

*Spring Term Edition*

*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026*

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
116	104	106	112

## Collection Change!

As you know, I have spent time considering the collection arrangements for children at the end of the day. Included in this was a parent survey which didn't provide me with enough information either way. Early last week, I asked headteacher from another school to observe collection at Meadowside and she shared some similar concerns that I have developed. I have therefore made the decision to change collection arrangements.

- From Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, children will be collected from their classrooms.
- You may enter through either of the gates at 3.15 p.m. We have spoken to the older children about leaving sensibly as there will be two way traffic.
- You may leave through either of the gates but parents are **not** allowed to enter the school building for safeguarding reasons. You all have a duty to protect children at Meadowside. Should you need to enter the building, please walk around to the main entrance.
- Children that got to Out of School Club will wait in their classrooms before being taken over to Little Meadow by a Meadowside adult once all the children have been dismissed safely.
- The Year 5 and 6 children who have permission to walk to the parent shelter/home can still leave in the same way.

## Message from Mr Port

There was a lot of very happy news in Celebration Assembly this morning. Two of our children received three special mentions – a Meadowside record! It has been a brilliant week and another one where I feel privileged to be headteacher at our school.

For the first time in a very long time, I am taking the staff offsite for an INSET day (**school is closed on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January!**). As you know, I am very lucky to have inherited a wonderful team but there are not very many occasions where we can all get together to build on what makes Meadowside a special place to and consider what will make it even better. We have a number of new staff and I am very passionate about the power of teamwork and feeling part of the 'Meadowside Family'. I am really looking forward to sharing a day with a very talented and hard working group of people.



## Attendance

### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **94.7%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.1%**
- Well done to **Year 3** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **97.5%**!
- There have been a total of **47 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% (National 94.8%)**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2% (National 94.8%)**

### Trees

The trees outside the front of Meadowside were due to be removed in October 2025. We have confirmation that the works are being carried out between 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February (half term). It's a sad day for trees but a parent mentioned to me at the time of the initial announcement that we should plant 4 new trees inside the grounds at Meadowside – what a lovely idea. We will do this.

### New Staff

I am very pleased to welcome **Mrs Hollie Swankie** and **Miss Catherine Dart** to the Meadowside family as Midday Supervisors. Lunchtimes are such vital roles in children's daily life at school so we have enhanced our lunchtime support.

### Stair gates

We are on the lookout for x3 stairgates to help us with provision at Meadowside. If you have one you can donate please email [admin@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Apple class

This week our classroom has been full of bears of different sizes and porridge, as we have been looking at the story of Goldilocks and the 3 bears. We have had great fun using our storytelling voices to take on the roles of the different bears in the story. In drawing club we imagined the cottage the bears live in and then latter in the week we used our imaginations to create a porridge making machine, there were a lot of different buttons and displays. The painting table has also been in use as we have been experimenting with mixing paints to make different shades of brown to paint our bear pictures.

In our phonics we are going over the phonemes and common exception words that we have learnt so far. Several times this week the children have really impressed me with their writing skills, we are all certainly getting better at letter formation and word building.

After talking about healthy breakfast we had a great science lesson. We were looking at how bread is changed when you heat it up and becomes toast. It was inevitable that we all ended up munching on half a slice of toast. Sorry if we made the rest of the school feel hungry.

### Year 1 – Cherry Class

This fortnight we have been learning a lot about different materials and their properties. We learnt some big words like buoyancy and water resistance! We enjoyed testing materials for their different properties and discussed why some materials are good for some things and not others. On Tuesday this week, we saw some videos of children who do not have as much as we do and how creative they were at making their

own toys, so we had a go ourselves! It was a little bit tricky but we had a lot of fun, just like the children we saw in the videos.

In English this week we were so lucky to have a visit from real life Traction Man, just at the time that we were writing questions we wanted to ask him! We were able to find out some information about him and get some answers! We have also made our own little comic books style Traction Man adventures which will make their way on display soon! In maths, we have been looking at 3D shapes. We have become experts at looking for faces, counting edges and vertices and most importantly naming the shapes! This is a great thing to continue at home – can you find any real life examples of some of the trickier shapes like pyramids?

