

Spring Term Edition

Friday 13th March 2026

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational Environmental Independent Opportunistic Understanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
166	166	156	175

Message from Meadowside

All of our children have been working hard this week to demonstrate everything they have remembered in their reading, writing and maths lessons as we all took part in assessment week at school. These assessments will be used to help the teachers decide what the children need to learn next and whether there are things that need a little more practise! We always ensure that our Learning With Parent homeworks and our spelling homework match what your children have been doing in school and this 'little and often' practise is what helps children to remember these key skills long term. Next week, our SLT will meet together to see how well our classes are doing- we are looking forward to seeing the success stories of your children's learning journeys.

Next week, our oldest children (Years 4, 5 & 6) have the opportunity to audition for a main role in our end of year production Oliver Twist! On Thursday, they will have the chance to show us that they are brave enough to speak and sing in front of an audience. I spoke with them today to reassure them that it doesn't have to be anything huge- we are just looking to see that they are brave enough to give it a go! We can teach them the rest! These productions are a fantastic opportunity and we encourage all our children to embrace their moment on the stage! Remember- there are no small parts!

Miss Mellersh

Attendance

Headlines

Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **96.1%**

Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.3%**

Well done to **Year 2** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **99.2%**... this is the highest fortnightly total of the year so far!!

There have been a total of 12 lates so far this term

Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **95.4%** (National **94.8%**)

Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2%** (National **94.8%**)

Persistent absence

When a child's absence falls below 90%, it is considered persistent absence. Each child's attendance is dictated by different factors such as authorised/unauthorised holidays or long periods of illness. Currently, 11% of children at Meadowside are persistently absent. Last year, we reduced this down to 5%. Let's all continue to work together to help improve attendance and if you have any worries or concerns, please speak to a member of staff and we can offer lots of help and support.

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Apple class

We loved being part of the whole school buzz of Oliver Twist last week, singing the song 'Consider Yourself' and hearing about what each class had learnt. They were shocked by how children were treated in Victorian times.

This week the class has smelt delightful as we have had gingerbread playdough and then we cooked gingerbread biscuits. Rolling the dough proved to be tricky, it was easy to roll it a bit too thin. The finished biscuits were delicious and the class were keen to make more biscuits. Unfortunately we could not fit this in but we did design and then decorate a small gingerbread figure.

Year 1 – Cherry Class

Cherry Class have been getting well and truly stuck into stories this past fortnight! With Oliver last week and all of our Beatrix Potter stories, we are certainly becoming literature professionals! The children loved learning about Oliver Twist and what a hard life he had. They were much happier when they found out that he got to live with Mr Brownlow in his big house forever at the end!

In English this week, we have been perfecting our writing skills and doing some planning of our own Beatrix Potter style stories. We will begin writing these next week and then publish them ready to wow you all at our sharing session in the hall before school on Thursday 26th March. (You should have received a handwritten letter from your child inviting you to this!)

In maths we have been learning all about quarters, problem solving, doubling and halving! It has been very full on but the children have really been trying their very best! Please remember to make use of your child's Numbots account – this is brilliant for things like doubles and halves.

In topic, we have been enjoying all things art! We have been doing draw-a-longs, sketching, colour mixing and next week we are going to learn how to use watercolours! You'll be able to see all of the children's hard work at our story sharing session!

Year 2 – Oak Class

Last week, we enjoyed recalling everything we had learnt about the Victorian era as we read about Oliver Twist as part of World Book Day. We will continue reading this story as our class book for the rest of the term to find out what happens to him in the end!

This week, Year 2 have been busy researching different materials this week and finding out about their properties- we have learnt the words malleable, flexible, transparent, absorbent and delicate. We then used these properties to decide which materials would be suitable for our costumes. On Tuesday, I went to the Gloucester Resource Centre to collect as many of these materials as I could so that we could use these for

our costume designs next week! **If you have not yet sent in a t-shirt for your child to design on, please send this in next week so they can start to plan their outfits!**

In maths this week, we began to learn how to tell the time. This is always a tricky concept as we often only see digital clocks nowadays but it is ANALOGUE time that we need to understand first so that we can have a better understanding of what those digits on a digital clock actually mean. Please help your child at home- you can do this really simply by switching your smart phones or watches and your tablets to display an analogue clock instead of a digital one so that your child gets used to seeing and reading these.

