



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 7

7/3/25

The Meadows
Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Spring term is now in full swing and we are certainly enjoying the sunshine and the lighter nights. 😊 The children continue to demonstrate fantastic attitudes towards their learning. Each morning, they come into and get stuck in, ready and enthusiastic to learn new things.



This term has seen a slight drop in our whole school attendance, due to bugs present in the local community. Please continue to promote positive attendance with your child or children. Attendance is crucial for their academic and personal wellbeing. Our whole school attendance is currently 96.3%, a little shy of our target of at least 97%. Let's keep striving for our target as every minute really does count in the education of our children.

We have also experienced an unfortunate period of staff absence due to non-work-related illness this term. As many of you are aware, Miss Sutcliffe and Miss Parry are both absent at the moment due to illness – an update was sent out to parents earlier on this week. We are in regular communication with them and are wishing them a speedy recovery. Thank you so much for your understanding, your flexibility and your patience at this time. Your messages of support have been incredibly appreciated. All of the staff are working incredibly hard to ensure that we can continue business as usual as far as possible both during lessons and through our enrichment opportunities. A huge thanks to our amazing team. 😊 I have been closely overseeing teaching and learning in these classes, as well as the rest of the school, and have been so impressed with how the children have embraced the change yet continued to work hard and produce excellent learning. Well done. We will continue to keep you updated.

Communication

As you may be aware, our communication has slightly changed this term due to the staff absence which has been impacting on capacity. This has been the case with our regular newsletters. Sincere apologies. This issue is now being resolved. Going forward, we will be sending shorter, weekly newsletters to keep you up to date, in response to previous feedback. Thank you for your understanding over the past few weeks. We've tried to ensure we have still sent timely reminders of trips and enrichment opportunities before events, through email and text.



School Improvement

As you are aware, just over a year ago we were thrilled to be judged 'Outstanding' in our graded Ofsted inspection. Despite this, we continue to explore ways we can enhance and refine the quality of education we provide our children.

School rules - Update

One area we continue to reflect on is our provision regarding behaviour management. At The Meadows, we have high expectations of behaviour as this is crucial to enable all learners to thrive. **Our whole school behaviour continues to be above target, at 99% positive behaviour in the Autumn term.** This is exceptional. However, we also recognise that no one is perfect, everyone makes mistakes. We also recognise that teaching children how to behave is a massive area of our continuous curriculum and is important for us to complete our vision - for our pupils to be responsible and



Ready



Respectful



Safe

respectful global citizens who make a positive contributions. One tweak we have made this term is to implement **three clear rules** across the school to support all pupils, irrespective of their age, phase or needs, to recognise our expectations. We want our children to be, **'Ready, Respectful and Safe'**.



The rules and expectations have been shared in assemblies and lessons and are on display through out the learning environment. They go alongside our **'Secrets of Success'**, the learning behaviours we promote with our children to enable them to be successful, both personally and academically.

The children have responded brilliantly to the new rules. They have accrued over 2000 dojos in the past two weeks alone! Well done children! I have thoroughly enjoyed dropping into lessons and observing behaviours during and lunch and playtime, seeing our staff actively promoting our school rules, alongside our super pupil leaders too! Each week, the Wellbeing Champions Will, Zara and Olivia are spotting children across the school who are excellent examples of behaviour and provide them with a certificate in Celebrations Assembly. Mr Skellern is also celebrating the stars of PE showing that they can be, **'Ready, Respectful and Safe'** in his lesson too.

Our New Digital Strategy

Over the past few years, we have been developing our use of digital technology, particularly Ipad, to support the delivery of our curriculum as well as to adapt learning to the needs of our pupils. Due to budget restrictions, classes have previously had to share a bank of Ipad across the school. However, after much problem solving (alongside support from the trust), I am delighted to share that we have begun to roll out 121 Ipad across Key Stage 1 and 2. Children in Key Stage 2 all have access to their own Ipad and pupils in Y1 and 2 have 1 Ipad per 2 pupils currently. Ipad will become an integral part of our teaching and learning for all pupils and teachers are excited about how this will enhance our already strong provision.

We have also purchased **Showbie, an exciting online environment** where children are able to access learning materials, including the modelling done by their teachers from their lessons, and complete their own learning activities. Marking and feedback can also be provided by staff via Showbie, and all children will have their own online portfolios of work. This will go alongside pupils' book work.

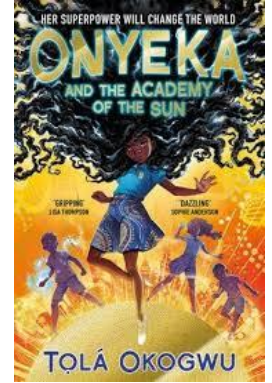
We look forward to providing updates of our progress over the coming weeks and months. 😊 Hawks have trialled Showbie this week, and they are absolutely loved it! This has been rolled out to the rest of KS1 and KS2. This will be excellent support to get our children 'Secondary Ready' too, as we know Madeley School also use Ipad and Showbie too.



World Book Day

Yesterday, children across the school engaged in a day which celebrated, 'Reading for Pleasure'. This is something our school is passionate about, since we know the power of Reading and the positive impact it has on our lives. It is a life skill; it can transport us to different places and times, even from the comfort of our own homes. Yesterday the children had the opportunity to share their favourite books with their friends: children from Nursery to Y6 loved having the time to share what they loved about their book. They made recommendations, which will be on display in our newly refurbished library so that they can inspire one another to try new genres and books.

