



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 2

1/10/2023

The Meadows
Primary School

Dear parents/carers,

'Learning by Caring and Sharing'

Over the past few weeks in school, we have been reflecting on what our school motto, **'Learning by Caring and Sharing'**, means to our school community. We have discussed how children can care about others in our school family by sharing their ideas, their resources as well as their time and talent to support and inspire those around them. We are fortunate to have so many pupils that are eager to contribute to our school community. After a tough selection process (including writing an application, delivering a speech to the whole school in assembly, participating in an interview and completing a written task) we have just had the pleasure of appointing our new pupil leaders in Y6. They have put themselves forward to serve the whole school in a range of roles:

Our Ambassadors – Amy and Isaac



"Hello, we are the new ambassadors for our school. We are role models to other children of kindness, behaviour and a positive attitude towards ours and other people's learning. We feel proud to be role models for our school because we can inspire others to be the best that they can be. One of our roles is looking out for children who have been doing great learning and give certificates to them in Celebrations Assembly. We felt nervous doing this for the first time but really happy because we were proud to share other peoples' successes."

Amy and Isaac

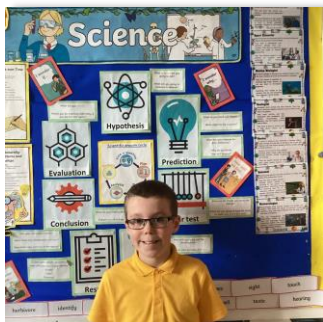
Our Wellbeing Champions – Alfie, Avarey and Seren



"Hi we are the Wellbeing Champions. Our job is really important because we care about people's wellbeing and want to help other to recognise and manage their feelings, as well as to reflect when they have done something wrong in order to move on and not make the same mistake again. This year we are implementing the Red 2 Blue approach to help people calm down and move from Red to Blue. Sometimes we all need help to calm down, deal with our emotions and reflect on our actions – we know this personally because we have been through this before. We are here to help."

Alfie, Avarey and Seren

Our Science Leader – Henry



"Hello, I'm Henry, your new Science Leader. My job is to encourage other pupils to enjoy Science and try and help them see what jobs they could do in their future lives that are related to Science. I can use my knowledge and skills to promote Science to others. One of my jobs is to support children during our Science extra-curricular club. Currently we are doing our Crest Awards, and this involves leading investigations and different types of enquiry. The Kingfishers (Class 2) looked at 'peg problems', exploring which pegs would be the strongest for their washing line."

Henry

Our Sports Leads – Zac Bates and Zac Bull



“Hi we are the Sports Leaders. We are here to help the school be active and stay healthy. One way we are doing this is by promoting physical activity on the playground. We have come up with a timetable of zones, where different activities, games and team build all comes together to promote sports during social times. Also we are role models to the other children of good sportsmanship and the characteristic of an athlete. Each week we celebrate children in our school who are great athletes – this week we gave certificates out to pupils who have showed good sportsmanship in lessons and physical activities. We look forward to representing our school soon in competitions.”

Zac and Zac

Our Reading Experts –Peter and Tilly



“Hello, we are the new Reading Experts. We are here to encourage people to read and develop a love of books. We wanted this job because we love reading and read a lot. We help the teachers to promote reading in class and we are responsible for keeping the library tidy. We are looking forward to promoting books some children don’t sometimes choose like non-fiction books.”

Peter and Tilly

All of our leaders demonstrated a passion for our school and a desire to embody our school motto. I know that these children are going to do an excellent job this year representing our pupil voice and contributing to our school. We wish them all the best in their new roles.



Whilst we now have pupil leaders in Y6, we also actively **encourage all our students to share their passions and talents with others** and are so lucky to have children across the school demonstrating care for others. For example, over the past month our Y1 buddies have done an excellent job helping our youngest members of the main site settle into their new surroundings by eating lunch with them and helping them to engage in active play during their social times. We have a team of reading buddies that give up time during their own lunchtimes to support younger members of our school to be fluent and passionate readers. Our Reception pupils have done a brilliant job encouraging our new nursery pupils in their learning during continuous provision. These are just a few examples of how our children embody our school motto and our **value ‘To Understand Others’**.

In addition, our children have also been exploring how we can care about our local community too. One way we have done this is through our **Harvest festival celebration**, where Ruth (the children’s and youth worker from All Saints, Madeley) came to talk to our children about Christian beliefs about Harvest. The assembly reminded me not only how interdependent we all are, but also how thankful we can be to those who help us, such as the farmers who work incredibly hard all year round to ensure that we have food to eat. A huge thank you to all who were able to send in Harvest donations for our local foodbank – this is just one way that our school family can live out our school motto in our local community. I know that your donations will be gratefully received. 😊

The Hawks class (Y5/6) have also been demonstrating care for our local environment by doing a litter pick out in the community. I know, from speaking to the children, that they enjoy this because they know that they are contributing to our community and doing their bit for the environment. Well done children.