Our English lessons have focussed on our Shakespeare play this week and we will continue to practise lots at school to help the children learn all the actions and moves they need to know to perform the play. Please can you help your child learn their lines at home- action becomes much easier when you don't have to hold on to your script!!! We will practise again on Monday. All children have some lines to say, so please practise over the weekend.

Year 3- Beech Class

Book Week was a really enjoyable week and in English we read the whole story of Oliver Twist, we were detectives and looking for the punctuation associated with direct speech. We then tried to create our own conversations between characters, firstly, we wrote our ideas in Speech Bubbles, before trying to write the conversations as direct speech. It was challenging, but everyone enjoyed success. This week in English, we have been learning more about Isambard Kingdom Brunel to help us answer the Key Question 'Why was Isambard Kingdom Brunel a great Briton?' In maths, the children have continued to impress us with their growing skills and confidence with column addition and subtraction. Next week we move on to multiplication.

Also a huge well done to all the Girls' from year 3 and 4 who represented Meadowside at a Shooting Stars football event. They wore fabulous Disney inspired clothes and played with real determination, they thoroughly enjoyed the morning, despite the weather being so unkind! Well done, you were all fabulous!

Year 4 – Elm Class

Last week was a jam-packed week for book week! We read the entire Oliver Twist story. During this time, we created character profiles on the treacherous Fagin, wrote a letter from Oliver to Mr Brownlow after he'd been kidnapped, wrote acrostic poems and completed a drama activity about the story! This week in English, we have begun looking at adverts. We will start learning the features needed to write a successful advert from next week. In maths, we have been practicing formal written methods of multiplication by multiplying a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number. Times tables knowledge is key here so please continue practising these facts at home! We have also looked at multiplying and dividing by 10 by moving the digits over in their place value columns. In topic, we have studied the Roman army and designed our own shields, which we will hopefully make life-sized versions of over the coming few weeks. We also thought about why the Romans chose to invade Britain. Why not ask your child why the Romans thought Britain was so desirable? We had a swimming assessment last week and maths and English assessment this week so it will be understandable if your children are more tired than usual! The girls had an exciting excursion to play Disney football and the boys participated in some extra P.E in school. So, all in all, a fun-filled fortnight!

Year 5 – Willow Class

We enjoyed our Oliver Twist theme for 'World Book Day Week' last week where the children listened to the story, wrote a setting description of Victorian London, explored what life was like in the workhouse and wrote some persuasive arguments either for or against living in the workhouse. Some children shared their superb arguments in celebration assembly. This week in English, the children have written some great free

verse poems about a sea creature or sea monster in response to our class book using imagery and poetic devices. In maths, the children have been ordering and comparing fractions with different denominators. In RE, the children have been exploring how Christians commemorate Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In art lessons, the children have used clay to mould and create an Anglo-Saxon brooch. They used clay tools to add detail and patterns to their brooch. After the clay had dried, the children painted their clay brooch using metallic gold, silver and copper paint to make it look like the metal brooches that the Anglo-Saxons wore to hold clothing garments together. They did a wonderful job – well done Year 5!

