

Summer Term Edition

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational Environmental Independent Opportunistic Understanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
84	91	71	<u>78</u>

## Message from Mr Port

### Phonics Screening Test and Multiplication Tables Check

Wow! What a brilliant effort from all the children in Years 1 and 4 this week! 'Try your best' was on show as the children tackled these tricky assessments. I am a very proud headteacher. Well done!

### New Reception Class!

We had the pleasure in welcoming the 2026/2027 Meadowsiders parents to the school family last night!

### ELSA

Mrs Weaving and Mr Irvine have been training as Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) over the past year. They are nearing the end of their training and their work will begin in September but have begun to test out their training this term. Their work can focus on several aspects of emotional support including: social skills; friendships and relationships; anger management; loss and change and self-organisation. They are also working on a referral system for staff to use. You never know what is around the corner for children and families; we are very lucky to have this level of support available from September.

### School Improvement

I am very proud of the progress the children have made at Meadowside. The staff have worked tirelessly on school improvement this year and the results are really paying off. On Monday, we have two external visitors coming to Meadowside to see the progress we have made on our curriculum. The visitors will be spending time in classrooms, talking to staff and governors and looking at children's books. I look forward to sharing the results with you.

Have a lovely weekend and remember to fill out the survey (the link was sent out via email) if you haven't had a chance already.

Thank you,

Mr Port



## Attendance

### Headlines

Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **95.5%**

Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.9%**

Well done to **Reception** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **97.8%**!

There have been a total of **15 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

#### Meadowside Class News

##### Reception – Apple class

This week we have been thinking about traveling through the air. Every child has a mini me which is currently flying in a hot air balloon. We have also been learning lots with paper aeroplanes. Firstly trying to make them and then experimenting to see how to make them go further. We quickly discovered that water and paper planes do not mix well. We set up a pretend plane in our outside area. So far we have been to the beach, Spain and South Africa. Those of us who have been on a plane were eager to share their experiences.

In literacy we have been using the book *The blue Balloon*. The author of this book, Nick Inkpen has and we had to have one too when we imagined where the balloon could take us. As we were talking about balloons we used them in our PE session, they are always lots of fun.

In maths we have been sharing equally and recapping some of the things we have already looked at eg doubles, pattern and ways to make 5.

##### Year 1 – Cherry Class

Year 1 have had a busy fortnight continuing to look at Key Question 3 – Which voyages are the most famous? We have concluded our learning about Titanic (although we will continue to read some books on it as it is certainly a topic that has captured the children's interests!) and have found out about the voyage that Christopher Columbus took and the circumnavigation of Francis Drake. We will soon be moving on to our final key question, in preparation to conclude our topic with our trip to Weston!

In maths, we have begun to learn about money – this is a hugely important life skill and learning with parents has one activity a term that focuses on this area. So far, we have learned about the coins under £1 in value and have been doing a bit of simple adding of money too. We will continue this work into next week as well.

In English, we had a new mystery book to begin reading and it was not until Wednesday that we found out the title! So far, we have been looking at the illustrations and making predictions, creating plans for going on a journey and even drawing our own treasure maps! We can't wait to see what we will be doing with this book next!

##### Year 2 – Oak Class

We had a strange delivery last week to relaunch our Buckets & Spades topic! After studying the artefacts and getting some help from 'Magic Grandad' we discovered that these were items relating to seaside holidays from the past! The rest of this term will focus on history, both that outside of living memory and within living memory. Last week, we focused on the time period 1900-1930- we couldn't believe that some people back then had never even seen the sea! This week, we have been very lucky to welcome into school Mrs Mellersh, who told us about her childhood holidays from the 1950s. **Hopefully you should have received a letter this week asking**

for your help to help us learn about seaside holidays from the 1970s/ 1980s and 1990s. If you have holiday photographs from any of these decades, please may we borrow them on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June? We promise to take good care of them and will return them to you the same day!

This week we also revealed to the children that we will be going on a traditional holiday from the past! We will be travelling to our nearest beach and taking part in some of the activities they would have done back then! **If you have not yet paid for this trip, then please note that your payment is now overdue.** We have also sent out letters to those of you who have offered to help on this trip- thank you to everyone who offered but we had lots more offers than spaces on our coach!

#### Year 3- Beech Class

We have had an exciting start to our final term as year 3! We started with the launch of our new topic 'Tomb Raiders'. The children had a series of tasks to do to see if they had the skills required to reach the treasure. They had to read maps, solve anagrams, work as a team to cross a minefield, find a list of items in a scavenger hunt and complete a blindfold challenge. It was great fun and the children showed great perseverance and resilience – well done year 3! Our new topic is about Ancient Egypt. We have looked at where Egypt is in the world and discussed a little of the geography of the region. We have also thought about why we know so much about life in that time. We also made links with our previous learning and thought about what life was like in the same era in pre-historic Britain. In English we have looked at Cinderella stories from around the world, and we are now doing a more in-depth study of The Egyptian Cinderella.

In maths we have finished our unit on time and have been thinking about measure – learning to use a ruler to accurately measure in mm and converting and comparing various measurements. Please continue to support your child's learning by reinforce the telling of time to the nearest minute on an analogue clock.

#### Year 4 – Elm Class

It has been a delightful two weeks in Year 4 Elm Class. The children have really started showing some maturity and wonderful retention of knowledge in all that we have learnt so far in Year 4. This makes us as teachers very proud, and it shows how they are preparing for being in upper key stage 2.

In Maths we also have been looking at time on both digital and analogue clocks and converting between the twelve hour and twenty-four-hour clock. They have found this quite difficult so if you have a watch lying around the house or any opportunities to solve some time problems this will really help. Why not watch a film and predict what time it finishes, if you know it lasts for one hour and thirty-five minutes?

