

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 28th November 2025

At Meadowside, we are:

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

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
125	115	106	129

Message from Mr Port

This week, we have begun our work on how we see the future of the Meadowside Curriculum. We have teams made up of staff from across the school and they work together to improve outcomes at Meadowside. The **English Team** discussed the importance of reading, the work on improving the Key Stage 2 reading curriculum has begun. To begin this process, Miss Mellersh is creating a whole school reading map. The team are also looking at the frequency of reading in Key Stage 2 and how this is monitored. Miss Palmer leads our **Maths Team** and her team have been looking at how we can further improve our maths lessons and creating a calendar of events to raise the profile of maths at Meadowside. The **Curriculum Team** look after the foundation subjects and science at Meadowside. Miss Akhurst visited another school this week to look at the structure of their curriculum and how they assess the children in these subjects. The **Well-being Team**, led by Mrs Whitlock, have looked at our offer for children and what is available that can improve well-being for children and staff at Meadowside.

It's Car Park Carols and the Christmas Market on Tuesday 2nd December! Please join us for what is the biggest fundraiser of the year. Friends of Meadowside will be working tirelessly over the next few days to get things ready for the big event – thank you team!

Talking of Christmas, rehearsals will be well and truly up and running next week and I am very excited to see what they have in store. For the first time in my career, I have no idea what to expect! I am looking forward to sharing these special moments with you all.

Mr Port
Headteacher



Attendance

Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95.2%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0%**
- Well done to **Year 4** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with almost **100%**
- There have been a total of **13** lates so far this term
- Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **95.7% (National 95.4%)**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2% (National 94.8%)**

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

School Council News

It was a ridiculously exciting first meeting for our school council members this week. We took on two Christmassy projects where we hope to represent Gloucestershire! We had fun coming up with some witty ideas for the 'Name the Gritter' competition, before taking ideas back to our classmates for them to vote on. The chosen names from each year group have been sent off and we now just need to wait and find out if any of them have been chosen to be the new names of real Gloucestershire gritters!

The second project involved recording messages and a Christmas carol to be used on BBC Radio Gloucestershire's 'advent calendar'. Our school council members will be broadcast on 5th of December, between 6am and 10am. You'll be able to listen back on BBC Sounds if you miss it!

Miss Davies

Governor Vacancy

Become a Parent Governor at Meadowside Primary School!
We need you!

What does a Parent Governor do?

- Represent the views of parents.
 - Help set the school's vision and strategic direction.
 - Support and challenge the leadership team to ensure the best outcomes for all pupils.
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Why join us?

- *Make a real difference to children's education.*
 - *Gain valuable skills and experience in leadership and governance.*
 - *Work alongside a dedicated team focused on improving our school.*
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Who can apply?

Any parent or carer of a child currently enrolled at Meadowside Primary School.

Time commitment

Around 6 meetings per year, plus occasional training and school visits.

Interested?

The successful governor will undergo a safeguarding process, including the disclosure of criminal records and other checks (DBS check only when the governor has accepted).

Deadline for applications: Friday 12th December

✉ admin@meadowsideprimary.co.uk

☎ 01452 721767

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Apple class

There have been yet more monsters in the classroom! Last week we met Bernard who unfortunately was eaten by a monster and his parents did not even notice. The love monster is a great story, we followed instructions to make our own love monsters. Inspired by the love monster the children made cards for people they love. We have also made loo roll monsters and planned a monster using our imagination. Finishing touches will be put to them tomorrow.

In maths we have been using positional language, playing games hiding a bear behind/ under etc a box. We have also been looking at how numbers can be divided into different parts. For example 4 can be made with 4 bricks, with a 2 and a 2 or 3 and a 1.

Phonics and reading continue, please keep practicing at home, it makes a difference. Thank you.

Year 1 – Cherry Class

Cherry class have been very busy this past fortnight travelling back in time! We met Magic Grandad who showed us what toys were like in Victorian times as well as in the 1950s and 1960s. Ask your child if they can remember any toys we saw. We have also begun to learn a little more about how

toys work and have been using words like manual, mechanical and electronic to describe toys as well as learning key vocabulary associated with different parts of toys!

In maths we have been getting stuck into some CSI maths lessons where we really dig into numbers. We have been counting, drawing and making numbers and will continue this over the next couple of weeks too.

