



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 6

24/11/2023

The Meadows
Primary School

Dear parents/carers,

I'm delighted that we are now reunited once again as a school family. It was wonderful for us all to meet together in assembly and celebrate our many successes over the past few weeks, where we have seen a significant change to operations at The Meadows due to the building work being completed. However, I am so proud of our school family for going with the flow and adapting to and embracing the changes. My sincere thanks to all in our community for your support – you have been fantastic, and your patience has been so appreciated.

A huge thanks also to colleagues from the Estates team in our trust family. Their expertise and support has been invaluable to get all of the work completed as quickly and safely as possible. They have been brilliant. All the substantial work completed over the past 6 months has made such a difference to our learning environment. 😊



School Improvement Priorities

At The Meadows, we are committed to providing our children with the very best education they deserve. As a result, we are always looking at ways we can continue to improve. One area we are focusing on now in our rapid sprint (or school improvement plan) is to explore ways to enhance our provision further by supporting our pupils to rapidly recall their number facts. We want our children to not only remember more over time, but also to access this knowledge quickly to aid

them in their learning. We have explored best practice at schools across the country, including in our trust, and have also researched products and companies that can support us with this.

CI3 are currently trialling the use of TT Rockstars, a popular and award-winning Maths programme that has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division in particular. Another programme, Number Bots, supports with recall of number facts.

The children have participated in their initial online assessment, which has created a heat map of the facts that they can recall and how quickly they can recall them. The programme is then tailored to provide pupils with the opportunity to practice the facts that they are not secure with in a range of engaging ways. We are using this alongside our FUN Maths sessions, which focus on a weekly fact for our children to practice.

Once the trial is complete, we will then revisit our home learning policy and look to roll this programme out to the rest of the school. Miss Sutcliffe will be leading a parent workshop in the next few weeks. We are currently in the process of securing the date and then will get in touch. Watch this space!

Attendance

Our whole school attendance continues to rise – we have **now achieved our target of at least 97%**. Well done to Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6, where we have seen an improvement in attendance. Attendance really does matter because it is directly linked to our school mission: that all pupils are successful, both personally and academically.

I know that this is the season where winter bugs are making the rounds, and I am also aware that there are times when we all need rest and recuperation. However, these will be rare. Please do all that you can to support your child to be in school, wherever possible, to aid their learning and social development.

In an earlier newsletter, I shared with our community some sobering figures that I had been presented with at a safeguarding conference, which 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**

| Attendance | % this term so far (TARGET: 97% or above) |
|--------------|---|
| Whole School | 97.34% |
| Nursery | 100% |
| Reception | 96.99% |
| Y1 | 96.76% |
| Y2 | 98.2% |
| Y3 | 96.37% |
| Y4 | 97.22% |
| Y5 | 97.49% |
| Y6 | 97.30% |

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. Please contact the school office to arrange a meeting. We are here to help!



Safeguarding Update

The safety of our pupils is always a priority and a responsibility we all share. On our website, you will now see that there is a link to **'My Voice'**. MyVoice is a reporting system for our school community to report a safeguarding concern. We believe that by providing secure, anonymous access for reporting safeguarding concerns, will assist early intervention, embed an open culture of safeguarding in our school and will help us to provide better support for anyone who needs it.

If you are concerned about a child in our school community, this anonymous platform is one way that you can help to share your concerns so that they can be addressed quickly

and effectively. Simply click on the link, complete the form and then it will immediately send an alert to our safeguarding team. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

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.



Hawk's Trip to The New Vic Theatre (15/11/23)

On Wednesday 15th November, the Hawks class (Y5/6) had a fantastic morning at The New Vic Theatre, where they developed their speaking and listening and performance skills exploring Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. This is a fantastic novella that the children have been exploring in class and is a text that they will study again in Y10 if they transition to Madeley school! They had a fantastic time and are looking forward to returning to The New Vic in December to see, 'The Nutcracker'.

Liverpool trip

On Thursday 30th November, C13 will be visiting the National History Museum in Liverpool. They will be enriching their learning on Ancient Egypt by seeing a range of artefacts and participating in a mummification workshop. The children need arrive at school for **8:30am, ready to depart at 8:45am**. They will return to school at the usual pick-up time, traffic permitting! I can't wait to hear all about your trip, once you have been, and find out what you learn children. 😊

Children in Need Spotacular Fundraiser

A huge thank you to all who donated and bought cakes during our fundraiser for Children in Need. Overall, we raised **£150** pound for such a worthwhile cause. It was also a great way for us to live out our school motto, '**Learning by Caring and Sharing**'.



