



Meadowbank Primary School

Newsletter

Issue 1: Autumn Term

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

The autumn term in school is always a wonderfully busy one and this year has been no exception flying by at exceptional speed. It only feels like a moment ago that I was welcoming everyone back after the summer break and yet I find myself basking in the glow of the Christmas performances, which were of course glorious.

In a society surrounded by media of all types, it could be easy to feel, at times, some negativity about the world that our children are growing up in however, when you work in a school it is impossible to feel that way. Just watching how children inspire and support each other to flourish and have such ambition for their future I have little option but to see the world through their eyes, a place of joy and excitement, particularly at this time of the year. I am truly blessed to spend my days at Meadowbank.

In fact, it is difficult to narrow down the many moments of wonder to just one or two to share with you as I see them on a daily basis. However, our Christmas performances and recent Friends of Meadowbank Christmas Fair must be noted highlights that sit along with the magic moments of a year five reading buddy expressing his pride in the progress made by the year two pupil that he was supporting and the amazing poems about saving our environment written by year five and six. Truly wonderful indeed, I cannot wait to see what the spring term brings.

I wish all of our children and families a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the adventures of 2020.

Kindest regards

Janine Appleton



OUR MISSION

AS LIFE LONG LEARNERS	AS LEADERS OF CHANGE	OUR LASTING LEGACY
<p>Limitless Learning: You never stop learning. New knowledge and skills excites us and makes us want to find out about all the things we don't even know.</p>	<p>Change Makers: We change things for the future so the world is a better place for everyone. We make a difference to improve lives for all.</p>	<p>Excellence For All: A curriculum that helps to prepare you for your life. Learning that makes you buzz with excitement.</p>
<p>Belonging Together: Working as a team together and across our schools with a shared mission and vision so that we are all on a learning journey together. When we learn as one family we are more powerful.</p>	<p>Developing the minds of tomorrow: Influencing the lives of others to achieve goals.</p>	<p>Making It Matter: Being the best that we can be so that we are ready for our future. Making every moment special and trying our best. We are proud of our achievements and of each other's.</p>
<p>Nurturing Ambition: Following your dreams and goals because they make life exciting. Having goals makes you challenge yourself. Having ambition helps you find your way so you can aim for whatever you want to achieve.</p>	<p>Empowering Everyone: Building trust and valuing each other in school and across our schools so that we can make positive contributions. We act as one team, one family who learns.</p>	<p>Ready For the The Future: We stretch ourselves preparing for the future so we are ready for new adventures.</p>



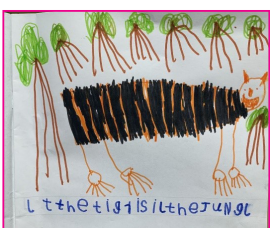
FS1

Researchers and explorers

The Foundation Stage 1 children have been learning about toys and teddies and have used the special toy box to help them to think of things they would like to do and learn. They have been 'Limitless Learners' and came up with the most amazing ideas and these questions! Where are toys made? What's inside a teddy bears tummy? How do they get toys to speak? The children have been very busy being researchers and explorers to find out the answers to these questions and even made their own play dough and created their own toys. We would also like to thank the children and their families for being very generous in donating things for 'Operation Christmas Child'. Thank you so much for being thoughtful and kind.



FS2



Down in the Jungle!
Foundation Stage 2 children have had an amazing time learning lots of Nursery Rhymes and have been immersed in a learning environment that is language and literacy rich. During Autumn 2 we participated in the World Nursery Rhyme Week and one of our favourite rhymes was 'Down in the Jungle'. The children performed on the stage, created their own animal prints and wrote all about the jungle animals in the song. They even did a jungle dance! At the end of the week some very lucky grown-ups were given a ticket made by the children to watch the Nursery Rhyme extravaganza. What great team work where we have all been on a learning journey where we 'Belong Together' and achieve together.



Messy Moments

The children in Year 1 made a smooth transition from Foundation Stage 2, they definitely came back from the Summer break raring to go! The children have enjoyed learning through play, exploring, discovering and following their interests through the themes they have chosen. They decided to start their learning journey with Muck, Mess and Mixtures, they particularly enjoyed conducting scientific experiments (where they got a bit messy) and participating in whole school events such as the 'European Day of Languages (French)' and 'National Poetry Day'. This half term they said they wanted to know "how things work" and have shown a thirst for knowledge and understanding about the everyday objects around them. Highlights for the second half of the term have been designing their own shoes, building their own houses and a visit to St Guthbert's church, where they were allowed to ring the bell!



Doctors and Nurses

What a busy first term we have had! Year 2 began the year with dragons visiting our playground and ended it with visits from paramedics with all of their life saving equipment and an ambulance!

Intriguing questions and curiosity have led our Year 2 scientists to carrying out investigations and observations of eggshells, how germs spread, the sugar content of our favourite drinks and getting up close and personal with some real bones!