In English we have been nursery rhyme hunting this week! We had a quiz to answer different questions that were hidden inside some nursery rhymes. Some were easy because we already knew the rhymes, but others took a bit more searching to find the answers. We really enjoyed this and will be putting our nursery rhyme knowledge to good use on a project that we begin next week!

Year 2 – Oak Class

We have had some very interesting conversations this week in our history lessons as we learnt that not all parts of our British history are very nice to hear! We were horrified to find out just some of the things that Britain did in order to create the British Empire and were all very keen to ensure that nothing like that ever happens again. The children were very sensible in their attitude and responses, which was a great demonstration of our school values and rules.

We very much enjoyed going to Barnwood Park on Wednesday and taking part in some multi-skills events.

Maths this week has been a real challenge! We have been learning how to subtract two 2-digit numbers by using the 10s and 1s. It took us 3 lessons, but we got there in the end! The Learning With Parents homework this week gives the children more practise but you also have the homework that was sent on 17th October, if you have time to look again at that so the children can do some extra practise at home- this would help us all become really proficient at these mental methods!

Lastly, we completed our English unit on diary writing today- we have now published our Great Fire of London diaries and were very pleased to be able to complete a whole diary, just like Samuel Pepys!

Year 3- Beech Class

In our topic 'History Hunters' we have been learning more about the natural history of our world. We have been really interested in the structure of the planet and have been thinking about how Plate Tectonics has shaped our world. We have completed jigsaw puzzles of the plates and noticed how lots of volcanoes and earthquakes occur near to the plate boundaries.

In Maths we have been very busy trying to learn our $\times 3$ $\times 4$ and $\times 8$ tables. Please support your child with improving their rapid recall of the associated facts.

In English, we have been busy learning about Mary Anning, one of the greatest palaeontologists ever! Did you know, when she was a baby, she was struck by lightning and amazingly survived! We have made notes about her life and are now busy writing her biography.

We also enjoyed a fantastic session in Forest School with Mr Jones! What a busy few weeks we have had!

Year 4 – Elm Class

In Maths this past fortnight, we have had a big focus on times tables. Ask your children to sing you some of the songs they have learned to help them memorise their tables facts or quiz them – this is all in preparation for the multiplication check in June. In English, we wrote Kennings poems based on The Minotaur, which were fabulous! We are now starting a new focus, which is newspaper reports. We have been looking at the different tenses and adverbials in the build-up to writing our own report. In our topic lessons, we have found out about some of the gods the Ancient Greeks believed in and some of the mythical creatures such as Cerberus, the three-headed dog and Medusa. We did some pencil sketches of Medusa, trying to capture her deadly glare. We have also looked at the first Olympic Games and what it has evolved into. In PE, we have been looking at different ways or travelling and rolling in gymnastics. We have also been preparing a dance for the Christmas production.

Year 5 – Willow Class

Year 5 had an amazing experience at 'The Space Centre' in Leicester on Tuesday. They had a great day and represented our school well. They enjoyed programming Mars buggies and climbing several flights of stairs of the rocket tower to learn more about Space over several different floors. They enjoyed looking at all the different exhibits and engaging with the interactive activities on offer within the centre. The children particularly liked the planetarium adventure where they found out more about being an astronaut. It was an incredible day and one the children will remember – thank you Year 5 for being such a delight to take.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting decimal numbers using the column method. In English, the class have been writing their star logs about an experience on the Moon with an alien encounter! They will look forward to finishing this next week and publishing their work for a display.

In RE, the children have been learning about the Islam religion and in particular the fifth pillar – Hajj. The children have been thinking hard about the incredible journey that Muslims take once in their lifetime. We were lucky to have some visitors in this week to talk to the children about their experience of going to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

In topic, we have been learning more about Space. We have looked at the Moon phases and why the Moon appears to look bright in the sky. We have also been learning lots of key information about the Sun and Earth and why we get day and night. The children are very enthused by their topic which is fantastic.