Attendance

Another way our children can demonstrate our school motto is by **caring about their learning** so that they can develop a life-long love of learning. **Attendance in school is an integral part of this**. So far this term, I have been pleased to see excellent punctuality and attendance by so many of our children. It has been brilliant to see improved attendance for many children too from last year. Well done. This will have such a positive impact on their learning, giving our children the best chance for success – our mission at school. However, as you can see from the adjacent table, whilst attendance has improved (particularly in Y2 and Y6), we are still not meeting our above 97% aspiration target.

On Friday, I attended a safeguarding conference with our local authority and was presented with some sobering figures that highlight the importance of attendance. When children **miss just 7 days of attendance a term**, their **overall attendance for the year will be 89%, which is classed as persistent absence!** Out of the children who miss 10% of school,

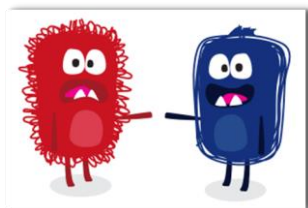
(and are persistently absent), only 40.2% are likely to achieve the expected standard at school. As a result, attendance in school is essential for academic achievement and positive personal development and I am committed to doing all that I can to support our families to ensure that our children do their very best. If you are concerned about your child's attendance, remember that we are here to help and support you.

Attendance	% this term so far (TARGET: 97% or above)
Nursery	100%
Reception	96.54%
Y1	91.98%
Y2	98.43%
Y3	95.80%
Y4	96.27%
Y5	96.64%
Y6	99.10%

Please do take these figures into consideration when applying for leave during term time, particularly for a family holiday. We are seeing rising numbers of requests for holiday leave during term time. Whilst I completely empathise with our families about the cost of holidays during peak times, being a parent myself, please be aware that this would not class as exceptional circumstances for leave to be approved due to the impact on learning.

Red 2 Blue Parent Workshop

One of our school improvement priorities this year is about **promoting positive mental wellbeing**. As you are aware, we have implemented the 'Red 2 Blue' approach to support our school community to be able to regulate their emotions. A huge thank you to the 23 parents that were able to attend our workshop last week with our mental health leads, Mrs Davies and Mrs Panagi. I hope that you found it useful in both understanding the approach and recognising how it could be applied at home too.



Safety Reminder – Pick Ups and Drop Offs

In my last newsletter, I provided all parents and carers of our school guidance for pick ups and drop offs. A huge thank you to all who supported us in keeping our children safe by adhering to this guidance.



Can I please remind you that the guidance for the main site **applies at all times** – whether you are dropping of your child for before school club, collecting at the end of the school day or at the end of an extra-curricular club. Pupils should **not enter school through the car park** for safety reasons, due to vehicles entering/exiting the school site. Even if the school gates to the car park are open, please refrain from crossing here as it is incredibly difficult for cars entering the school car park to see people standing next to the gate.

Bikeability – Y4 and Y5

A couple of weeks ago, the children in Y4 and Y5 had the opportunity to participate in our Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 courses. This is a fantastic programme that we have participated in for many years because it not only 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 instructor that led our sessions was 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, despite the terrible weather. They certainly showed our **Secret of Success 'Don't Give Up'** by pushing through despite the rain. Well done children – I was incredibly proud of you. 😊



Online Safety

At The Meadows, part of our safeguarding curriculum teaches our children how to be safe online. We want our children to become **confident and successful digital citizens** as we recognise the value that digital technology holds within our society. We know that to help them do this, they also need to know how to keep themselves safe in the process and are using **Google's Internet Legends programme**, to aid us. Across the curriculum, we promote our Internet Legends Code, which encompasses five areas that children need to understand in order to become safe and independent users in the digital world:

1. **Sharp** - Think Before You Share

Good (and bad) news travels fast online, and children can sometimes find themselves in tricky situations with lasting consequences. But what can they do to prevent this? The answer: understand how to share smartly with those they know – and those they don't.

2. **Alert** - Check It's For Real

People and situations online aren't always what they seem. Internet Legends know how to tell the difference between what's real and what's not.



3. **Secure** - Protect Your Stuff

Personal privacy and security are as important online as they are in the real world. Keeping valuable information safe helps children avoid damaging their devices, reputations and relationships.

4. **Kind** - Respect Each Other

The internet amplifies everything: good things seem more exciting, bad things seem much worse and can hurt – a lot. A great rule to live by online, as well as off, is 'treat others as you would like to be treated yourself'. Children can have a positive impact on others and stop bullying in its tracks by refusing to join in.

5. **Brave** - When in Doubt, Discuss

When children come across something they're not sure about online, they should feel comfortable talking to a trusted adult. Adults can support this by showing they're open to talking, even about difficult or embarrassing things at home and in the classroom.

To find out more, including some useful resources for parents, please visit our website:

<https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/internet-legends>



Science in the News – By Henry, our Science Lead

In the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, there is a special 'Operation Ouch' exhibition called, 'Food, Poo and You'. This is worth a visit as it helps to teach young ones Biology and gives them a greater understanding of the human body, in particular the digestive system, which you learn about in Class 3 and Class 4. It finishes on 9th June 2024.

Did you know that there is an asteroid the size of the empire state building on a collision course for Earth. It will take 100 years, but it is a danger. A probe was sent up seven years ago, which came down to Earth on September 24th. It has been testing different parts of the asteroid to help scientists find ways to destroy it and learn more about the making of our planet.

