

Spring Term Edition

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

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational Environmental Independent Opportunistic Understanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
153	128	145	148

## Message from Mr Port

Congratulations to Sue and Tony on their Wedding Day! If you haven't heard, Miss Noble is now Mrs Barnes! It may take years, but we will eventually remember her new name! We wish them all the best and send them all our happiness and love.



The Meadowside Governors met on Wednesday evening to work on school development and impact. We received an audit from Governor Services, which has been very helpful to give our next steps as a board. This will include more governor visits to monitor the impact of the work being done by all staff at Meadowside.

One of the areas we talked about at governors was achievement, with a spotlight on Year 6. Well done to our Year 6 children, who completed a whole round of mock SATs papers this week so they could experience what the real thing will be like in a few weeks' time. They are working incredibly hard and produced a fantastic set of mock results.

I had the privilege of taking Year 4 to see 'In the Net'. It was a drama performance that highlighted the importance of online safety. The children understood the messages about staying safe online, which centred around reporting things that make them uncomfortable, not sharing personal information online and being kind to others in the digital world. Mrs Stevens has been teaching computing lessons for Year 4 and safety and has a unit on AI (Artificial Intelligence) coming up after Easter. You can find out more about the guidelines around AI and children [here](#).

Have a wonderful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April!

Mr Port



## Attendance

### Headlines

- Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95.1%**
- Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.7%**
- Well done to **Year 3** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **97.3%**!
- There have been a total of **64** lates so far this term
- Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **95.4% (National 94.9%)**
- Whole school attendance for 2024/2025: **96.2% (National 94.8%)**

Mr Port

### Attendance Champion

## Windows!

A huge thank you to Harry Weaver, who cleaned our verandas last half term. Harry managed the impossible by getting rid of all the lichen and stains on the windows. It has made each veranda a much more pleasant place for the children to be.

## Meadowside Class News

### Reception – Apple class

The Meadowside Ball was a great way to complete our topic 'What's the story?' there was dancing, games and of course food. We talked about all the stories and the characters we have met. There was so much lively chatter I could tell they had all enjoyed it. We have used our imaginations and practiced using our story telling voices. There are some quite scary trolls, giants and wicked witches in apple class.

In maths we have been looking at doubling numbers. This led us into an interesting discussion about odd and even numbers. As our brains are getting a little tired towards the end of term it was good to have the number blocks to help us, they always have a fun way to explain a new maths concept.

On Tuesday we got together with our buddies for an easter egg hunt in forest school and a spot of colouring. Although we can see them every school day at playtime it is always good to catch up every term. We love our buddies, thanks year 6 for being so kind.

### Year 1 – Cherry Class

It was so lovely to see so many of you come and see how hard the children have worked on their Beatrix Potter stories! We think you will agree that there are definitely some budding authors and illustrators amongst Cherry Class! Most of our week has been spent putting together the children's stories - from writing in our best handwriting, to drawing and colouring the illustrations, and water colouring their characters! The children have absolutely loved getting stuck into everything Beatrix Potter this term and we know they will be just as enthusiastic about our next topic after Easter!

Maths this fortnight has focused a lot on positional language as well as speedy ways to complete calculations mentally. Numbots is so good at supporting children's speed and skill with mental calculations so please do remember to keep making use of this brilliant resource.

We hope you all have a lovely break over the Easter holidays! Please do continue to work on reading over the break – shorter bursts of reading carried out more regularly have far more impact than one longer session right at the end of the holidays.

### **Year 2 – Oak Class**

Year 2 have come to the end of their topic- Let's Pretend. We invited our families in to see an assembly today where we showcased some of the work we are most proud of from this term. We showed them our GSP Shakespeare play, *The Tempest*, that we performed at Sir Thomas Rich's School on Wednesday, we read some of our fantastic faerie-descriptions that we completed in our English lessons this term and finally, we performed our Faerie Dance that has been the focus of our PE lessons. The children also introduced each section of the assembly. They have very much been the leaders of this topic- deciding what to write, perform and by choreographing their own moves in our dance. Thank you so much to everyone who helped us learn our Shakespeare lines, provide costumes and those who came into school this week to help us sew. We are sad to conclude this topic but will start a new adventure next term!