Year 6 – Maple Class

In Year 6 we have been working as hard as ever and in maths we found geometry to be a nice change after all of the long division we had been doing. We plotted points on 4-quadrant grids, we wrote the co-ordinates of existing points, we translated shapes from one place to another and reflected shapes across our axes. Now we are just getting our teeth stuck into fractions! The children

have been loving *Thornhill* (the text that is inspiring our current English work) and look forward to sitting on the carpet each day for the next instalment. They have also crafted some amazing and impactful sentences based on the book. Next week they will write their own horror stories- I'm already scared to read them! In RE we had a visit from Reverend Mark and the children spent an hour asking him all sorts of questions about Christianity and his role in the church. It was a brilliant session. Our Ancient Maya learning has included lots of history and geography. We have studied the places they occupied and compared to a modern map and found out about climate zones and biomes. We also explored the Ancient Maya calendar system and had a go at creating our own versions using their number system and our own glyphs. Ask your child for more information!

Governor news

Hello everyone,

It's been a little while since our last update, so I wanted to share a brief overview of what the Governing Board has been working on over the past few weeks.

We've now established two key working groups to help us look more closely at important aspects of school life:

- **Resources Working Group** – looking at finance, staffing, premises, and health & safety to ensure the school continues to run safely and sustainably.
- **Curriculum Working Group** – strengthening the link between governors and classroom practice, so we better understand the curriculum, teaching, and progress across the school.

These groups allow governors to offer the right level of support and challenge, and to stay closely connected to the areas that matter most for children's learning and wellbeing.

If you ever have questions about the work of the Governing Board, please feel free to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Craig Broadman

Chair of Governors



Friends of Meadowside

We are gearing up for one of our busiest times of year next week - **CHRISTMAS MARKET 2nd DECEMBER 3.30-6pm**

Thank you to everyone who have brought in something to support this event on the non-uniform day this week! The FOM team plus volunteers will be spending Friday night making raffle hampers and prizes for this event. If you are able to offer any help on the day we will greatly appreciate it as

the more help we have the better the event will be and at the moment we could do with some more help!

You can still book to see Santa and you can still purchase raffle tickets.

NOTICE - We are having an issue with SUMUP at the moment which we are hoping to resolve ASAP but please try to bring cash to the market in the event the SUMUP isn't working!

Straight after the market we have two more festive fun events:

Winter Wonderland Window Trail - 6-14th December - purchase your map through us and follow the trail. If you have volunteered to have your window on the map please have it decorated in your festive theme for these dates.

Wreath Making Workshop 11th December supported by Kopend Creations. We only have limited spaces left for this event so if you wish to come please come and see a member of FOM or buy on SUMUP (when it is back online).

Thank you all for your support and we hope you enjoy these events with your friends and families.

Sporting News

Cross country

Huge congratulations to all our cross-country team, we are so very proud of each and every one of you!

Today 50 children from Year 2- Year 6 took part in the Gloucester schools cross country championships. There was a very cold wind blowing, which did make a tricky course even harder, but every child showed determination and resilience! Congratulations to our medallists... we won gold and silver in the Year 2 boys, gold in the year 3 boys and girls and silver in Year 6 boys! Congratulations to the year 3 team who came 1st overall! We also had about 10 children from Years 4-6 who have been invited to attend Gloucester Schools cross country training! A hugely successful morning! Thank you to all our wonderful parent helpers, we really couldn't do it without your support!

Boys' Football

The A Team played against a very strong Hardwicke side. They lost 5-0 but showed heart, spirit and determination. We are very proud, whatever the outcome!

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2025/2026

Monday 26th January

Monday 20th July

Tuesday 2 nd December	Car Park Carols!
Tuesday 16 th 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 17 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 1.45 – 3 p.m.
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner Day!
Friday 19 th December	Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform) Last Day of Term 2 (finish at 2 p.m.)
Monday 5 th January	Term 3 Begins
Wednesday 7 th January	Young Voices Concert
Friday 16 th January	Mid-year Reports
Monday 19 th January	Year 3 Trip
Monday 26 th January	INSET day
Monday 2 nd February	Young Minds Matter Assembly
Tuesday 3 rd February	NSPCC Assembly
Wednesday 4 th – Friday 6 th February	FREE Year 5 Bike service provided by Bikeability Just drop the bike off on the Wednesday!
w/c Monday 9 th February	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday 13 th February	Last day of term (normal finishing time)

Next edition due: Friday 12th December 2025

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



Download your song sheet for
Car Park Carols 2025
by scanning the QR code below!