Today the children took part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch! This is something you can do at home this weekend too! If you'd like to take part you can find out more [here](#). There are still a large number of children without outdoor shoes in school. I do have a few spare pairs of wellies/trainers but when we do whole class activities, I do not have enough. Please send some in if you know your child does not have any at school.

### **Year 2 – Oak Class**

This week, we have continued to think about influential women from our British history. We have compared Mary Seacole, Edith Cavell and Florence Nightingale, discussing how they faced similar adversity and each overcame barriers for what they believed to be the right thing to do. Ask your child to tell you about their amazing feats. Next week, we will begin our last Key Question → How have children's lives changed? We will be experiencing some of their lives in our school trip at the end of this term. Please see your child's ParentPay account for information on this and the payment details.

Our English work centres around a book and we have learnt a little about robots and bluebirds. We will continue to study this book throughout the rest of term, considering how people's actions affect others and how we can strive to be kind, caring friends.

Well done to all those families who have embraced the TTRockstars challenge! I gave out an enormous number of house points this week!! Keep practising this at home- little and often is best. I am trying to keep up with the challenges I am being sent, too!

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

In topic we have been learning about prehistory, with a focus on the Stone Age. We have been thinking about how we know about prehistory and we have been testing our archaeologist skills by looking at different pieces of evidence and trying to interpret them. We also thoroughly enjoyed trying to recreate some of the cave paintings that we have studied. In English we have finished reading Stone Age Boy and have been busy writing our own stories based on this book. Next, we will be studying an information book about Skara Brae and we will be writing our non-chronological report for our topic books.

Our visit to SkillZone was great fun, but most importantly, we learnt lots of valuable life lessons. We learnt how to make a 999 call, how to stay safe on a bus, in a shop and in a park and how to use Toucan crossings safely too!

### **Year 4 – Elm Class**

Year 4 are thoroughly captivated currently with our English Text: Leon and the Place Between. It is a magical and spectacular story with lots of rich language and predictions needed throughout. Thank you for allowing the children to bring in some magic tricks to share. It has certainly kept us all entertained and asking lots of inquisitive questions. In Maths we have navigated moving from mental strategies for our addition and subtraction, towards now rehearsing some more formal methods. This week we have been adding 4-digit numbers using the column method of addition by regrouping. Ask your child to show you some calculations (eg 4573 + 3348), as they have been increasing their accuracy by making marvellous mistakes and are now very fluent. We are so proud of their progress. As historians, we have travelled back in time to when the

Celts were living in Britain and then were invaded by the Romans. They have learnt about a fierce and inspiring leader of the Iceni tribe. See if your child can tell you their name and describe what they looked like. Our swimming skills continue to develop each week as one of our PE sessions, and many of us have developed in confidence and skill in the pool. Perhaps visit a local pool at a weekend for your children to show these off to you - you will be impressed, we are sure. All in all, a fabulous couple of weeks in year 4. What really shines through is the passion, dedication and determination to understand new concepts. In particular, we are working on expanding our vocabulary so if your child asks, 'What does that mean?' blame us! An inquisitive child is very healthy!

### **Year 5 – Willow Class**

Year 5 have had another busy week of learning. The children are thoroughly enjoying the book, 'The Journey' in writing sessions and have written some fantastic informal letters this week in the role of a character from the story. In Maths, the children have been learning about square and cube numbers - they have enjoyed doing investigations linked to these numbers. The children have fully immersed themselves in our 'Battle for Middle England' history topic and have enjoyed finding out where Anglo-Saxons fit into history – they have created timelines showing chronology. In PE, the children are participating in a gymnastics unit and have been learning about matched and mirrored balances – they have worked well in pairs to create a range of these balances. In RE, the children are learning about Judaism, and this week have found out about the importance of the Torah and worship in synagogues.

