

Autumn Term Edition

Friday 9th October 2026

At Meadowside, we are:

Aspirational Environmental Independent Opportunistic Understanding

Comets	Hurricanes	Meteors	Spitfires
117	101	83	102

Message from Mr Port

Survey Results

This is the final week of survey feedback and I've condensed the results into a table:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
The school supports my child's personal development	34%	64%	2%	0%	0%
My child can take part in clubs and activities	43%	45%	10%	0%	2%
There is a good range of subjects for my child at this school	41%	47%	6%	0%	6%
The school communicates well with me about the things I need to know	43%	38%	17%	0%	2%
When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart	47%	47%	4%	0%	2%
I would recommend this school to another parent	Yes 92%: No: 8%				

We do have a lot of work to do on communication. We know it's not perfect but we will be working with governors to address this. The surveys really help us reflect on life at Meadowside and the decisions we make. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out. Another will come your way in the Spring!

Parents' Evening

Thank you for attending a really successful set of Parents' Evenings this week. It was really important for teachers to be able to talk about how your child has settled in and for you to get a glimpse at the work they have been doing over the past few weeks. Remember to keep reading at home with your child. It is the heart of all learning!

Harvest

In assembly, I spoke about the importance of supporting others and being thankful. We watched a video of how Gloucester Foodbank delivers items to those in need to help the children see where their items will go. A HUGE thank you as you donated 111.45KG of essential items! That's a whopping 1.8KG per child!

Have a lovely weekend and I'll see you Monday,

Mr Port

Attendance Headlines

Whole school attendance for the past fortnight: **97.2% (this is great!)**

Unauthorised absences for the past fortnight: **0.2%**

Well done to **Year 1** as they have achieved the highest attendance rates of the fortnight with an awesome **99.1%!**

There have been a total of **78 lates** so far this term

Whole school attendance for 2025/2026: **96.6% (National 96.3%)**

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

I have received lots of absence forms the day before the absence has been requested. This does create an administration headache and it is not in line with our policy. Please let us know at least 14 days in advance.

Mr Port

Attendance Champion

Year 6 Buddies

The Year 6 buddies have been absolutely brilliant! I have received messages from parents and carers about how they help keep their child safe and how lovely it is that the school community looks after one another so well. I am extremely proud of our year sixes. Well done!

Meadowside Class News

Reception – Maple class

The class are cracking on well with learning the phonics, keep practicing them at home to help with your child's confidence. It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening this week to chat about how they have all settled into school. Last week we had our first drawing club lessons, using the book 'Going on a bear hunt' The children and I drew the bear and wrote a magic code to make it less scary. We also designed a flag show weather we would welcome the bear to our house or keep it away. It was interesting to hear the children's different reasoning about what they chose. As well as working on our maths and phonics we have been working on our personal skills, sharing and making sure we are all kind and everyone stays safe.

Year 1 – Apple Class

What a busy fortnight we have had in Year 1! Last week, we were treated to a visit from the Wild Hogs Rescue group. They came to talk to us all about hedgehogs and the dangers that they face, as well as letting us have a go on their "hogistical course" where we had to avoid all of the hedgehog dangers! It was so much fun, but also very informative! Year One will be organising a fundraiser for them next term, so look out for further information. In maths we have been recapping 2D shapes (and were brilliant at spotting their properties) and this week we have been adding and subtracting 1 and learning how to write number sentences.

In English, we have begun a new mystery book! So far we have only looked at the front end papers and seen a beautiful area spoilt by rubbish! On Tuesday this week, Apple Class came into a classroom filled with rubbish! It was quite a shock! We worked around the litter for the morning so we could see what it was like to be an animal in a litter filled area. We then made some posters to teach others about why littering is bad and worked as a team to put our classroom back to normal again! Year One have really shown their compassionate side this fortnight and I'm sure there will be more of this kindness to come!

