



The Meadows
Primary School

Meadows Newsletter

Issue 9

21/3/25



Dear Parents/Carers,

The school has been a hive of activity this week. From the general buzz of learning each day, to trips, enrichment opportunities (such as Bikeability) and sporting competitions - there have been so many ways for our children to learn and thrive.



Thank you for all your support to ensure the additional opportunities can go ahead - from parent volunteers, to helping your own children come prepared each day. Thank you for all you do to make a positive contribution to our school community and the lives of your children. It makes such a difference and is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time of staff absence we currently face. We have worked incredibly hard to keep every day the same and consistent as possible for our young people. I continue to oversee the preparation and delivery of teaching and learning every day in Classes 3 and 4, as well as to monitor the pupils progress closely. I have been delighted by the quality of learning the children continue to produce. We have also worked incredibly hard to ensure as many of the enhanced opportunities can continue as possible, such as trips, sporting competitions and morning/afternoon interventions and boosters, thanks to the hard work and flexibility of our amazing staff, taking on additional roles and responsibilities in the interim. Only Games Club and Y6 SATs afterschool club have had to be cancelled so far due to staff capacity. Y6 SATS morning clubs have continued though, and all are welcome to attend.

Your patience and understanding have been really appreciated. Thank you. 😊

Attendance

Our whole school **attendance is currently 96.4%**. Whilst attendance at The Meadows continues to be above national, we are still below our school target of at least 97%. We strive for this because we know that attendance is essential for children to achieve their potential. All **research indicates that there is a direct correlation between strong attendance and positive academic achievement as well as personal success**. This is what we want for all our children. We also know that **poor attendance can have a significant and long last impact on a pupils' education and future life chances** – we do not want this for any of our children.

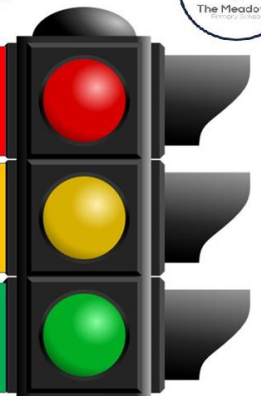
ATTENDANCE Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

89% or below
Drastic effect on
academic achievement

96% - 90%
Cause for Concern

100% - 97%
Excellent!



We know there are times when children rightly need to be at home because, for example, they have a high temperature or a sickness bug. However, these instances should be rare and should not have a significant impact upon a child's attendance. Attendance is essential for our children to thrive, both personally and academically.

We continue to have applications for holidays during term time, despite the significant change in national guidance and the financial and legal consequences the government have introduced. **Please be aware that holidays in term time will not be permitted.** Where we suspect children to be absent due to holidays not disclosed, the school will also follow the national guidance on fining procedures.

Please continue to support your child to attend school and remember that we are here to help if you have any concerns.

Bikeability

This week, the children in Y5 had the opportunity to participate in our Bikeability. This is a fantastic **programme that teaches our children how to stay safe when cycling** in the community, such as by checking their bikes are road worthy before they go on them, but also encourages them to develop new athletic skills, promoting healthy lifestyles. The instructors that led our sessions were incredibly impressed with the attitudes and behaviour of our children. It was brilliant to see their engagement and how much they learnt in such a short space of time. They were praised for their excellent **concentration** skills, one of our **'Secrets of Success'**. I was incredibly proud of you.



5 Ways to Wellbeing

At The Meadows, we recognise that personal development and academic success go hand in hand. We have worked hard to develop a strong personal development curriculum to enable our pupils to be personally successful.

Please take time to check out our website for further information, and to find ways to support your own child's wellbeing. <https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/curriculum/personal-development>

One useful source of guidance is the NHS programme 'The **'5 Ways to Wellbeing'**'. This is an evidence-based framework that promotes our positive wellbeing. It is widely used in the NHS to promote mental wellbeing, and we can use it to help us too in school and at home.

Here are the **five top tips** you can use to support your wellbeing:



For specific examples of each of the 5 ways, please check out our school website.

CAMHS/Wellbeing Referrals

We all know that life can offer a range of challenges and hurdles that can sometimes be difficult to overcome. This can be the same for children.

The NHS have created a wellbeing site for parents to visit with a wealth of information to support your children: <https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/da-landing-page/da-young-people/>

On this platform, you can find advice about how to support children with a range of challenges and need including (but not limited to):

- Anger
- Anxiety
- Behaviour
- Eating Problems
- Family Relationships
- Sleep Health
- Trauma



Parents can find further support by making referrals to CAMHs on your child's behalf. This can be done online here:

<https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/da-landing-page/da-young-people/da-yp-online-referral/>

Please can we ask that if you do make a referral, you let the school know so that we can support you and your child.



Sporting Success Continues

This week, **our netball team participated in their next round of matches for the netball league at Keele University**. They won 2 matches against Hempstalls and St Werburghs but unfortunately lost to Hugo Meynall after a close match. We are delighted that they **finished 2nd place overall**. What a fantastic achievement for our team! They played brilliantly together, demonstrated excellent communication and their passes were efficient. We are incredibly proud of the sportsmanship they demonstrated which was again celebrated by colleagues from other schools. Well done children. 😊

They enjoyed celebrating their win, proudly displaying their silver medals.



Owls Trip to the Roman Deva Centre in Chester

On Wednesday, **Owls had a fantastic trip to the Roman Deva Centre in Chester**. It was a great opportunity to learn what life was like in Britain before and after the Romans invaded by exploring the ancient city of Chester (or Deva, as it was known then). The children loved venturing back into the past, 2000 years ago, to explore the

fortress of Deva. They saw the archaeological remains right under their feet. They also enjoyed learning about life as a Roman soldier during their march through the streets of Chester: they were a ferocious army!