Year 6 – Maple Class

We thoroughly enjoyed Book Week last week in Year 6. Each class was gifted a different version of the story and Maple Class received a comic book version. In English, we looked at a section of the comic and turned it into a piece of narrative with three paragraphs: a Victorian London scene setting paragraph, a section of dialogue between Oliver and Jack Dawkins (The Artful Dodger) and an action-filled paragraph to describe the famous pick-pocketing of Mr Brownlow. The outcomes were brilliant, with some wonderful vocabulary used. We had the opportunity to show some of our best sentences off in the sharing assembly at the end of the week. We loved singing, "Consider Yourself" all week and we even created our own dances to the song in our PE lesson. This week we began a new maths unit focused on ratio and proportion. So far we have looked at percentages of amounts and begun to compare these. Lots of reasoning practice too! In our topic lessons we have delved into the process of evacuation during the war and explored the impact on children in Britain. We wrote diary entries as evacuees and created art work depicting children arriving in the countryside. In geography we looked at maps of the UK and used atlases to locate the big cities which were targets for bombers. It is lovely to see some of the class getting excited about the upcoming whole school production. There has been some audition practice going on at lunch times- remember the auditions are next Thursday!

Online Safety

The resources from the recent online safety event can be found on our school website:

Cross Country

Well done to our five Year 6s that represented Meadowside on Sunday this week. It is true dedication to be willing to spend your weekend at a school event, so thank you! (And thank you also to Mrs Bowier who went to cheer them on!) Our boys, in particular, said that they really enjoyed the experience.

Football

Our A team have made it to the Small School's Cup Final! This will take place at 1.30pm at Longlevens Junior School on Saturday 21st March. You are all welcome to join us for the big game!

Gymnastics

Congratulations to our Year 3 and 4 gymnasts who represented Meadowside so beautifully. Huge congratulations to one of the children who came in 2nd place on the vault, winning a silver medal. Thank you so much to all the children who trained so hard for this event!

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 27th March) and we would love for all those who buy a ticket to win an egg.

Thank you so much to everyone who has kindly already donated chocolate eggs we really do appreciate it. However the pile is looking a little light and we really want to make sure that every child who has a ticket gets at least one - so please if you can donate an egg or two and drop them off to the school office between now and the 26th March.

We are selling the raffle tickets for the big draw before and after school in the car park at our little table from 18th-25th 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- Debbie Smith

Role- SEND & Inclusion; Staff & Student Wellbeing

About Me: My background is in the care sector: I worked for the National Children's Home supporting children with learning difficulties and complex medical needs, then ran a respite unit for adults with severe learning difficulties. After having my own children (my eldest has a rare genetic disorder), I became a full-time mum and carer. I'm passionate about children's health and happiness and hope to make a lasting, positive contribution as a governor.

Fun/Personal Detail: I've volunteered at Meadowside for nine years — I love it, the staff are wonderful, and the children are a joy.

Unique skill: Arts and crafts — I'm often found making wall displays, props, or sets for school plays!

Meadowside memory: Too many to count — Mrs Joyner's humour, Mrs Drummond's enthusiasm, Mr Port's fabulous non-uniform outfits, and of course the end-of-year plays where Meadowside shines every year.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2025/2026	INSET Days 2026/27
Monday 20 th July	Tuesday 1 st September Wednesday 2 nd September

Friday 23rd October
 Monday 25th January
 Wednesday 21st July

Monday 16 th March	Year 4 trip
Thursday 19 th March	Year 1 trip
Monday 23 rd – Thursday 26 th March	Year 6 Mock SATs
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 4 trip
Friday 27 th March	Year 4 Online Safety Trip Last day of term 2pm finish
Monday 11 th -14 th Thursday May	Year 6 SATs week!
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd May	Year 4 Residential
Monday 1 st June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Test Window Opens
Wednesday 3 rd – Friday 5 th June	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 11 th June	Class Photos + Individual Year 6 Leavers' Photo
Monday 13 th June	Maths Puzzle Day 1 Year 5 Science Trip (am only)
Tuesday 14 th June	Maths Puzzle Day 2
Monday 29 th June	Sports Day (9am – 11:45am)
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 1 and 2 joint trip
Friday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (time to be confirmed) Last day of the school year! Finish at 2 pm.

Next edition due: Friday 27th March 2026

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



Meadowside School

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ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
SEN AND SEND
9 - 25 YEARS

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MAKE NEW FRIENDS
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4:15pm - 5:15pm
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For more information Contact
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