### **Year 6 – Maple Class**

January always feels like a long month... but that means we've managed to fit in so much already! Last week we were lucky enough to have a whole morning of engineering with the K'Nex challenge. Our engineer leaders gave the brief that we needed to build a functioning warehouse using K'Nex kits and be able to talk about how it functions and the design decisions we made. Every structure was completely unique and the way that the children could speak so eloquently about their creations was very impressive. The winning pair will compete in the next round against children from other schools. The talent doesn't stop there... it turns out that Maple class are incredibly musically gifted! After mastering notation, we have been playing and composing music on the glockenspiels. The children had to record their compositions using staff notation, ensuring that they stuck to four beats per bar. Tricky stuff but they were phenomenal. A whole class performance of Mary Had a Little Lamb was a real treat too. In English we took inspiration from Rudyard Kipling and have written our own Just So stories which we will be telling to Year 1 later this term. The stories are unusual tales of how different animals got their various features. In maths we have been working on calculations with mixed operations where we have used BIDMAS to guide us. Lunchtime SATs surgeries have begun and so many children have chosen to come and spend some time practicing the maths processes they find tricky or helping their friends to revise. It has been wonderful to see the dedication they have to their learning. This week in PE, there was lots of excitement as we had all of the apparatus out to practice our balances. The children also worked on floor routines to include counter balance, counter tension, rolls and jumps.

## Friends of Meadowside

We've got plenty of amazing events coming up, so there's lots to remind you about! As always, if you have any questions or feel you could help in any way, please come and have a chat with us — we would *love* to hear from you and welcome any support

### ☒ Circus Logo Competition – Winners Announced! ☒

A huge **CONGRATULATIONS**

to our Circus Logo winners! We received so many magnificent entries that judging was incredibly tricky. Well done to all our class winners, and an extra special shout-out to our overall winner... **Sekani in Year 2** what a fantastic achievement!

## What's Coming Up?

### ☒ 30th January – Adults Only Quiz Night

Tickets are selling fast, so don't miss out! Grab yours using the link below:

☒ <https://friends-of-meadowside.sumupstore.com/>

### ☒ 13th February – Break the Rules Day!

A super fun **non-uniform day** where children can break as many school uniform rules as they dare... and pay per rule broken! Let's see how creative everyone can get...

### ☒ Coming Soon – Chocolate Raffle

We're thinking ahead! If you're able to donate any **Easter eggs** for our Chocolate Raffle, we'd be very grateful. Donations can be brought in at *any time*. More details coming soon!

### ☒ IMPORTANT CIRCUS REMINDER!

Our **early bird prices** will end at the **end of February** — so if you'd like to snap up tickets at the discounted price, be sure to book soon using the link below:

☒ <https://friends-of-meadowside.sumupstore.com/>

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and support — we truly couldn't do it without you.

## 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.

### Anamika Dam

Vice-Chair: Pupil Premium and Sports Premium; Website Compliance; Policies; GDPR;

**About Me:** I'm a nuclear engineer and have lived in Quedgeley for nearly 25 years. I have been a governor for two years and currently have the privilege of serving as Vice Chair. I love the school and try to support our community in any way I can.

**Fun/Personal Detail:** I love travelling, and in my youth I travelled solo through South America for four months. Like Craig, I now spend most weekends watching my child play football, basketball and athletics.

**Unique skill:** Spotting issues, analysing them and finding solutions — a key part of my job, and something I hope benefits our governance work.

**Meadowside memory:** When staff and governors created a video set to "I'll Be There for You" during the pandemic — it made me laugh and cry at the same time. Meadowside is phenomenal at making you feel positive, proud and human.

### Friends of Green Farm Orchard

The Friends of Green Farm Orchard are offering a FREE tree pruning workshop to all local residence. You are all welcome. If you are interested, please come along and if you have time, please email Ellen Humphries [friendsofgreenfarmorchard@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreenfarmorchard@gmail.com)

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 10am - 13:30pm.

### Key Dates for your diary

#### INSET Days 2025/2026

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	INSET day
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 6 Dance Festival
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Young Minds Matter Assembly (worries)
<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 Ramadan Assembly
<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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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



Meadowside School