Year 2 – Cherry Class

Year 2 began a new unit of work this fortnight focusing on geography entitled What Makes Our World Wonderful. We found out about the United Kingdom, the continents of the world and its oceans- ask your child if they can sing you the continents and oceans songs we learnt. If your child would like even more practise, use this website- [sheppard software](#)- to recap the names and locations of each area of the world.

In maths this week, we have begun to look at addition and how basic number facts are crucial in allowing us to calculate more efficiently in our heads. This was a message I spoke with lots of you about at parents' evenings this week too! Lots of us have found that we don't know our number bonds to 10 as well as we should do and so have found some aspects of calculating tricky. Please do practise at home with your child so that they can know these off-by-heart. The [Hit the Button](#) game can be a great way to practise in a different way, as can Numbots, so there are plenty of ways to get better!

Our English lessons this week have focussed on poetry. We are learning how to create a 'fast poem' using our knowledge of nouns, adjectives and verbs. And, we will be learning a brand new word class this week in order to complete our poem well. Look out for these appearing in our Key Stage 1 corridor soon!

Year 3- Oak Class

Year 3 have had a very productive few weeks. We have moved on to a DT unit of work focussing on pneumatic toys. We have investigated some simple pneumatic systems, learnt about different drawings that are used in design technology and this week we have made plans to create our own simple pneumatic toys. We will make

these next week – children have been asked to bring in hinged boxes (e.g. egg boxes or tea bag boxes etc) and other resources needed – please check with your child what they need and send them in to school on Tuesday.

In English we have been learning about Mary Anning, writing recounts and diary entries. Next week we will continue our learning about this amazing woman and begin compiling notes for writing a short biography of her life. If your child is interested in seeing some of her finds, then why not visit Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

Linking to our work on Mary Anning, in Science, we have been learning about the formation of fossils. We have learnt about how they are found in sedimentary rocks and we had great fun handling fossils that were millions or even billions of years old. The children held part of a Tyrannosaurus Rex bone, a Mosasaur tooth, gryphaea, belemnites, ammonites and even dinosaur poo! The children all made a mould and cast fossil and were all given a fossilised sharks tooth to keep too!

Year 4 – Beech Class

Last week we finished writing our discussion text on the use of plastic and have read to the end of our inspirational book 'One Plastic Bag'. The children were amazed when watching a video of Isatou and how she can turn simple plastic bags into purses, handbags and flour holders. In maths, we have been continuing our topic of place value and have focussed on rounding numbers. This is always a tricky one, but the children have grasped it well. We seem to have mastered our 6 times tables now, but it has become apparent that we have some gaps in our lower tables such as 3s and 4s. If you get a chance, please play any times tables games you can with them. TTR is always a great one! In science, we have been testing materials to see which are insulators and conductors of electricity. We now know how to draw a scientific diagram of a circuit and have also used switches in our own circuits. We started a new DT topic last week and the children have been tasked with creating a mindfulness timer for a teacher. They first practised some mindfulness breathing and meditation and then used the computer to programme the microbits so that they will go off after a certain time. Why not ask your child how they did this?

Year 5 – Elm Class

Year 5 have had another busy fortnight. In English, the children have enjoyed reading the rest of Beowulf and Grendel and have written some great, gruesome narrative pieces about the great fight between these two characters. They worked hard to use a range of sentence structures and punctuation as well as ambitious vocabulary. In maths, the children have been reading and writing numbers with three decimal places and representing these as a fraction. In science, the children have learnt about how we get day and night as part of our Earth and Space unit. In life skills, the children have participated in some interesting discussions about the importance of good friendships. They had to work in pairs to do some roleplay where they considered how to be a good friend in different scenarios. It was lovely to meet with parents this week to discuss how the children have settled into Year 5 and it was a lovely opportunity for them to see the children's hard work in their books.

