

Spring Term Edition

Friday 24th April 2026

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational Environmental Independent Opportunistic Understanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
88	102	86	87

Message from Mr Port

The summer term has started incredibly positively for all the Meadowside family and today is the day of the biggest event of the year so far... The Circus!!! You may well have experienced the circus before reading this. I know my family have been very excited to see it. A big thank you to Friends of Meadowside for all the hard work that went into organising the circus. The dedication of the volunteers behind the scenes is impossible to sum up in words. We are so lucky to have such an awesome team and if you see them out and about, please thank them.

Statutory Tests

It is approaching the time of year where some year groups sit their statutory tests. Children in Reception are working towards their Good Level of Development (GLD), Year 1 are preparing for their Phonics Screening Test, Year 4 are busy with their multiplication tables check preparation and our Year 6s are almost ready for their Key Stage 2 SATs. You can read more about these assessments [here](#).

Student Teacher in Year 4

We have a student teacher from the University of Gloucestershire joining Year 4 for the next few weeks. Miss Ford is completing her final placement of her PGCE but is a formal pupil at Meadowside! Many of us taught her (including me!) and it is a pleasure to have her back 'home'! Miss Ford will gradually increase her teaching commitment over the next couple of weeks and will build up to teaching 80% each week.

Safeguarding

Georgina Summers, head of the Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Partnership, visited Meadowside this week and was very impressed with the progress we have made against the recommendations set out by Ofsted and the previous audit. Remember, you can access safeguarding information [here](#). She was particularly impressed with a new section of the website developed by Mrs Whitlock, which summarises all the help we are able to offer families. It can be viewed [here](#). We have some recommendations which we will continue to work on and I will update you on these in the future.



Have a lovely, sunny weekend!

Mr Port

Attendance

Headlines

Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95.4%**

Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **1.2%**

Well done to **Year 3** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **98.1%**

There have been a total of **18 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%**)

Boys' Football Kit

The girls had a new kit last year and it is amazing! The boys' kit has served us well and lasted us 10 years but we are in desperate need of an update. If anyone in our Meadowside family or beyond is able to sponsor 20 kits (A and B team), please contact the school office.



David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough, a personal hero of mine and many others, is approaching his 100th birthday! Environmental is a school value and we want to celebrate this national treasure on his special day, Friday 8th May. We will be celebrating by:



- A special assembly
- Each class visiting the Meadow that week for a special activity
- A competition! Your child can draw or take a photo of something from the natural world. Entries need to be in the office by Thursday 7th May, The winner will receive a special prize!
- A tea party. The children will gather on the playground to celebrate Sir David's birthday. They may bring in a small, special treat for this occasion. This could be naughty treat, ideally cake! We will sing happy birthday to the great man.

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Apple class

It was a good start to the term last week as we launched our topic - How can we help? The children were quick to help one another and so we started giving out kindness tokens. They have also been helping the staff by becoming more independent. We used to collect their water bottles from the hall, but the children are bringing them back themselves. They are also doing a great job of being independent in the morning, saying goodbye at the gate and sorting book bags and snacks themselves. Well done all children and adults, it is not easy but will stand us in good stead ready for year 1. Pete is back with us for PE on a Tuesday and we have all enjoyed learning some new games that help us run faster. We are looking forward to some sunshine so we can get outside on the field for PE. In maths we have been looking at numbers between 10 and 20, the teen numbers and started recording in our maths books. Another step towards year 1.

Year 1 – Cherry Class

What fun Cherry Class had on Wednesday last week when we were greeted with a coded flag message and a locked treasure chest! We solved the message, found some scrolls which contained riddles (which Cherry Class were amazing at solving!) and managed to track down puzzle pieces from all around the school! We put the puzzle together and managed to open the treasure chest. Instead of gold, jewels and chocolate (which we were hoping for!) we found some sea and pirate themed items and key questions for our new topic Setting Sail! The children were very excited to learn that at the end of this topic, we plan to visit a real beach and see the actual sea! You should have had a ParentPay e-mail with information about this and payment details as well. Please come and see us if you need to discuss a payment plan.

We got straight into our English work, trying to help out a lighthouse keeper who we were worried was eating too much unhealthy food. We have been designing him delicious menus and making ourselves very hungry in the process!

In maths, we have been learning speedy methods to support our addition and subtraction calculations. Ask your child if they can tell you about any of the methods we have been learning that made calculating very easy.

Finally, we visited the library on Monday and the children were absolutely brilliant! They enjoyed some stories from the library staff, got to explore the books and do some colouring and even found out about Lego club which runs every Thursday afterschool. They were a real credit to Meadowside and were even complimented by members of the public as well as the library staff. Well done Cherry Class!

Year 2 – Oak Class

Year 2 were very excited in the first week back to find out that we are all going on holiday... unfortunately, the adults had not packed correctly so we had to go back to the drawing board! We have planned our Buckets and Spades topic to enable us to find out lots more about holidays from around the world and back through time so that we will be able to correctly go on holiday at the end of the topic. (You should have received a letter about this through your child's ParentPay account- please note that our final destination is still a secret from the children, so don't spoil the surprise!.) Our English work this term is a mixture of writing that matches our Buckets and Spades topic to allow us to show off all our writing skills learnt throughout Year 2! We need to focus hard on ensuring our sentences have the correct punctuation and that they make sense- using standard English grammar. In maths this term, we are using our number bonds to 10 again, and again, and again in order to calculate mentally. Lots of children seem to have forgotten these so please have some extra practise at home so that the children are not having to calculate twice and can just focus on the task at hand!

You should have received this week a breakdown of our Buckets and Spades topic as well as the focus of our maths lesson so that you can help your child at home too.