It was an absolute pleasure to accompany the children on this trip. They were praised by the staff at the centre for their excellent historical knowledge, the super and inciteful questions that they asked as Historians, as well as their brilliant behaviour and concentration. Well done, Owls, you did The Meadows proud. 😊



Kingfishers (Y1/2) Spanish Club

Kingfishers are doing brilliantly with their introduction to Spanish in their club each week. This week, they have been exploring different buildings such as escuela (school), panaderia (bakery) and piscina (swimming pool). They thoroughly enjoyed getting out into the sunshine to express their learning through the medium of chalk:



Coming Soon – Dates to Remember

March in March (24th-28th March):

Next week, we will be celebrating the **10th anniversary of the creation of The Shaw Education Trust** by getting fit and aiming to complete 10km collectively as a school. This will include a range of physical activities, including a walk around our local community, including to Madeley School, another school in our trust.



We are very proud to be a part of the trust, who are committed to supporting and investing in our school to ensure that children in our local community are provided with the very best education they deserve. This support includes financial (such as recent investment in our digital technology and the vast improvements made to our building over the past few years), professional development and school improvement. Many of our staff also give back to our trust by leading professional development and support for other schools in the trust.

RSPCA Fundraiser (Friday 28th March):

A reminder that the **school council have arranged for the RSPCA fundraiser** next Friday as a way of the school giving back to our community. This reflects our **school motto, 'Learning by Caring and Sharing'** and is something the children feel passionate about.



The RSPA will be visiting the school to complete **a whole-school assembly and individual class workshops** the following Monday. During their class workshop, the children will be completing a range of activities. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about a range of aspects including the RSPCA, Pet Welfare, Hedgehogs, Celebrations and how seasons affect different animals.

On the day, the school council would like children to **come dressed in their own clothes or animal themed dress-up for a £1 donation** (which will go to the RSPA), as well as **bring in items that could be donated** to their centres to support the fantastic and important work they do caring for our countries wildlife, as well as animals in their care. **Examples include: cat food, dog food, treats, blankets, towels, bird food, and small animal bedding (strew, sawdust etc).** All items can be dropped off at the school office during next week or brought in on the Friday.

Please do support this wonderful cause, if you are able to.

<i>Forthcoming Dates</i>	
Date	Event
24 th – 28 th March	March in March 10 Year Celebration of The Shaw Education Trust *See Above*
Mon 31 st March	RSPCA to visit the school to lead workshops
Wed 2 nd April	Foxes and Badgers (EYFS) and Kingfishers (Y1/2) trip to Chester Zoo
Thurs 3 rd April	Hawks (Y5/6) Trip to Wolseley Bridge for a Geography field study
Thurs 10 th April	Easter Service, All Saints, Madeley, 2-3pm
Monday 14 th April – Friday 25 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 28 th April	INSET
Tuesday 29 th April	Summer term starts
Wed 30 th April	Group Photos (Please ensure your child(ren) come in to school dressed smartly in the correct uniform.)
Mon 5 th May	May Day Bank holiday
Mon 12 th - Thurs 15 th May	Y6 SATs week
Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May	Half Term
Mon 2 nd June	Hawks (Y5/6) have been invited to take part in a fire safety event at Newcastle Fire Station, 11:45am-2:50pm
Tue 17 th June	Owls (Y3/4) Trip to Wolseley Bridge for a Geography field study
Wed 16 th June	Owls (Y3/4) Trip to the Birmingham Symphony Hall to take part in a musical spectacular
Wed 18 th June	Reception (Badgers) and Years 1 and 2 (Kingfishers) trip to Liverpool to see 'A Bear Hunt' by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
Wed 25 th June	Foxes and Badgers (Nursery and Reception) Sports Day, 1-3pm at Leycett Cricket Club
Wed 2 nd July	Kingfishers, Owls, Hawks (Y1-Y6) Sports Day, 1-3pm at Leycett Cricket Club
Fri 4 th July	Hawks (Y5/6) visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
Wed 9 th July	Foxes and Badgers (EYFS) and Kingfishers (Y1/2) trip to Bewildewood
TBD	Summer Fayre
TBD	Leaver's Performance
Sat 12 th July MADELEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENT	Madeley Carnival (more information to be released closer to the date)

TBD	Seeing is Believing sessions
TBD	'Celebrations Assembly' at the Madeley Centre, 2-3pm
Thurs 17 th July	Hawks Leaver's Performance, Madeley School, 6-8pm
Friday 18th July	Last day of term
Monday 21st July	INSET
Tues 22 July – Fri 29 August	Summer Holiday

Please note INSET days are in service training days for staff. The school will be closed to pupils on these days.

Safeguarding Update

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in **immediate danger**, please dial 999. If you need Early Help support or have a concern about a child, please call Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service on 03001118007 or out of hours 03456042886.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a great week weekend.

All the best,

Mrs Kuffour

Personal Possessions

I would like to remind all our school community of the following:

The storage of any personal property or possessions or, where pupils bring in personal property or possessions onto the school premises it is at the pupil's and parent's own risk and the school will not be liable for any loss or damage to personal property or possessions.



Shaw Education Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number 09067175 at registered address Kidsgrove Secondary School, Gloucester Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. ST7 4DL. The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at www.shaw-education.org.uk.