topic assessment. In maths, the children have been learning about prime and composite numbers and prime factors – they have worked hard on this. In English, we have started looking at our new book, 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna. The children have had many book talk opportunities

as well as participating in some drama and writing tasks. They have thoroughly enjoyed the discussions and the activities in these sessions. In whole class guided reading sessions, the children have been focusing on the book, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf. The children have responded to the text well and are looking forward to finding out what will happen next. The children have completed a gravity science investigation this week where they found out what happened to heavy and light objects when they were dropped from the same height. We have also enjoyed listening to many children in Year 5 take part in the 'Look Who's Talking' competition – they all did so well!

### **Year 6 – Maple Class**

Year 6 started the new term with a conversation with Mr Port and Miss Davies about how the next few months will look as we gear up for SATs. We will all need to work extra hard for the next few months but we discussed all the exciting things coming up for us too. The children have been amazing this week at taking ownership of their learning and being more active in their participation. This is great to see and we have been able to celebrate so many successes this week. With our new year also came a new topic- The Origin of Species. This topic focuses heavily on evolution. We kickstarted things by looking at links between dinosuars and birds and used the book How the Borks Became to help us understand how and why evolution happens. We then found out about how environmental changes caused the peppered moth's appearance to change quite drastically in a relatively short period of time. In our music lesson this week, we explored musical notation and wrote rhythms using semibreves, minims, crotchets and quavers. Ask your child if they can remember how many beats each of these notes is! In maths we have continued with our geometry unit and have been calculating missing angles, measuring angles and looking at properties of shapes. Alongside this we continue with daily arithmetic and reasoning practice. In English we wrote a type of poem called a sci-ku and have been brushing up on our punctuation and grammar. Your child should be able to tell you all about the many different tense types now. All in all, a brilliant first week back to school. Just a final reminder about our meeting on Monday at 5pm to talk all things SATs!

### **Friends of Meadowside**

2026 is going to be a fantastic fund raising year for Friends of Meadowside, we have lots happening over the next two terms and building up to our Circus Extravaganza in April!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Window Wonderland trail we raised over £160 with over 50 families taking part!

We have our next event coming up on the 30th January our annual Adults Only Quiz Night, more details to follow!

We are holding our next meeting on Wednesday 14th January at the Thatch Inn 730pm.

### **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.

**Name:** Craig Broadman

**Role:** Chair, including Finance & Compliance; Data & Insight; Health & Safety/Premises

**About Me:** I'm a software architect by profession and have been part of the Meadowside community for many years. I've served as a governor for six years, holding varying roles during that time, and I care deeply about supporting the school through strong teamwork, high expectations and meaningful oversight.

**Fun/Personal Detail:** I manage a senior football side and still try to play a bit myself, and most weekends you'll find me watching my own children play too.

**Unique skill:** Turning complex ideas into simple, clear explanations — a perk of my day job and surprisingly useful in governance.

**Meadowside memory:** Seeing my own children flourish here and develop important life skills has been a real privilege.

## Key Dates for your diary

### INSET Days 2025/2026

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 6 SATs information evening (parents and children invited)
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Mid-year Reports
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 3 Trip
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Parent Event: Phonics and Reading in Reception and Year 1. 3 – 3.30 p.m. (details to follow!)
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	INSET day
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Young Minds Matter Assembly
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	NSPCC Assembly
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	FREE Year 5 Bike service provided by Bikeability Just drop the bike off on the Wednesday!
<b>w/c Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 5 Bikeability
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Last day of term (normal finishing time)
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day! (Information to come soon!)  Online Safety talk for parents. 17:30 – 18:30. All Meadowside parents invited.

Next edition due: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

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



## SPACES COURSE

Supporting Parents and Children Emotionally



The course offers: Strategies to support children's emotional regulation. Tools for managing stress and building family resilience. A safe space to share experiences with other parents.

Practical activities you can use at home. Led by trained, supportive facilitators.

Sessions held at Kaleidoscope Children and Family Centre- Kingsholm, GL1 3DN

For parents and carers of children ages 7-11  
who want to:

- Understand behaviour
- Build stronger connections
- Learn new approaches in a supportive group

For children ages 7-11 who can come to a  
calm and friendly place where all feelings  
are welcome.

- Sometimes emotions feel big...
- Sometimes worries feel heavy...
- Sometimes it's hard to know what to do...

Friday Sessions: Parents and Carers- 10am-12pm  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday Sessions: Children- 3:30pm-5:30pm  
Meal provided  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026



Welcoming Families, Connecting Communities



Gloucestershire  
Gateway  
Trust

# SPRING CENTRE SATURDAY CLUB



## SATURDAY CLUBS

10AM TO 2PM

Looking for a **safe, fun, and supportive** space for your child during the weekends? Our fully accessible respite sessions are specially designed for children with disabilities, offering a variety of engaging activities in a caring environment:

- ★ Sensory Room
- 🎨 Arts & Crafts
- 🎵 Music Room
- 🌳 Outdoor Play Space
- ⭐ Supervised by trained, experienced staff

Give your child the chance to make friends, build confidence, and enjoy new experiences while you take a well-earned break.

**Everyone deserves a break.**

**Let us support you.**

💡 Ask us about flexible pricing - cost should never be a barrier.

£12 PER CHILD

🚌 TRANSPORTATION POSSIBLE  
(WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE)

**Contact us today for further  
information and to book a place**



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