Year 3- Beech Class

Year 3 have been continuing with our topic of 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles'. This term is mainly Science and DT based. We have started by looking at different forces and we investigated how friction and the surfaces of ramps effects how toy cars move. We have also investigated magnetism. Next week we are going to design and make our own vehicles, trying to implement our science learning so that our vehicles can move easily. Please send in a shoe box (or similarly sized boxed) by Wednesday. In music we have continued to learn the recorder. We hope to be able to invite parents into school to watch a short recital before half term! In English we have enjoyed reading the book 'Ocean Meets Sky' and today the children have been writing like writers and have been writing sequels. They had to include direct speech and brilliant descriptions of imaginary lands. Well done Year 3!

Year 4 – Elm Class

Year 4 have had an exciting first two weeks back to school! We kicked off our new topic 'We are engineers' with a STEM lesson, where the children were tasked with making junk modelling boats. We tested the boats to see if they would float, if they would travel across water efficiently and if they would hold passengers (metal spoons!). We continued our learning by looking at how a circuit is created, the use for switches and which materials are good conductors and insulators of electricity. We have just moved onto our second key question, 'what happens to food after we eat it?' and have been looking at the function of our teeth. In English, we learned about Joseph Swan, a British inventor credited with inventing the lightbulb. We wrote diary entries pretending to be Swan over his journey of invention. This piece of writing concentrated on fronted adverbials, coordinating conjunctions, informal adjectives and adjectives to describe emotions. In maths, we have been comparing decimal numbers. We learned the seasons and months in French and began practicing our first songs on the ukuleles. We have all had great fun!

Year 5 – Willow Class

Year 5 have had a busy couple of weeks following the Easter break. In English, the children have enjoyed listening to and responding to their new book, 'Tyger' by S.F.Said. They have been writing in role and exploring what it feels like to be the main character within the story. They have discovered new vocabulary in the book and created emotion graphs to explore how the main characters are feeling at different points in the story so far. In Guided Reading sessions, the children have loved reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. They have worked particularly hard on their inference skills. In Maths, the children have been converting a range of metric units for measure for length and weight. They have demonstrated that they can also calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes with mixed units of measure and missing sides – it has been a challenge, but the children have enjoyed it! The children have started their swimming lessons at GL1 and have enjoyed their sessions so far. Next Thursday morning, the children will be going to Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School to participate in a cricket tournament which is something exciting to look forward to!

Year 6 – Maple Class

It has been a busy first fortnight back at school and the children have got straight back to it and have been working so hard. This effort is having a huge impact on attainment, and the children can look forward to showing off their amazing progress in SATs week. Although we are continuing with daily arithmetic practice, our maths lessons have focused heavily on reasoning. This week we have looked at lots of questions featuring charts and graphs and also returned to properties of 2D and 3D shape. In English we have used an unusual Brothers Grimm tale (Hans My Hedgehog) to inspire newspaper reports featuring human-animal hybrid

births! As sophisticated writers, we have had to use formality shifts to distinguish between the article itself and the quotes given by the public and medical professionals. In Science we have enjoyed making and experimenting with electrical circuits. We tried to adjust the brightness of bulbs and the volume of buzzers through adaptations and then used the electrical circuit symbols to draw diagrams of these circuits. We are now starting an exciting new DT project where we are designing and building air-raid shelters to withstand a bomb (tennis ball!) being dropped on them.

Friends of Meadowside

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!**

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- Hannah Warwick

Local Authority; Finance & Compliance;

About Me: I am a dedicated professional working with the local authority's fostering team, where I care for very young children and serve as a champion, supporting the service through diverse initiatives. In addition, I volunteer at a local baby bank, contributing to the well-being of families in need. My career spans various fields, including Education, HR, Governance, and Business, equipping me with a broad range of expertise that I am eager to apply to my role as a Governor at Meadowside. As a parent of two children who attend Meadowside, I am passionate about supporting the school's development and helping it achieve success.

Fun/Personal Detail: Traveling is one of my greatest passions, and I've had the privilege of exploring five out of the seven continents, visiting around 20 countries along the way. Up next on my travel wish list are Japan, Costa Rica, and New Zealand, among many others I can't wait to discover.

Unique skill: My unique skill set includes experience in governance and compliance, which aligns perfectly with the needs of the role. Additionally, I possess up-to-date knowledge and hands-on experience in safeguarding and advocating for children and young people, ensuring their well-being and protection are prioritised.

Meadowside memory: I have so many fond memories from being a parent at Meadowside. Watching them perform in a variety of roles during school productions, cheering them on as they sprinted with all their might on sports day, and enjoyed countless dance-offs at the school disco. There have been many sunny afternoons spent at the school picnic as well as hot dogs and carols at the Christmas markets. There are so many, it's hard to pick just one.

Policy Updates

No updates in the last 2 weeks.

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 23 rd October Monday 25 th January Wednesday 21 st July
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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 29 th June	Sports Day (9am – 11:45am)
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 1 and 2 joint trip
Friday 3 rd July	Oliver dress rehearsal (to rest of school)
Monday 6 th July	Oliver performance 1 (times to be confirmed)
Tuesday 7 th July	Oliver performance 2 (times to be confirmed)
Thursday 9 th July	Children meet their new teachers!
Monday 13 th July	Maths Puzzle Day 1 Year 5 Science Trip (am only)
Tuesday 14 th July	Maths Puzzle Day 2 School Family Picnic! 4 – 5.30 p.m. Reports out to parents
Friday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (time to be confirmed) Last day of the school year! Finish at 2 pm.
Tuesday 1 st September	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 3 rd September	Welcome back! First day for children.

Next edition due: Friday 8th May 2026

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



Meadowside School