Year 6 – Willow Class

This week we finished reading our first class book- Holes by Louis Sachar! We loved it (most children awarded it five stars in their book reviews) and we have ordered the sequel and are hoping to watch the film in the last week of term. In English we have been exploring the Amazon Rainforest and begun writing information leaflets for Year Four, so they can learn about it too! We had to think about formality and tense and come up with alliterative subheadings to entice the reader. In maths we have revisited multiples, factors and prime numbers and have continued with our mixed reasoning. Our focus foundation subject is now Art. So far we have considered what street art is (and looked at examples of street art in our local area), practised using one point

perspective to sketch street scenes, tried our hand at scaling up images using the grid method and planned our own street art to convey a message. Music is getting even trickier as we have been listening to, replicating and creating our own polyrhythms. It was lovely to meet/ see so many parents at parents evening- there was lots of good news to share!

Governor Corner

Hello everyone, I'm Rebecca Kerslake and I'm delighted to be stepping into the role of Chair of Governors at Meadowside. I've been a governor here for nearly 5 years, working across safeguarding and curriculum and I'm also Head of Maths at a local secondary school. I've worked in education since 2007, and with one daughter at Meadowside and another now in secondary, I'm fortunate to see school life from both a parent's and a teacher's perspective — something that really shapes how I approach this role.

As Chair of Governors, my role is to support the Headteacher and leadership team, ensure strong governance, and help maintain high standards across the school. I work closely with fellow governors to monitor safeguarding, curriculum development and the overall strategic direction of Meadowside. Our aim is always the same: to make sure every child feels safe, supported and able to thrive.

I'm excited for the year ahead and proud to serve Meadowside in this role. It's a privilege to help shape the future of a school that means so much to so many families.

Friends of Meadowside

We have some exciting events coming up and would love your support!

Annual Bake Off Competition

Our annual Bake Off is almost here!

- **Plate sale starts:** 12th - 16th October in the school car park
- **Bake Off entries:** Bring your amazing creations to the school hall on **19th October into the hall.**
- **We will be selling all your creations after school in the hall!**

We can't wait to see all the fantastic bakes!

School Disco

Our next event will be the **School Disco on Friday 13th November.**

Ticket purchase information will be sent out shortly, so keep an eye on your emails and school communications.

Wreath Making Workshop

Join us for our **Wreath Making Workshop on 20th November** (letter previously sent out on ParentPay).

Please sign up as soon as possible so we can confirm numbers and determine whether we can run the event. Please visit our sum-up store to get your place.

Next meeting is at 730 @ The Thatch - all are welcome and we will be discussing Christmas!

Thank you for your continued support of Friends of Meadowside. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Black History Month

October is Black History Month! In our classes, we will be learning about notable black figures throughout history and from today. The children may notice some pictures around the school. The diversity team are running a competition! On Monday, every child in KS2 will come home with a crossword and every child in KS1 will come home with a sheet of paper with pictures on. Their task is to identify the famous individuals, unscramble the anagram of their name which they will find under their picture around school, and return it to Mrs Reed by Wednesday 3rd March. We will be choosing a winner at random from KS1 and from KS2 from the entries and they will receive a prize. If you can, please take some time to discuss these individuals with your children.

Key Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2026/2027

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 25th January 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

Monday 19 th October	Friends of Meadowside Bake Off
Wednesday 11 th November	Individual and sibling photographs
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need (non-uniform)
	Friends of Meadowside School Discos KS1: 5 – 6.15 pm / KS2: 6.30 – 8 pm
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th November	Anti bullying week

Friday 20 th November	Year 2 trip Friends of Meadowside Wreath Making 18:00 – 21:30
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th November	Road safety week
Tuesday 1 st December	Christmas Market and Car Park Carols
Tuesday 8 th December	Year 1 trip
Monday 15 th December	Christmas performances (approx. timings): KS2: 9.15 – 10:15 am / KS1: 13:45 – 14:45
Tuesday 16 th December	Christmas performances (approx. timings): KS1: 9.15 – 10.15 am / KS2: 13:45 – 14:45
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper day (non-uniform)
Friday 18 th December	School closes 2pm
Monday 4 th January 2027	School opens to pupils
Monday 25 th January	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Next edition due: Thursday 22nd October 2026

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