We have loved delving into a number of books throughout the term, each linked closely to our learning, and particularly enjoyed using *Funny Bones* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg as they were able to really let their creative juices flow when up levelling the story and creating their own versions using the skills we have learned. We even used this book to make a *Funny Bones* street of an array of houses whilst we developed our understanding of multiplication.

Our love of the story, *Zog and the Flying Doctors* by Julia Donaldson, not only helped us to produce some wonderful descriptive writing but has also developed our historical enquiry skills by exploring the way nursing has changed over time. We had a visit from a theatre nurse who explained how modern nursing is helped by technology and the machines, medicine and equipment available today. We were then able to use this powerful knowledge to consider the challenges for nurses 100 years ago as well as understand the Lasting Legacy that Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell left behind as significant women in history. We have worked really hard on our multiplication and division skills this half term and the children now have access to the Times Tables Rock Stars app which will enable them to continue practising applying these skills to solve a range of problems as we return to school in January.



Y3



Leaders of Change in Action

Year 3 have certainly been Leaders of Change this term, they have actively used their learning to influence the decisions of others with regards to plastic waste. The children have considered the environmental impacts both far and wide of the plastic they use and worked at school and home to see how this can be reduced. The children have loved reading *The Owl who was afraid of the Dark* and applying the knowledge they have learnt of environmental issues across the curriculum to habitats close to home, whilst also investigating themes arising from the text. The children have made and tested their own shadow puppets considering which materials will make the clearest shadows whilst retelling the story and have written their own stories about animals with a fear, which they can't wait to share with Key Stage 1. One of the many highlights for year 3 this term was the *Drumz Aloud* workshop which the children and grownups thoroughly loved!

Are you smarter than an 8 year old?

Year 4 have really shown themselves to be Limitless Learners this term. They enjoyed learning about the inner workings of volcanoes and earthquakes through our lessons, their use of the role play area, quests and by continually asking new questions and researching the answers. Their explanation texts show that they really did become experts. The children particularly enjoyed using their knowledge to challenge their parents when we played, 'Are you smarter than an 8 year old?' They were the clear victors, sorry parents. In music the children appraised various ABBA songs and enjoyed singing their favourite, *Mamma Mia*. Throughout topic work they have been developing art skills using different media. They effectively created their own pieces of artwork involving French landmarks during European Day of Languages when we used the work of Ben Heine; pencil vs camera, to inspire our creativity and they have created their own cave paintings. Their curiosity and passion for learning continued with our work on fossilisation, dinosaur extinction theories, life in the Stone Age and the evolution of humans. The children have developed their oracy throughout the term and this culminated in our recent debate when the children shared their opinions on the question; Why don't we care about the Earth? This stemmed from our wider question linked to humans being involved in the next mass extinction and really showed the children's knowledge of global issues such as microplastics, global warming, pollution and the push to live greener lifestyles.

Y4



Y5

Beats, Bands and Biomes

How quick this term has flown, which must only be a result of all of the fantastic and exciting learning that has taken place in Year 5 since September. Our children loved immersing themselves in the culture of music, both during our topic where we explored the musical history of Manchester and through our lessons around popular global music in preparation for our first choir performance of the year. The children have had enriching opportunities to express their creativity while developing their oracy and performance skills through using drama during PHSE lessons and when hosting in this year's Harvest Celebration. Our learning has also taken us outside of the classroom as we have utilised our school grounds to create sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy reflecting the geographical features of Biomes. We have enhanced our geography skills through map work, understanding of longitude and latitude, physical and human features of geography, biomes and comparing our own lives to those living in secluded tribes across the biomes. Naturalist David Attenborough has opened our eyes to the impact we have on the ever changing world and how we must protect it as Leaders of Change in the future! We have delved into literature across the curriculum, predominantly through our learning surrounding Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson. Our exploration of this text has allowed our writing to flourish across the term when writing for a range of genres: persuasive writing, non-chronological reports, letters, diaries, instructions and poetry. The Year 5 team have felt truly inspired by the children's resilience during our swimming lessons, in which all children have made significant progress towards becoming confident swimmers. It is safe to say it has been a busy yet stimulating term in Year 5 and we can all only look forward to the other thrilling opportunities our learning will guide us in 2020!



Y6



Climate Change Protectors

Year six have been fully immersed in their topic this year. They have undertaken the role of young activists inspired by Greta Thunberg to promote change and awareness of the changing biodiversity of our world. They have enjoyed writing for purpose: sending letters to the Mayor, writing powerful speeches to inform and performing poetry linked to Greenpeace's "There's a 'Rang tan' in my bedroom." Our fieldwork involved going out into the local community and exploring Cheadle's carbon footprint and ways to reduce this. We are looking forward to becoming leaders of change within our community to shout out against climate change!

MEADOW ROOM

Creativity Counts

The Meadow Room has been a very busy place this term with lots of learning and friendship making each day filled with fun and exploration. Our curriculum is personalised for each child in the room but we do enjoy learning what we can do all together. This term we have looked at the work of Picasso and made our own art in his style. We think that they are rather good and Mrs Appleton said that they were amazing!



