

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 12th December 2025

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
113	99	97	110

Help us improve our whole school communication by filling out this short survey. It will only take 2 minutes!

<https://forms.office.com/e/UCtdSqfipY>

Message from Mr Port

I am really looking forward to my first Christmas as the headteacher of Meadowside. The children have worked hard on their singing, dancing and speaking parts. It will be a special experience sharing the performances with you next week. This week we had Pupil Progress meetings and discussed the achievement of the children at Meadowside. The results of their assessments will be published on the mid-year reports, which go out in January.

I have spoken to a number of parents this week about communication issues from the school. Whilst we are trying our best to ensure the information gets to you, I understand that there have been emails that have been sent with incorrect dates and missing information. I apologise for this. Meadowside communication is on my school improvement list but after feedback from parents, I am determined to improve this sooner than I planned. I am working with Craig Broadman (our Chair of Governors) to create a smoother 'one platform' communication system but I am keen to hear from you on how we could improve communication at Meadowside. You can find the link for the survey above.

Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Staffing Update

The lovely Miss Visaranta will sadly be leaving Meadowside on Friday 19th December. It has been a pleasure to have her as part of the team at Meadowside. She has worked here for many years, offering her experience in language and art and design to staff and children alike.

School Dinners

It is Christmas Dinner day on Thursday! This means that the menu for Thursday 18th, will be on the Wednesday 17th!

Attendance

I have no attendance headlines because we had a complete computer system failure and our attendance has not digitally linked over the past fortnight. I will update you in the next Friday Fortnightly. I know there has been a lot of pupil and staff illness over the past week but I am hoping we are through the worst of it!

School Council News

Our named gritter, Gritfire, will be visiting Meadowside on Thursday next week! All the children will get the opportunity to meet Gritfire and the School Council will be posing for a photo!

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Apple class

Last week was assessment week and we were impressed how many of the phonemes most of the children knew. Please take the time to look at them a couple of times in the holidays to keep them in their heads. They also did a great job with the maths assessment on shape and positional language.

We have read our last monster book this week, The Love Monster and The Perfect Present. It has inspired us to make a present for our families so look out for that in book bags next week.

Christmas has well and truly arrived in the classroom with one of Santa's Reindeer arriving in the class. Lots of us have been very busy writing letters to Santa via the magic post box and Dasher is helping Santa to look out for all those nice children. We have had fun going over our parts for the church service next Tuesday. Our costumes are ready and our singing is getting more confident. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Year 1 – Cherry Class

Christmas may be coming but that hasn't meant Year 1 have been slowing down! In DT, we have been making our own pop-up pictures based on nursery rhymes. We have been working hard on our cutting out skills for this and can't wait to impress Year 2 with them next week!

In English, we have been re-telling the story of Little Bear's Trousers. We have been working on rehearsing one sentence at a time and making sure we check for capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We are also trying really hard with our handwriting by making sure our letters are all formed accurately and we are sizing things appropriately too.

In maths, we have continued our investigations into number, focusing on how to use a part-part-whole to help us make teen numbers. Some of us are now such experts that we could probably do it with our eyes closed!

Please do keep up with some reading/flashcards work over the Christmas break, along with Numbots, as these are so vital to keep key information in children's heads.

Year 2 – Oak Class

This week, we have continued our exploration of Key Question 3--> Who changed our lives for the better. We have focused on 5 different people and what they did to shape our lives- ask your children who they are and what they did for us (the children should say- Edward Jenner- created vaccines/ Samuel Pepys- wrote diaries to tell us about the past/ William Shakespeare- invented new words/ Mozart and Holst- changed the way people enjoyed music) If your child cannot remember, they might like to make a poster or drawing of these people to help them remember!

Our English work has centred on Nursery Rhymes and traditional tales. We have heard the story of The Steadfast Tin Soldier and compared it to a version that Disney made several years ago- we discovered they completely changed the ending! This is a little sneak preview into next term's English focus!

3D shape has been our focus in mathematics – we have learnt the properties of faces, edges and vertices and have been counting how many of each of these different 3d shapes have. Next week we will continue to look at 3d shapes AND it is the focus of the children's Learning With Parents homework today, too, so the more practise they get, the easier they will find remembering these new facts! Please help your child to practise at home.

Year 3- Beech Class

Beech Class have continued their learning about the History Hunters topic, with a focus on Natural History. We have been thinking about how Plate Tectonics shapes our world and we have been learning about the 3 different types of rock. The children have particularly enjoyed testing different samples of rock.