Please continue to practise Times Tables on TTRockstars and see your child's Learning With Parents profile for some maths and English tasks that can help them continue their learning over the Easter break. We hope you have a lovely holiday.

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

We have had a very busy few weeks, learning more about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and all his amazing feats of engineering. The children worked very hard on writing and publishing a double page spread in their topic book, which answered the key question 'Why was Isambard Kingdom Brunel a great Briton?' After completing these we then had a day devoted to the question, 'Can you build like Brunel?' The class had to work as a member of a team to speed build a Lego bridge, then improve their bridge to see which team's bridge could hold the greatest weight, they then investigated beam bridges and competed to see which held the greatest weight. The final task was to build a bridge out of straws! We all had a great day and I'm sure there are a few engineers of the future in the class!

In Maths this term we have worked hard on our formal methods. We have learnt column addition and subtraction, and this week we have begun to learn formal multiplication! Please keep learning the 2,3,4,5,8, and 10 times tables as this will really help your child next term. Knowing these tables will be invaluable as they progress through the school.

### **Year 4 – Elm Class**

What an exciting end to our topic we have had. This week we visited Chedworth Roman Villa, which certainly brought our learning to life. Seeing the site and remains of a real Roman Villa (that was only unearthed in the Victorian era) was a real wow factor. The mosaic on which a potential real Roman gladiator may have walked upon, was incredible. What skilled people they were. Some children commented saying they weren't going to wash their hands because they felt closer to 2000 years ago that way! What was even more impressive, was the way the children showcased their knowledge and understanding of the classroom learning, as the guides complimented us on what they knew already about the Romans. It was a great consolidation opportunity. On that note, in English the children have been writing persuasive adverts to sell a Roman dwelling of some kind. They have successfully manipulated their skill of using expanded noun phrases, subordinate clauses and prepositional phrases in order to do so. In Maths, we have been expert at using the formal methods of division. We have called it the bus stop method and with plenty of practice children have been incredibly proud of themselves when they have understood the process. Remember that division is the inverse of multiplication and intrinsically linked so once all multiplication facts are nailed it makes division so much easier. We also had an interesting trip to the Hindu temple, where the children

brilliantly showed off all they have learned about the gods and goddesses in RE this term. We hope you and your families have a well-deserved break this Easter and if you manage to fit in any home learning over Easter- please do focus on consolidating speedy times tables. Next term it will be the National Multiplication Tables Check and then our school residential. You are invited to a child and parent event about this on **FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL @2:45pm**. If you are unable to make this we can send you the information home.

### **Year 5 – Willow Class**

Year 5 have had another busy fortnight! The children are enjoying learning about the Vikings and finding out about the countries that they came from and where they settled in the UK. The children have explored the reasons why the Vikings came to Britain and have discovered that the Vikings were raiders, explorers, farmers, settlers, and traders. The children have found out that Vikings travelled on longships and have drawn detailed diagrams of these and labelled their key features. In English, the children have written some fantastic tales of the terrible sea stories inspired by our book about refugees, 'The Journey' - the children really enjoyed being imaginative. They have also written some amazing informal letters from the perspective of one character in the book to another - they really embedded the emotions that the characters would have felt. In maths lessons, the children have been converting fractions, decimals and percentages and solved problems linked to these key learning points. In RE, the children have explored the Easter story in more detail and have written some interesting poems about salvation. In PE, the children have finished their gymnastics unit where they have performed their paired sequences to one another using a range of balances: mirrored, matched and counter-tension. The children have worked incredibly hard during the spring term - enjoy your Easter break everyone.

### **Year 6 – Maple Class**

This week the children put their hard work into practice with a SATs trial run. Their attitudes to the tests were fantastic and I will share results with you at parents' evenings after Easter. We have worked really hard in our revision for these tests but certainly managed to have time for lots of other (more exciting) things too. Last week, after learning about rationing and what people ate during the war, we decided to have a go at making a WW2-style Homity Pie. The children were put to work peeling, chopping, grating, weighing, mixing, mashing and frying. Although it made many of them cry (onion chopping!) we ended up with two rather impressive-looking pies. The results of the taste tests were mixed and most children preferred the jam tarts that we managed to make with our left-over pastry!