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

American educational psychologist Benjamin Samuel Bloom devised a way to categorize reasoning skills based on the amount of critical thinking and reasoning involved. As a school we know that objective assessments (multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank) tend to focus only on knowledge and comprehension. Subjective assessments (essay responses, experiments, portfolios, performances) tend to measure the higher levels of analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

This term we have been reviewing our teaching to help learners' evaluation of their own thinking. We have question stems that we encourage children to use when reading. Perhaps you could build them into your conversations about reading with your children at home.

REMEMBER

When...?
Who...?
What...?
When...?
Where...?
Can you list four...?
Can you recall...?

UNDERSTAND

What is the main idea...?
What does the author mean by...?
What do you like best and why?
What might happen next?
How do you explain...?
Can you find an example...?
What does ... tell us?

APPLY

What would happen if...?
Who do you think...?
How would you...?
Can you think of another story with the same message?
Have you have any similar experiences?
What would you do?
What examples can you find to...?
What would happen if...?

ANALYSE

Can you explain why...?
What evidence can you find to...?
How has the author used...?
How does ...?

EVALUATE

How effective is...?
How would you ...?
What do you think about...?
Who would you recommend this to and why?
How would you feel if...?
Which is more important...?
What changes would you make?

CREATE

How else would...?
Can you compare...?
What is an alternative to...?

SPORT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

It's been a great term of sport and physical activity. We introduced some new members to our Change 4 Life team and they are now fully immersed in their role as Change 4 Life champions on the Year 3/4 playground. The netball team had their first competition and came runners up, the Meadow Room participated in the sports hall athletics, the TAG rugby team made it to the finals in February and the year 3/4 football team triumphed at the tournament. KS2 all enjoyed the Drumz Aloud session we hosted in school and really enjoyed the "energetic opportunity."



PARENT VOICE

Alongside listening to children our parent voice activities are a very important aspect of Meadowbank's school processes as parents have a valued view of the school that they send their children to. We always do try to listen to our parents and develop practice when helpful ideas are shared. Our termly parent voice meetings are a mechanism for us to share school developments and attain parent's feedback and this term's meeting was extremely useful. We talked collaboratively about a range of subjects from parking around school, attendance and punctuality, dogs in the playground and community citizenship. It was very helpful to school and these discussions have impacted upon school policy. In fact, this new Meadowbank Messenger is an outcome of one of our meetings where home school communication was discussed.



FRIENDS OF MEADOWBANK

Meadowbank's Friends group has had a very successful term. We have been delighted in the growth of our membership with new families joining us and contributing their ideas and enthusiasm to our planning and event running. Thank you to each of you for all of your help and hard work. Our recent Christmas fair was a great success again and it was lovely to see so many of our families attending and having fun. It was a very enjoyable evening which raised £2,800 that will support school purchases. If anyone would like to join our merry band of school supporters, we would love to see you. Please contact school and they will pass on your details to us or join us at one of our meetings that are advertised through Parentmail.



School Dates 2019/2020

Teacher Training Days Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Autumn Term 1 2019	Wednesday 4 September 2019 - Friday 18 October 2019
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 21 October 2019 - Friday 25 October 2019
Autumn Term 2 2019	Monday 28 October 2019 - Friday 20 December 2019
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 December 2019 - Friday 3 January 2020

Teacher Training Day Monday 24th February 2020

Spring Term 1	Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 14 February 2020
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 17 February 2020 - Friday 21 2020
Spring Term 2	Tuesday 25 February 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020

Good Friday - Friday 10 April 2020 Easter Monday - 13 April 2020

Easter Holiday	Monday 6 April 2020 - Friday 17 April 2020
Summer Term 1	Monday 20 April 2020 - Friday 22 May 2020

May Day Holiday - Friday 8th May 2020, Teacher Training Day Friday 15th May 2020

Whit Holiday	Monday 25 May 2020 - Friday 5 June 2020
Summer Term 2	Monday 8 June 2020 - Friday 24 July 2020

Teacher Training Day - Monday 27th July 2020

Provisional School Dates 2020/2021

Staff Development Days Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Autumn Term 1 2019	Thursday 3 September 2020 - Friday 23 October 2020
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 26 October 2020 - Friday 30 October 2020

Staff Development Day Monday 2nd November 2020

Autumn Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020 - Friday 18 December 2020
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 December 2020 - Friday 1 January 2021

Spring Term 1	Monday 4 January 2021 - Friday 12 February 2021
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 15 February 2021 - Friday 19 February 2021
Spring Term 2	Monday 22 February 2021 - Friday 26 March 2021

Good Friday - 2nd April 2021 Easter Monday - 5th April 2021

Easter Holiday	Monday 29 March 2021 - Friday 9 April 2021
Summer Term 1	Monday 12 April 2021 - Friday 21 May 2021

May Day Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021

Whit Holiday	Monday 24 May 2021 - Friday 4 June 2021
Summer Term 2	Monday 7 June 2021 - Friday 23 July 2021