The children also had the opportunity to explore the power of storytelling sharing new books as a class and focused on the power of creating engaging characters. Y5/6 explored the fantastic text, '**Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun**' by **Tola Okogwu**. This is an action-packed superhero series about a British-Nigerian girl who learns that her Afro hair has psychokinetic powers. The Hawks class were able to create their own superheroes and have begun to write their own stories around these characters.



Y3/4 loved exploring, '**Malala's Magic Pencil**'. They were inspired by how heroic she has been in her life, and her determination to make a difference in the world. *"One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."* This empowering statement is so true, and reflects our schools mission to enable our children to make a positive contribution in the world.



Y1/2 loved learning about the familiar and traditional tale, '**The Elves and the Shoemaker**'. They enjoyed retelling the story to one another, using their voices to show expression too.

Well done to all of the children who participated in our **World Book Day** competition too! We were blown away by the effort the children had put in to learning different performance poems at home and then being brave enough to perform it to their class.

Well done to Lily (Kingfishers) for her fantastic performance poem. She read confidently and used facial and body gestures to re-enact the poem. It was amazing.

A huge congratulations to our KS2 winners, Harry and Isaac, who both wrote their own poems and read them with great tone and expression. They were worthy winners. Harry, whose poem was about raindrops, has been inspired by the narrative poems they have been writing in English as a class, where they have explored the poem, 'The River' by Valerie Bloom.

Thank you for the book donations too. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to do the book swap, so will be doing it next week. If anyone has any more book donations to drop off, this can be done on Monday morning too. 😊

IRock School of Music Update



All parents should have been contacted by iRock regarding our recent offer for pupils to join a rock band. They are currently awaiting the competition of the DBS safeguarding staff on the member of staff that will be delivering the sessions. Our last update was that the bands are due to start in May.

Recent Sporting Activities

This term has already been a busy one for sporting competitions. A huge congratulations to all in Y5/6 that were chosen to participate in the Athletics competition recently at Chesterton High School. The team came **3rd place** overall! Not only were we impressed with their athletic ability, but we were also immensely proud of their **fantastic behaviour and sportsmanship** – colleagues from other schools praised them for their excellent attitudes.





Our netball team attended their first league matches recently. Whilst they didn't win all their matches, they demonstrated excellent team spirit and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. More matches to come soon...

Our football team will take part in their next league matches on Monday. They did brilliantly in their first league games last term and have reached the **semi-finals**. Go team – we will be rooting for you next week!

We are so proud of you, children. You have particularly demonstrated our **Secret of Success, 'To Understand Others'** and **'To Compete'** during each competition. Your fantastic sportsmanship is often praised by the sports leaders We are proud of you.

Wrap Around Provision

At The Meadows, we are always exploring ways we can support our families and try to be very flexible, as much as reasonably possible, to help you and cater for your diverse needs.

Thank you to all who have responded to our recent survey about wrap around provision. Your feedback was greatly appreciated.

At the moment, I am part of a working party for the trust exploring the new statutory guidance for wrap around provision that comes into effect from September. Whilst we already offer a wraparound provision, unlike some of the other primaries in the trust, we are currently exploring the cost viability of extending the provision and what this may look like.

Our application to be an early adopter of a free 30-minute breakfast club has also been accepted recently too. I am currently exploring the complexities of the operational aspects of implementing this provision, so will be in touch over the coming weeks to ask for your input on whether this would be of interest. If we are to implement this, it would provide children with a soft start to the day, helping them to settle into the school routines as well as support our working parents, removing some of the stress surrounding morning drop offs.

Coming Soon – Dates to Remember

KS2 Visit to Liverpool:

Next week, I have the pleasure of accompanying all pupils in KS2 (Owls and Hawks) to Liverpool to see The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. We always try to plan enrichment opportunities that will enhance the children's learning of the curriculum and provide them with new opportunities to 'Try New Things', one of our Secrets of Success. Unless the children move out of their comfort zones and embrace new experiences, they won't know what they enjoy. This trip will certainly encourage the children to be inspired and see possibilities of their future, potentially as a musician.



Uniform

The children should wear their school t-shirt and jumper, but they can wear their choice of trousers or leggings. This is important so that the children are easily identifiable.

Lunch

All children will be required to bring a packed lunch. This should be brought in a disposable carrier bag. The children should bring plenty of water to drink. If you require a packed lunch from the school, please contact Mrs Cooper by **Friday 7th March**.

They should not bring any books or items for the bus journey as we will not have anywhere to store these once we arrive.

Return times

All being well, we intend to arrive back at school for 5pm. We will be in contact with the office to give updates regarding traffic. If you have any questions regarding this visit, please contact the school office.

Forthcoming Dates

<i>Forthcoming Dates</i>	
Date	Event
Tue 11th March	Key Stage 2 (Owls and Hawks) trip to Liverpool to see the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, 'The World in One City'
Mon 17 th -Wed 19 th March	Y5 Bikeability (Rearranged)
Wed 19 th March	Owls (Y3/4) Trip to Dewa Roman Centre, Chester
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
TBD	Seeing is Believing sessions
Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 28th April	INSET
Tuesday 29th 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 5th May	May Day Bank holiday
Mon 12 th - Thurs 15 th May	Y6 SATs week
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th 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.