



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 10

21/02/2024

The Meadows
Primary School



Dear parent and guardians,

I hope you have had a fantastic half term and made some lovely memories. It has been wonderful to hear about the children's adventures. 😊 They have settled back into their routines quickly and are ready and eager to learn, as per usual.

We are well in the swing of the Spring term now and the children continue to show their passion for learning both in class and in extra-curricular activities. For example, it has been fantastic to see engagement in our extra-curricular clubs increase again this term. **Currently 87.8% of our KS1 and KS2 pupils participate in one or more clubs after school**, which is fantastic. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm to learn new knowledge and skills or apply their learning from class into their clubs. Well done children. A huge thanks to our dedicated staff too that continue to run such a wide variety of clubs that spark the children's interests. It has been wonderful to have old pupils, who now attend Madeley School, continue to come back and volunteer their skillset to support our staff. They are amazing and just demonstrate our saying that once you are a part of The Meadows family, you will always be a part of The Meadows family!

A Note of Thanks

A huge thank you for all the support we received, as a school, during our recent Ofsted visit. As I am sure you will appreciate, it was a tiring and busy few days. We were so appreciative for all your well wishes during the two-day visit, and for all of you that took the time to complete the Ofsted questionnaires. We look forward to sharing the report with our school community in due course, as soon as it has been through the quality assurance process. The outcomes are a true reflection of our school community.



Improvements to the School Building

Improvements to our building continue to be high priority for us. As you know, we have already completed extensive work to improve our learning environments, which have had such a positive impact to make our classrooms light, bright and warm learning spaces. During half term, **the ceilings were replaced** in all classrooms and the corridors across the school, following the successful installation of our new energy efficient LED lighting. We are currently in the process of **procuring quotes to renovate the pupil bathrooms as well as the replace the fencing and side gates** around the school parameter. These are just a few of the projects in the pipe line – keep an eye out for future news. A huge thanks to the Estates team at The Shaw Education Trust for all of their support 😊.

Results of our Parent Survey

At The Meadows, we are committed to work in partnership with our families because we know that this has a significant impact on our pupil's success. We value the feedback of our families and are always reflective on how we can continue to enhance our provision and improve. The results of our most recent parent survey, from the Autumn term, have been collated and analysed. It can be found on our website here:

<https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/parent-surveys>



We are so proud of the positive feedback we have received including **100% of parents who completed the survey commented that their child was happy at school, with 85.71% strongly agreeing. 100% of parents believe that their child is making good progress, with 92.86% strongly agreeing.**

Some of the praise we have received includes:

- “Ensuring the children feel valued and listened to, meaning they want to attend and naturally flourish as they feel happy and safe.”
- “Making learning fun and engaging, developing my child as a whole - not just attending to their educational needs but looking after their emotional needs too, supporting my child and our family, providing a school family environment, accepting every child is an individual.”
- “Creating amazing adults of the future.”

One area for development identified by a parent was about improving communication slightly, with more reminders about events. We are in the process of continuing to find ways to enhance our communication methods with the local community. We are currently in the **exciting process of creating a new school website and extending our use of social media over more platforms** that are used by parents including **Instagram and Facebook**. Watch this space – we hope to launch this soon!

Attendance	% this term so far (TARGET: 97% or above)
Whole School	97.4%
Nursery	100%
Reception	96.6%
Y1	97.2%
Y2	97.9%
Y3	96.6%
Y4	97.3%
Y5	97.5%
Y6	97.8%

Attendance and Punctuality

Over the past few weeks, our attendance has dipped slightly due to the presence of winter bugs within our local community. We recognise there are times when pupils genuinely must be off school for their own health and the health of others. However, these illnesses are rare. Please continue to encourage your child to be resilient when they are feeling a little unwell. **Attendance is so important for all pupils to be successful – both personally and academically.**

We are currently in the process of changing the way we report attendance to our parents. Currently, we share with parents their child's attendance percentage since the start of the academic year. Whilst this is useful, we want to be even more specific, particularly to support families to know if their child is falling into a category of concern where they are either persistent absence or at risk on

persistent absence. If a **child falls into 'persistent absence' category, research suggests that this has a significant negative impact on their academic achievement, their wellbeing, and their future life chances.** Persistent absence can also be a safeguarding concern. The research figures are very sobering and concerning.