On Tuesday, there was a surprise Easter activity for the children. We spent the afternoon with our Reception buddies completing an egg hunt in forest school and doing some Easter colouring together. These moments are always so lovely to observe and everyone had the best time!

Year 6 children will come home today with their Easter homework. There is maths to be completed every day for ten days (only ten minutes each day!) alongside SPAG and reading which can be done on alternate days. The idea is not for your child to be spending hours doing homework in the holiday but just to keep everything ticking over while we are away from school. All of the answers are included so that children can check their work at the end of each session. I hope you all have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing everyone in Term 5!

### **Sporting Update**

#### **Football**

The A Team returned to Meadowside with the Small School's Cup after beating The Croft 1-0 in a very close match last weekend. A huge well done to the boys and a big thank you to all the parents, carers and staff that supported the boys on this special occasion.

### **Cross Country**

Well done to Dylan in Year 6, who finished 118<sup>th</sup> in the National Finals! An amazing achievement. We are all very proud of you, Dylan!

### **Gymnastics**

Congratulations to the year 5 and 6 gymnasts who represented Meadowside so beautifully on Wednesday. You have all worked so hard over the past 2 terms to master some difficult skills, your determination and perseverance paid off! The team came an amazing 5<sup>th</sup> in the Gloucester Schools competition.

### **Friends of Meadowside**

**Another term is complete, and we just want to say a HUGE thank you!**

Whether you've bought tickets, snapped up Easter eggs, donated prizes, or given up your time to help at events — **you've made such a difference and we are incredibly grateful!**

Our chocolate raffle has once again been a massive hit, and we hope your child brought home something delicious! Thank you so much to everyone who donated and took part.

#### **THE CIRCUS IS ALMOST HERE — AND WE ARE BUZZING!**

After a whole year of planning, our Circus Extravaganza is nearly upon us, and things are getting wonderfully busy! Tickets purchased before 20th March should now be home in book bags, and we're working through all later orders ASAP. If you spot an issue or need more info, just email us at [friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:friends@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

**Tickets are still on sale... but not for long!**

- Our **5:30pm show** has only a *handful* of tickets left
- Our **4:00pm show** is filling up fast  
Once we hit capacity, that's it — so if you want to join the fun, grab your tickets quickly via our SumUp shop!

#### **WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!**

This is one of our biggest events of the year, and we simply **cannot** run it without amazing volunteers.

If you can spare *even one hour* — either for set-up beforehand or to help on a stall during the event — it would make a HUGE difference. Please get in touch if you can lend a hand. Events like this truly run on community spirit, and we'd love to have you involved!

#### **Raffle Tickets Are Out!**

Raffle tickets should have come home this week — and wow, do we have some fantastic prizes lined up! Please return your raffle stubs after Easter. Need more? Just let us know and we'll send extra your way.

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support. We can't wait to welcome you to the Circus... and to see **Mr. Port attempt to juggle** at our big Extravaganza! ☐☐☐

### 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-** Sharon Phillips

**Role-** EYFS

**About Me:** I'm a new governor and proud Group Manager at Little Meadow, where I've worked since 2001. I have three children, two of whom attended Meadowside, and my youngest was in Mr Port's first ever class. I now have a grandson enjoying his own Meadowside journey. I'm passionate about the power of quality early education and excited to take on the role of EYFS Governor.

**Fun/Personal Detail:** I divide my time between Quedgeley and my happy place in Devon — often travelling down the M5 with my two lively springer spaniels.

**Unique skill:** I love baking, especially themed birthday cakes — the bigger the tier, the better!

**Meadowside memory:** Hearing "Cauliflowers Fluffy" sung at Harvest for the first time and realising Meadowside is so much more than a school.

### Policy Updates

Suspensions and Exclusions

Equality

### 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

Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Online Safety Trip Last day of term 2pm finish
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Residential Meeting/Information event
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)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 1 and 2 joint trip
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Maths Puzzle Day 1 Year 5 Science Trip (am only)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

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