In English we have completed our biographies of Mary Anning and this week we have moved on to learning about prepositions, so next week we can write some preposition Christmas poems.

We have also spent time rehearsing for our Christmas performance and the children are excited to share their dancing and sing in French! We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Joyeux Noël!

Year 4 – Elm Class

Year 4 have worked very hard for assessment week. In maths this fortnight, we have been adding amounts to 4-digit numbers where we have had to bridge over to the next place value column. In English, we are in the thick of writing our newspaper reports based on Theseus' defeat of the Minotaur. We have really been focussing on using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. We have also looked at how to include quotes. In our topic lessons, we have looked at Greek architecture, the legacy of Ancient Greek theatre and the etymology of their ancient language and how we still use much of it today! We also had our second forest school session of the year- you may have seen our beautiful Christmas decorations, which the children had great fun making! We have spent a lot of time rehearsing for our Christmas performance and we are excited to showcase this to you next week!

Year 5 – Willow Class

Year 5 have had a busy fortnight in the classroom. In English, we published our space logs which look great and this week we have written a description of a park during winter. In their writing, the children included a range of sentence structures, descriptive language features and they used their senses to really create a vivid image for the reader. In maths, we have been multiplying whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. In science, the children have been learning about the planets in the Solar System and presented their research in interesting ways. We have been busy preparing for our Christmas performance and practised songs, a dance and speaking parts. Year 5 have had a positive term, and we will continue to build on their achievements into the new year – well done!

Year 6 – Maple Class

It is such an exciting time of year to be in a primary school! The timetable has started filling up with song practice, dancing, Christmas card making and all the other Christmas activities. Despite the festivities, Year 6 continue to work hard and completed a full set of past SATs papers during assessment week last week. Lots of children were proud that they were able to apply their recent learning and beat their scores from last time. We also completed our latest writing unit after finishing Thornhill and the children wrote their own scary stories. Mr Port read some of them and was terrified! In our Murderous Maya topic sessions, we have found

out more about the Gods and beliefs that shaped the way the Maya lived, and we discovered some of the theories about the cause of the Ancient Maya decline. This week, Year 6 had a special visit from the lovely Mrs Rowntree, who introduced a new platform to us that will deliver important financial education. All children now have a login and can access the platform from home. They can learn more about topics such as money management, spending and budgeting and insurance and inheritance. Lots of fun planned for next week, including our Reception Buddy Christmas Party on Thursday afternoon! We also look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas performance on Tuesday or Wednesday. Merry Christmas!

Friends of Meadowside

As we slow down in the run up to Christmas, our final event for the year, the Winter Wonderland trail still runs until Sunday 14th December, if you haven't done so already, head over to our Friends of Meadowside store and purchase your trail access.

Thank you again for all of you that donated, volunteered and came along to our annual Christmas Market and Christmas Carol's, it was a huge success and raised just over £2000!! Which we hope you'll agree is an amazing amount and will go towards revamping the courtyard for all the children.

We have just held our new Wreath making event which was hosted by Kopend creations. With thanks to Kopend creations, our guests now have very festive wreaths they can proudly display.

We hope you all enjoy your final week at school and would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

For any purchase visit the Friends of Meadowside store - <https://friends-of-meadowside.sumupstore.com/>

Sporting News

Boys' Football

Our A Team finished their league campaign with an unlucky 1-0 defeat to our local rivals, Beech Green. Well done team! We're very proud of you.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2025/2026

Monday 26th January

Monday 20th July

Tuesday 16th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 9.15 – 10.30 a.m. Reception and KS1 Christmas Performances will be running from the Church in the afternoon. There will be two performances. Timings to follow.
Wednesday 17th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 1.45 – 3 p.m.
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Dinner Day!
Friday 19th December	Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform) Last Day of Term 2 (finish at 2 p.m.)
Monday 5th January	Term 3 Begins

Wednesday 7th January	Young Voices Concert
Friday 16th January	Mid-year Reports
Monday 19th January	Year 3 Trip
Monday 26th January	INSET day
Monday 2nd February	Young Minds Matter Assembly
Tuesday 3rd February	NSPCC Assembly
Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th February	FREE Year 5 Bike service provided by Bikeability Just drop the bike off on the Wednesday!
w/c Monday 9th February	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 13th February	Last day of term (normal finishing time)
Thursday 5th March	Online Safety talk for parents. 17:30 – 18:30. All Meadowside parents invited.

Next edition due: Friday 9th January 2025

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