A child is **considered persistent absence if they have had 19 days off over the course of the academic year.** A child is considered **at risk of persistent absence if they have had between 10-18 days off** over the course of the academic year.

We want to support all our families to ensure that their child is attending school so that they can achieve their potential. Therefore, we will be moving to inform you of how many days off your child has had this year, and keeping you up to date with their attendance throughout the academic year. We will also offer bespoke support for any family concerned about their child's attendance. Don't forget, we are here to work in partnership with you and are always here to support. Just get in touch.

Attendance Matters



Learning Update

Over the past few weeks, the **Badgers and Foxes** have loved learning about Africa as Geographers through the excellent story, 'Handa's surprise'. Also, they have explored the different fruits found in the book and investigated their different seeds.

The **Kingfishers** have been exploring life cycles in Science. It was lovely to see how much they have grown and developed since they were babies – we adored seeing their baby photos in class. 😊

Owls have enjoyed deepening their understanding of Hinduism, particularly their different representations of God. Mrs Kuffour had the pleasure of teaching them RE just before half term and was blown away by how much they have remembered from their unit so far, particularly regarding stories about Shiva and Ganesh, and their passion and enthusiasm for the subject. The Owls were exploring symbolism involved with images of Shiva and what they tell us about his nature. Did you know, for example, that Shiva is often depicted with a snake, which symbolises three different things about his nature including that he is the destroyer of worlds (as snakes are poisonous)?

Hawks have been learning about the properties of materials in Science. Recently, they led comparative tests on the hardness of different materials. They explored why materials need to be hard and durable and explored different jobs where knowing the properties of materials is important, for example if working in a decommissioned nuclear power station. It was fascinating!

Musician of the Month

In December, we launched with our pupils '**Musician of the Month**'. Each month, we explore different musicians to develop our pupil's cultural and musical knowledge. We want to enhance our music curriculum, deepening our pupil's knowledge and appreciation of different genres so that they can identify the music they like to listen to.



This month, our musician of the month is the phenomenal **1960s Motown band 'The Supremes'**. In assembly we explored who they were, where they were from and what their music was about. Did you know that they were the first female group to have five consecutive number ones? Another fun fact for you: 'Stop! In the Name of Love' became an anthem for the civil rights movement and promoted messages of love, respect and equality!

Attached to this email is a Musician of the Month '**Home Information**' leaflet that gives Spotify link to the music, gives recommended reads linked to the Supremes and give suggestions of other artists to explore that are a similar genre to them too. We hope you find it useful.



Eco Warrior Update

Before half term, in Eco Warrior club, the children started to work on goal two by creating their own bird food (fat balls) that have been placed around the school community to support our local birdlife. Well done children.

Film Night

It was wonderful to see all of the children (and staff) thoroughly enjoying our most recent movie night at school watching 'Wonka'. It was great fun. 😊 The Owls particularly enjoyed it as they have recently been exploring the wonderful Roald Dahl text, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' in English, and this gave them a bit of an insight into the title character. A huge thank you to all our parents for their patience waiting for the movie to end. Apologies for any confusion caused by the ending time on the newsletter being different to the Parentmail form. When we sent the form out after the newsletter, we changed the times on it to 5:30pm to ensure that we had ample time to watch the movie.



Seeing is Believing Family Lessons

It was lovely to welcome parents from pupils in the Hawks class today to learn alongside their child in a Maths lesson. We hope you enjoyed seeing what teaching and learning looks like for your child in Maths, and how we help them learn.

