

Spring Term Edition

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational Environmental Independent Opportunistic Understanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
117	129	120	140

### Message from Mr Port

Welcome to Term 4! We began the week with NSPCC workshops for Years 2, 5 and 6. I would like to begin my message with some feedback from Michelle Green, the NSPCC Schools Service Manager for the South West:

*"Your continued commitment to the programme is truly appreciated. Thank you for the warm welcome you showed to me and our volunteers. We felt genuinely valued throughout our visit, and it made the experience all the more positive. I also want to praise the exceptional behaviour and listening skills demonstrated by the children. Their maturity, engagement, and thoughtful attitudes were wonderful to see and a real credit to the school."*

This has made the staff incredibly proud and I was delighted to hear the news.

### Achievement

By the time the next Friday Fortnightly comes around, the children will be at the end of an assessment week. The children's progress will be discussed by senior leaders and governors the following week in Pupil Progress Meetings. The importance of achieving well at primary school is vital for their future. You can help support us by making sure reading is a priority at home. Please hear your child read regularly, as well as reading to them.

### Staffing news

Next week, we welcome Mrs Whitlock back to adjusted duties. Her recovery is going well and she will back in the classroom on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

We have employed a temporary caretaker, Mr Barnes, who is working for us as we continue our search for a caretaker.

### Look Who's Talking

A huge congratulations to Amelie (Y6), Bradley (Y3) and Ernie (Y2) for representing us so brilliantly in the oracy finals that have taken place across schools in Gloucester this week. Standing up in front of a big group of adults and children and talk for 2 minutes takes heart and bravery. We are so proud of you all!

### World Book Week Reminders

Next week sees the start of a full week of Book Celebrations! All is still a secret from the children and we will be revealing our plans little by little as the week progresses. We will launch with an assembly on Monday where all classes will be given a gift to use throughout the week! During the week, classes will use this gift in their English lessons. On World Book Day, your child will receive their Book Token which they can use to purchase a book in many participating retailers. (This day is a school uniform day for us!) **ON FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH**- all Meadowsiders are invited to dress as ragamuffins or urchins for the day as this theme links with the book we will all be studying! We will get together at the end of the day to celebrate and to announce an exciting event happening later in the year! More details on this to follow soon!

### Online Safety Event

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 5.30 – 6.30pm. This is an event specifically for parents and will help you protect your children in the online world. PC Simon Harris will be delivering the information and the feedback from his previous visit was brilliant. Please attend, no matter the age of your child.

**There will be a £20 Amazon voucher for one lucky attendee but you've got to be in it to win it!**

### Attendance

#### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95.4%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **1.3%**
- Well done to **Year 2** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **98.3%**!
- There have been a total of **12 lates** so far this term
- Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **95.3% (National 94.8%)**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2% (National 94.8%)**

#### Mr Port

#### Attendance Champion

### Meadowside Class News

#### Reception – Apple class

It seems hard to believe but we are halfway through this school year! Time is flying by.

Our topic - What's the story? Is continuing this term. We have been planting beans and singing song featuring giants as we have been looking at the story of Jack and the beanstalk. Giants have definitely caught our attention. In our English lessons we have written speech bubbles for the giant and words to describe a giant. Our music session involved making some very loud giant sound effects as well as creeping Jack noises. There is also a big painting of a giant on the wall. It has also been fun looking at the range of stories that are based on this tale. We have read: Jaspers beanstalk, Jim and the giant and Jack and the Jellybean stalk.

In our maths we have been looking at adding to 5. We have also looked at making patterns and have all progressed from making an ABAB pattern to a ABBABBABB type. We even continued making some patterns in our PE as well as meeting Pete for PE on Tuesday.

### **Year 1 – Cherry Class**

Cherry Class had a very exciting start to their week this week after we received a fancy message telling us to visit the bike shed. Once we got there, we found some clues and another message. We kept following the messages all around school until they led us back to our classroom where we found a toy cat and a book! Then we found out about our new topic A Tale of Tails! The children have already got stuck into learning about Beatrix Potter and can tell you all of the various roles she did in her lifetime – which was very unusual for a woman in that time period. You should have had the topic newsletter earlier this week with details about the topic and a date for your diaries (more information on this is coming to you next week!)

In English this week, we have been working on some of our key foundational skills for sentences as we will need these for an upcoming big project we will be working on linked to our topic. In maths, we have started to learn about fractions. We have found out what a half is and had a go at halving shapes, objects and amounts. We were also very excited to welcome Pete back to Meadowside for our PE lessons on a Tuesday. Pete has been coming to Meadowside for many years and leaves a lasting impression on our children – we are very lucky to have him with us!

### **Year 2 – Oak Class**

What a busy week Year 2 have had! We launched our brand new topic on Monday- Let's Pretend- and found out that we are going to have the chance to perform on a real stage one of Shakespeare's great plays, The Tempest. You should have received information about our topic and an email today telling you more about when and where to catch us on stage! This topic is a great one because it has TWO topic shines – our Shakespeare play AND the in school assembly. See our topic newsletter and Shakespeare letter for more details on each.

Our English work all links to narrative and planning for our in school assembly- we are planning some descriptions that, hopefully, will astound and amaze you (and maybe even give you a scare or two!) We will be working hard to improve our grammar knowledge this term and knowing the job of different word classes so that we can make powerful choices in our writing.

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

Year 3 have had a fantastic week. We thoroughly enjoyed our topic launch at the SS Great Britain. We learnt about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and why the SS Great Britain was so important. We enjoyed our classroom session and the guided tour of the ship and learnt about life on board. The class made the most of this fantastic opportunity and we received many compliments about their great behaviour and engagement! In English we have used this visit to help us write a recount of all that we learnt. In Mathematics we have continued to work on our column addition with 2 numbers up three digits. Today we put all our learning to good use, and we were choosing the most appropriate methods. In music this week, we started our recorder lessons. We will be continuing with these lessons until the end of May. We hope that we will be able to share our learning by performing a short recital for parents – we will let you know the details nearer the time!