Class Updates

Our Foxes and Badgers (Nursery and Reception) have started this term with their unit 'All about Me'. They have explored what makes them unique and the people that are important to them

The Kingfishers (Y1/2) have been exploring their senses in Science. They have completed comparative tests, where they have identified how sensitive parts of their body are to touch (for example their hand, fingers, forehead and ears). They followed their own line of enquiry too, display one of the characteristics of a Scientist.

The Owls (Y3/4) have been learning about mountain ranges in Geography. Last week, they were exploring how people are able to live on mountain ranges, using the shape of the land and the natural resources found there to survive.

The Hawks (Y5/6) have enjoyed studying 'Cosmic', a science fiction novel. They have written their own ending to the story, displaying the features of the genre of writing. I was so impressed with the quality of their writing and their stamina for writing too! Well done.

Updated Term Dates

Here is our updated calendar. Please note the highlighted events, where dates have been either added in or amended. Apologies where amendments may have been made – this is either down to a change in arrangements for unforeseeable reasons or due to human error.

Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
Thurs 5 th October	SCFC Assembly (Main Site)
Thurs 5 th October	New Intake Evening Madeley School 6pm
Tue 24 th October	Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting 3pm, CI4
Tue 24 th October	Height and Weight Check Reception and Y6
Tue 24 th October	Health and Wellbeing Talk Y5/6
Tue 17 th October	Individual/Siblings Photos (Please ensure your child(ren) come in to school dressed smartly in the correct uniform)
Fri 20 th October	Harry Potter Themed Quiz Night 6:30-8:30pm
Sat 28 th October - Sunday 5 th November	Half Term
Mon 6 th November	INSET (Staff Training)
Tue 7 th November	CI1 (Badgers/Foxes) and CI2 (Kingfishers) Trip to Blue Planet
Tue 7 th November	CI4 (Hawks) 'Seeing is Believing' lesson, 11:15am-12:15pm 1 parent/grandparent per family is invited to come and learn a lesson with their child
Sat 11 th November	Remembrance Service at The Madeley Centre, 10:45am (All of the school community invited to attend. Refreshments available afterward.)
Tue 14 th November	CI2 (Kingfishers) 'Seeing is Believing' lesson, 11:15am-12:15pm 1 parent/grandparent per family is invited to come and learn a lesson with their child
Thurs 16 th November	CI3 (Owls) 'Seeing is Believing' lesson, 2:15-3:15pm 1 parent/grandparent per family is invited to come and learn a lesson with their child
Fri 17 th November	Children in Need Spotacular Fundraiser Children to come in their own spotty clothes with a donation of £1.
Tue 28 th November	CI3 (Owls) Last Swimming Session (Autumn)
Thurs 30 th November	CI3 (Owls) Trip to Liverpool Museum
Thurs 14 th December	CI3 (Owls)/CI4 (Hawks) New Victoria Theatre Trip to see 'The Nutcracker', 2:30pm-5pm
Wed 20 th December	EYFS/KS1 (Badgers, Foxes and Kingfishers) Nativity at The Madeley Centre, 2-3pm
Thurs 21 st December	The Meadows Christmas Carol Service, 2-3pm, All Saints Church, Madeley
TBD	Winter Fayre
Mon 25 th December - Fri 5 th January	Christmas Holiday
Mon 8 th January 2024	Term Starts
Tue 9 th January	CI3 (Owls) Swimming Starts (Spring)
Tue 16 th January	CI4 (Hawks) Standon Bowers Parents Information Meeting, CI4, 3pm

TBD	Whole School Movie Night
Mon 12th February – Fri 16th February	Half Term
Wed 14 th March	CI3 (Owls) Trip to Lower Drayton Farm
Tue 19 th March	CI4 (Hawks) Trip to Tamworth Castle
Tue 19 th March	CI3 (Owls) Last Swimming Session (Spring)
TBD	Easter Concert
TBD	Easter Disco
Mon 25th March – Fri 5th April	Easter Holiday
Mon 8th April	Term Starts
Mon 15th April	INSET (Shaw Education Trust Training Day)
Tue 16 th April	CI4 (Hawks) Swimming Starts (Summer)
Wed 1 st May	Group Photos
Mon 6th May	May Day
Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May	Half Term
Mon 3 rd – Fri 7 th June	CI4 (Hawks) Residential Trip to Standon Bowers
Tue 25 th June	CI4 (Hawks) Last Swimming Session (Summer)
Wed 19 th June	Sports Day (EYFS Foxes and Badgers) 2-3pm, Leycett Cricket Club
Wed 26 th June	Sports Day (CI2-CI4) 1-3pm, Leycett Cricket Club
TBD	Summer Fayre
TBD	Leaver's Performance
TBD	'Celebrations Assembly' at the Madeley Centre, 2-3pm
Fri 19th July	Term Ends
Mon 22nd July	INSET (Staff Training)
Tues 23 July – Fri 30 August	Summer Holiday

Safeguarding Child in our Local Community

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.

Have a fantastic week,

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.



The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at www.shaw-education.org.uk