Eco School Green Flag Accreditation

At The Meadows, one of our aims is to help our children **positively contribute to the world around them**. One way that we are going to do this is by working to achieve Eco School Green Flag accreditation. So many of our children deeply care about environmental issues and have a desire to actively protect our environment.

We want to harness these interests and desires by working together to empower our children to make a difference in our school, our local community and beyond.

Our first step has been to recruit our Eco Warriors team. They are going to head up this project. Thank you to all who have signed up for our Monday club. Just a reminder that this will begin after school on **Monday 4th December**. Apologies for the slight delay in the start date, which resulted due to the work being completed in school. If your child has not signed up, but would like to, please get in contact with the school office.



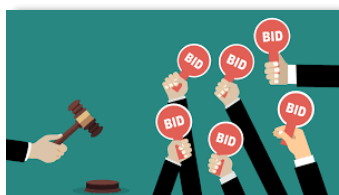
Celebrating Success - Fundraising

Congratulations to Oakley, James and Parker for raising **£664** for their football team by walking the killer mile, a steep road leading to Mow Cop. What a fantastic achievement! It is lovely to see them caring about their sporting community and raising money for some new winter kit. We are proud of you.

Vacancy

We are looking for a new **Wraparound Teaching Assistant** to join our wonderful friendly staff team. We are committed to employing the right person for the job, so please get in touch if you are interested, or share far and wide. Details can be found here:

[The Meadows Primary School Career Site \(schoolrecruiter.com\)](https://www.schoolrecruiter.com)



Auction

On **Friday 15th December**, we will be holding an auction at **The Crewe Arms**. Not only will this be a great way for our school to get together and socialise, but we also hope that it will be a fantastic way to raise money for our school community. We are currently updating the outdoor learning environments and signage to create a cool down corner where some children can use their '**Red 2 Blue**' strategies to help them. Our target is **£500**.

We are looking for generous donations towards our auction that can be sold. This could be bric-a-brac, books, vouchers, meal hampers anything that can be sold! A huge thank you for the donations we have already received, including books, a ukulele and a bike. 😊 Also, a huge thank you to Linda Franklin, who is working alongside Mrs Cooper to organise the event. We already have an auctioneer ready and raring to go.

Please contact Mrs Cooper at the office (in person, via the phone or email) regarding donations. A sign-up form will be sent out this via Parentmail this week. Please do come along and support us.

Class Updates

Our Foxes and Badgers (Nursery and Reception) have been exploring Diwali, the festival of light. They have created their own rangoli patterns and made their own lamps to take home.

The Kingfishers (Y1/2) have been making cars and testing different wheels and axles to make the vehicles move.

The Owls (Y3/4) have been exploring settlements in Geography, such as hamlets and villages. They have compared the features of different settlements and have been able to relate their knowledge to our village, Madeley, too!

The Hawks (Y5/6) have been exploring poetry and will be creating their own poems about the Grinch.



Updated Term Dates

Here is our updated calendar. **Please note the yellow 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 |
|---|--|
| Sat 28th October - Sunday 5th November | Half Term |
| Monday 27 th November | Tweensafe session CI4 Hawks in school |
| Tue 28 th November | CI3 (Owls) Last Swimming Session (Autumn) |
| Thurs 30 th November | CI3 (Owls) Trip to Liverpool Museum |
| Mon 4 th December | Tweensafe session CI4 Hawks in school |
| Thurs 14 th December | CI3 (Owls)/CI4 (Hawks) New Victoria Theatre Trip to see 'The Nutcracker', 2:30pm-5pm |
| Fri 15 th December | Auction Night More details to follow after half term *SAVE THE DATE* |
| 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 25th December - Fri 5th 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 8 th April | Term Starts |
| Mon 15 th April | INSET (Shaw Education Trust Training Day) |
| Tue 16 th April | CI4 (Hawks) Swimming Starts (Summer) |
| Wed 1 st May | Group Photos |
| Mon 6 th May | May Day |
| Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May | Half Term |

| | |
|---|--|
| Mon 3rd – Fri 7th June | CI4 (Hawks) Residential Trip to Standon Bowers |
| Tue 25th June | CI4 (Hawks) Last Swimming Session (Summer) |
| Wed 19th June | Sports Day (EYFS Foxes and Badgers) 2-3pm, Leycett Cricket Club |
| Wed 26th 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 |

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.



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