### **Year 4 – Elm Class**

Elm class have continued with our topic entitled 'A tale of Two Cities', which is all about the Romans. We have looked at the impressive aqueducts the Romans constructed all over their empire and had a go at making our own using paper and tin foil. Unfortunately, none of ours were successful so the Romans must

have been fantastic builders! We have also looked at Roman Entertainment and focussed on the Gladiators! In Maths, we have finished our formal written methods of addition and subtraction and are now moving on to the formal written methods of multiplication. We have been using the distributive law, multiplying by multiples of 10 and using the formal written method of short multiplication. This all relies on times tables knowledge. Our Multiplication Tables Check is fast approaching- we are working on this every day and test at least once a week. Please could you encourage your children to continue practising at home as every little counts! In English, we have been finishing publishing our own books based on Leon and the Place Between and have been looking at apostrophes for omission and possession. We also did some artwork this week based on the artist Ivan Belikov and his impressions of mythical creatures, which was enjoyed by all.

### **Year 5 – Willow Class**

Willow Class have continued with their history topic: Battle for Middle England. They have found out about Anglo-Saxons homes – what they were made from, who lived in them and what they looked like inside and out. Additionally, the children have explored how Anglo-Saxons lived by finding out about the clothing and jewellery worn by men and women, what food they made and ate and what their beliefs were. The children are looking forward to designing and making an Anglo-Saxon brooch next week using clay.

In maths, the children have been translating shapes within a grid. They have learnt that shapes can move up, down, right and left but remain congruent. The children have also plotted shapes using coordinates and reflected them in different mirror lines.

In English, the children have been writing some trick verse poetry inspired by the poem, I saw a peacock with a fiery tail. They have used metaphors and abstract thinking to create some interesting poetic language.

On Monday, the children participated in an NSPCC session with our visitors. They contributed well to the session showing maturity and good engagement.

### **Year 6 – Maple Class**

Maple Class arrived back at school this week to discover that it was 1939! Their “awful behaviour” meant that they had to do an extra day of school... on a Sunday! Miss Davies had been replaced by a cane-waving strict 1930s teacher and Headmaster Port unfortunately had to give out a few lashings. At 11.15am our learning was halted by a radio broadcast from Neville Chamberlain who announced that, following Germany's refusal to withdraw troops from Poland, Britain was at war with Germany. It was shocking to hear and we talked about how we felt as children in 1939 hearing that news. There were lots of questions about what might happen next... We talked about the heaviness of war and then later that day looked at different forms of entertainment during the war and listened to some classic wartime songs. 'A Child's War' is going to be a brilliant topic!

In English we looked at the clues in our story sack to predict what our new text will be about, before revealing it to be *When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle. We are already enjoying this tale featuring a boy who moves to London during World War 2. We imagined what led his grandmother to send him there at such a dangerous time and wrote a letter from her perspective, persuading her friend to take Joseph in.

On Monday, we also had a special workshop with Karen and Sharon from the NSPCC. The children showed incredibly maturity when talking about difficult topics such as abuse.

SATs preparations continue and we have been looking at some past papers alongside the mark schemes to see what will get us the top scores. Arithmetic scores continue to improve, and many children are using the lunchtime SATs Surgery to brush up on their processes. Huge apologies as I was out of class on the last

Friday afternoon before half term and forgot to hand out the half term homework! I'm sure the children didn't grumble too much.

### **World Book Day Change of Lunch Menu on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

The menu for World Book Day will be

- Matilda's Marvelous Meatballs with spaghetti
- Jack and the Beanstalk Five Bean Chilli with Rice
- Jacket Potato
- Mr Jelly's Strawberry Helly with James and The Giant Peach Peaches

### **Friends of Meadowside**

Chocolate Egg Raffle

It's time for chocolate! And we need you help.

Our annual Chocolate Egg Raffle will be drawn on the last day of term (Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March) and we would love for all those who buy a ticket to win an egg. So please if you can donate an egg or two drop them off to the school office between now and the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We are selling the raffle tickets for the big draw before and after school in the car park at our little table from 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March, so please pop over and get yours! Only £1 a strip!

Huge thanks to those who have already donated it is really appreciated.

Thank you for your support as always. FOM

### **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-** Rebecca Kerslake

**Role-** Safeguarding Governor

**About Me:** I'm a secondary school maths teacher and have two daughters at Meadowside. My eldest is in Year 6, and I've been a governor for four years.

**Fun/Personal Detail:** I secretly run a zoo and botanical garden — four pets (not counting the children!) and more than 200 houseplants.

**Unique skill:** Offering both a teacher's and a parent's perspective.

**Meadowside memory:** The day I forgot Pirate Day — my children never mention it but I remain traumatised. Huge thanks to Miss Palmer who saved the day (and my blushes).

### 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

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Online Safety talk for parents. 17:30 – 18:30. All Meadowside parents invited.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Dress up Day! (see Miss Mellersh's letter sent at the end of last term!)
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 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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



Meadowside School



# Learn to Swim Discovery Days

Come & try our Learn to Swim lessons

**28<sup>th</sup> March 9am - 1pm**  
at GLI Leisure Centre

- Come and visit us at GLI. Have your child take part in one of our fantastic swimming lessons for FREE!
- To book your free taster lesson either:
  - Call now 01452 396666
  - Book online at [Join Now | Freedom Leisure](#)



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Bruton Way, Gloucester. GL1 1DT  
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