In English we are reliving our amazing residential by writing a detailed recount of our visit. One for the memory bank! Our topic work has seen much investigative work in Science and linking in our computing coding skills where we made and used sound loggers-checking to see if distance affects sound travel. Miss Ford is nearing her final weeks working at Meadowside but we know she will be a frequent visitor when time allows. We thank her for her wonderful lessons. In Music we continue to entertain and improve our skills playing the Ukelele. Hopefully we will have a band soon! Don't forget the performance is the same day as sports day so keep those diaries updated.

#### Year 5 – Willow Class

We have had another busy fortnight in Year 5. The children have worked hard with Mr Jones to create a more inviting and purposeful reading corner in our classroom. It looks amazing – thank you Mr Jones for all your handywork! We now have extra seating for the children to enjoy and more shelves of books for the children to browse and borrow.

In English, we have finished reading our class text, 'Tyger' and the children had fun prior to this predicting and writing their own version of the ending. They will be starting to write their own stories next week. In maths, the children have been calculating the area of rectangles and squares and using a formula to do this.

The children have been busy investigating in science – exploring materials to see if they dissolved in liquid to form a solution. We made predictions, discussed the variables we would change and keep the same, and made observations. The children have also been learning about reversible and irreversible changes. We looked at how dissolving salt in water can be reversed and what happens when bicarbonate of soda is mixed with vinegar.

In RE, the children have been learning about worldwide views and how people cope when times are hard. The children have made some good contributions to class discussions and explored ways that they can support people going through hard times.

#### Year 6 – Maple Class

It has been difficult returning to normality after such a fantastic time away for our residential. The children were incredible and we made some amazing memories together. From watching children conquer their fears by climbing, abseiling or taking part in the water sports, to seeing them all pitch in with bunkhouse jobs- there were fights for the Hoover!- it was a pleasure to be there with them. Since returning we have completed two RSE lessons where the children participated with maturity. It can feel uncomfortable talking about subjects such as puberty and reproduction, but Maple Class have so far been great.

In English we have completed the editing and publishing of previous pieces of writing and have begun to explore explanation writing in readiness for writing an explanation of how the heart works. We found out all the information we will need in our Science lesson and have looked at examples of explanation texts to gather an understanding of the features required in our own writing.

In maths we have focused on patterns: spotting patterns, continuing patterns and creating formulas for patterns. We have also done some activities which require calculators- these will be used more regularly in secondary school.

#### Electric bus!

A huge thanks to Dave Hill, who organised one of Stagecoaches new electric buses to visit Meadowside this week. All the children, including those from Little Meadow, visited the bus. There was a lot of button pressing and horn honking! The children loved it and learnt a lot about this new eco-friendly bus. The School Council were split on the name choice, so I had to make the final decision... it will be called Lightning McBus! The bus will revisit us with its new name on soon! 'E' for Environmental was at the heart of this visit.

#### Governors

##### **Working Together: Inside Our Governing Body**

Now that our full Governing Body is in place, we wanted to share a little more about how we work to support the school.

Much of our work is carried out through two key groups. The **Curriculum Working Group** focuses on what children learn, looking at the design and quality of the curriculum, and how it supports strong progress and a love of learning. The **Resources Working Group** looks after finance, staffing and the school environment, helping to ensure resources are used effectively to benefit all pupils.

Alongside this, the **Full Governing Body (FGB)** meets regularly to bring everything together. As a whole group, we review key information, ask questions, and provide support and challenge to school leaders, ensuring the school continues to provide the best possible education for all children.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our work over the coming weeks. **Do look out for our next newsletter**, where we'll be sharing a closer look at the Curriculum Working Group.

## 🌻 Friends of Meadowside 🌻

We're delighted to share some exciting updates and heartfelt thanks with our wonderful Meadowside community! 🤍

First of all, a huge **thank you to everyone who has supported our recent events**—from purchasing pre-loved uniform and discos tickets to simply spreading the word. Your support truly makes a difference.

A very special **thank you goes to our amazing volunteers** who gave up their time to supervise the discos tonight! These events simply wouldn't be possible without you, and we are incredibly grateful for your dedication and enthusiasm! 🌻

### 🎪 Circus Success!

We are thrilled to announce the final profit from our April Circus event—an incredible **£1,950.55 raised in just one afternoon!** This is a fantastic achievement and a real testament to the hard work, teamwork, and generosity of our community. Thank you all for making it such a success!

### 🚶 Upcoming Events

- **Sponsored Walk – 26th June**

All the information you need will be emailed out on Monday, so keep an eye on your inbox. We're looking forward to another fun and active event!

- **AGM – Wednesday 15th July at 6:30pm (at school)**

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. It's a great opportunity to hear a round-up of the year, celebrate what we've achieved together, and share ideas for the exciting year ahead.

Thank you once again for support. Together, we are making a real difference! 🌻

## 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

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (9am – 11:45am)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 1 and 2 joint trip to Weston super Mare (the children do now know!)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Oliver dress rehearsal (to rest of school)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Oliver performance 1: 1.15 – 3.15pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Oliver performance 2: 1.15 – 3.15pm

	Oliver performance 3: 6 – 8 pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Children meet their new teachers! Parents invited after school to introduce themselves to new teaching teams
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 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 School Family Picnic! 4 – 5.30 p.m. Reports out to parents
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (time to be confirmed) Last day of the school year! Finish at 2 pm.
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Welcome back! First day for children.

Next edition due: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 2026

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



Meadowside School



## FREE taster lesson for children from 3 - 16yrs

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