World Book Day – 8th March

In our last newsletter, I sent out information about how we would be celebrating **World Book Day on Friday 8th March**. This event is always a great way for us to continue to promote our school ethos of reading for pleasure. This year, our whole school will be focusing on the beautiful book, **'Rain Before Rainbows'** by Smriti Prasadam-Halls. It is an empowering book about finding the strength to be resilient and looking towards the future with hearts filled with hope. This works brilliantly with our school value (as we call our Secret of Success) 'Don't Give Up'.



On this day, we will also be raising money for a charity that is close to our school's heart: The **Donna Louise Trust**. As I am sure you are aware, one of our families has recently suffered the devastating loss of their beautiful twin boys, Lucas (who passed away just before Christmas) and Aiden (who passed away a few weeks ago) from an extremely rare genetic condition called NRROS. They have received phenomenal support from **The Donna Louise Trust** and we want to recognise this by raising money for the charity.

On the day, we would like all children to come **dress up as a bright colour from the rainbow**. Please note, this does not require you to buy an outfit specially for the day. Please just ensure your child comes in a colourful item on clothing. We would like them to bring a **suggested donation of at least two pounds**.



We will also be doing further fundraising for the Donna Louise Trust via a **sponsored event** to raise as much money as we can. When speaking to their sister Josie, one thing she said the boys loved to do was to go out for a walk. So, we are going to be holding a sponsored event called, **'The Meadows Big March'**. Our challenge, as a school, is to walk/run/dance **1,000,000 steps altogether on the last week of the spring term, Monday 18th- Fri 22nd March**. Come rain or shine, we will be getting active, keeping healthy and having fun raising money together. This will be done by the children and staff. Parents are welcome to join in this challenge too. Feel free to send Strava or Fit Bit screen shots. This is a massive challenge, but one we are absolutely committed to doing. **Sponsorship forms will be sent home with all children next week**. Please help us to raise as much money as we can for this worthwhile cause!

Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
Mon 25 th December - Fri 5 th January	Christmas Holiday
Tue 27 th February	CI2 (Kingfishers) 'Seeing is Believing' session for parents to learn alongside their child. 11am-12pm. Book via Parentmail.
Thurs 29 th February	CI3 (Owls) 'Seeing is Believing' session for parents to learn alongside their child. 2:15-3:15pm. Book via Parentmail.
Mon 12 th February – Fri 16 th February	Half Term
Mon 4 th March	CI4 (Hawks) Parents' Consultation. A form will be sent via Parentmail after half term.
Tue 5 th March	EYFS (Badgers and Foxes) Parents' Consultation. A form will be sent via Parentmail after half term.
Wed 6 th March	CI2 (Kingfishers) Parents' Consultation. A form will be sent via Parentmail after half term.
Thurs 7 th March	CI3 (Owls) Parents' Consultation. A form will be sent via Parentmail after half term.

Fri 8th March	World Book Day (see above for more details)
Tue 12 th March	CI2 (Kingfishers) Fire Safety Visit by the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The children will meet firemen and women and learn about fire safety. It will take place in school during the normal school hours.
Wed 13 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)
Wed 13 th March	Spring Fayre 3:30-5pm at The Meadows main school site. All welcome to attend. 😊
Mon 18 th -Fri 22 nd March	The Meadows Big March (see above for more details)
Thurs 21 st March	Easter Celebration Whole school family 2-3pm All Saints Church, Madeley
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)
Thurs 25 th April	EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Open Day 1:30-2:30pm For anyone interested in bringing their child to our fantastic Nursery and Reception setting. Please share with your friends and neighbours.
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	Leaver's Performance
TBD	'Celebrations Assembly' at the Madeley Centre, 2-3pm
Mon 1 st July	EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Open Day 1:30-2:30pm For anyone interested in bringing their child to our fantastic Nursery and Reception setting. Please share with your friends and neighbours.
Fri 19th July	Term Ends
Mon 22nd July	INSET (Staff Training)
Tues 23 July – Fri 30 August	Summer Holiday

Safeguarding Update

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in **immediate danger** over the Christmas holidays, 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. Thank you for your continued support.

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.



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