



# Meadows Newsletter

Issue 8

7/01/2024

**The Meadows**  
Primary School

Dear parent and guardians,  
Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and have had lots of quality family time where you have been able to make some special memories.

A huge thank you for your support for our children and our school community during 2023 – my first year as headteacher here at The Meadows. We have had so many successes to celebrate last year, which I will explore in my summary of the Autumn term further down in my newsletter. On behalf of the staff, I would also like to express our gratitude for the thoughtful gifts we were presented with at the end of the term. This was so kind and certainly not expected.



We are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow and hearing what they have been up to over the Christmas holiday. I hope they are refreshed, ready to start the new term with enthusiasm for learning and a willingness to put in the hard work, something we always celebrate with our children.

Please encourage your child to start off as we mean to go on by **promoting excellent attendance and punctuality**. A reminder that children should come into school wearing the **appropriate school uniform**, according to our policy. Please ensure that any nail varnish etc that may have been worn during the festivities has been taken off. Many thanks, in advance, for your support on this matter.

## A Summary of the Autumn Term 2023

The autumn term was another busy and successful term at The Meadows Primary School. It was such a pleasure visiting lessons throughout the term, seeing the buzz of learning in every classroom and the fantastic work the children produce day in, day out. It is also an honour to witness the positive interactions between the children and their peers, as well as with the staff. The care and consideration they all have for one another is amazing. Our school motto, 'Learning by Caring and Sharing' is evident in every aspect of life at The Meadows. This was evident last term as we embraced the Red 2 Blue approach to positive mental wellbeing and self-regulation. The children take notice of one another, recognise when their friends are in a red head and do their best to support them to regulate using a range of strategies, including the support of adults. It was fantastic to witness.

In addition, it was wonderful to see the children embrace every aspect of school life fully last term. Engagement at a range of exciting extra-curriculum activities was high last term: from Lego club, to Netball, Computing to Science club, Games to Eco-Warriors, the children were making the most of every opportunity they were provided with to deepen their learning and social connections. They had the opportunity to enrich their learning too through a range of different trips including visiting The Blue Planet, theatre workshops at The New Vic, History workshops at the Liverpool Museum and a KS2 Christmas treat to watch the spellbinding 'Nutcracker'. It was wonderful to share so many of the children's achievements from outside of school last term too – from karate competitions, football leagues, achievements in music and dance competitions, we love to share in the children's successes and interests. Please do continue to get in touch with your child's class teacher to share any successes outside of school, so that we can share harness their interests in school too.

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 has improved significantly over the past 12 months. Whilst our attendance has continued to be above national over the past few years, it has risen considerably so that we are **reaching our target of at least 97%**. Well done to our whole school community for your commitment to your learning and for valuing the important of being in school consistently, knowing that this is so important for your wellbeing and your academic achievement. We continue to strive to exceed this target, as this is to the benefit of all our pupils. Please remember that we are always here to support you.

During the Autumn term, it has been wonderful for us to join together as a community at social events including a Harry Potter themed quiz night and more recently at our auction. Not only have these been fantastic opportunities for us to socialise, but also to raise money for our school. **On Friday 15th December**, we held **an auction at The Crewe Arms** to raise money for our school community.

We had some fantastic items to auction, including a bike, hampers, meal vouchers etc. A huge **thank you for the donations we received**.

Whilst attendance was low, a huge thank you to all from our school and local community who were able to attend and gave generously. In total, **we raised a phenomenal £798**. Huge thanks go to Mrs Cooper, Linda Franklin and Steph Franklin who organised and ran the event. We really appreciated your time and efforts to support our school community. An update will be sent out soon about how we will be using this money to benefit our children's learning and personal development.

The autumn term was the end of my first year as headteacher here. At the start of December, I successfully completed my NPQH (National Professional Qualification of Headship). This was a fantastic opportunity for me to continue to learn and model my passion for learning to the children and staff, leading by example. I have continued to be incredibly proud of each one of our pupils: the attitudes they show towards their learning, the fantastic progress they have made this term – both personally and academically, and their amazing individual achievements.

### A few snapshots of our end of term festivities:

#### **Foxes, Badgers and Kingfishers Nativity**





Whole School Christmas Carol Concert at All Saints Church, Madeley



## Class Parties, Games and Raffles



### Christmas Virtual Sing Along

Our Owls and Hawks joined in with a virtual Christmas Sing Along with 8000 other children in Staffordshire by our music providers, Entrust.

### Food Bank Collection

A huge thank you for all your generous donations for the foodbank during the last week of term. They were dropped off at a local collection point and I know that they will have been greatly appreciated.



### Dates for the Diary

Please do take a note about forthcoming dates, provided in advance, for your diaries. All details about the events will be sent out in advance. We will endeavour to send out reminders, as we always do. However, if you have read all communication from school and are unsure about arrangements, please do get in touch with the school directly. Whilst I know that there are lots of very useful and supportive Whatsapp groups used by parents and carers in our school community, sometimes discussions here can lead to confusion. Remember – we are always doing our best and are happy to help. 😊

Please note that Owls continue to for swimming this term and sessions commence this Tuesday. They should come into school in their PE kits as usual and bring their swimming kits with them. **PE days for all classes will remain the same this term.**

## Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
<b>Mon 25th December - Fri 5th January</b>	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
<b>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>Term Starts</b>
<b>Tue 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>CI3 (Owls) Swimming Starts (Spring)</b>
<b>Tue 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>CI4 (Hawks) Standon Bowers Parents Information Meeting, CI4, 3pm</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Whole School Movie Night</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Spring Fayre</b>
<b>Mon 12th February – Fri 16th February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CI3 (Owls) Trip to Lower Drayton Farm</b>
<b>Tue 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CI4 (Hawks) Trip to Tamworth Castle</b>
<b>Tue 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CI3 (Owls) Last Swimming Session (Spring)</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Easter Concert</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Easter Disco</b>
<b>Mon 25th March – Fri 5th April</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>
<b>Mon 8th April</b>	<b>Term Starts</b>
<b>Mon 15th April</b>	<b>INSET (Shaw Education Trust Training Day)</b>
<b>Tue 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CI4 (Hawks) Swimming Starts (Summer)</b>
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Group Photos</b>
<b>Mon 6th May</b>	<b>May Day</b>
<b>Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>CI4 (Hawks) Residential Trip to Standon Bowers</b>
<b>Tue 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>CI4 (Hawks) Last Swimming Session (Summer)</b>
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Sports Day (EYFS Foxes and Badgers) 2-3pm, Leycett Cricket Club</b>
<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Sports Day (CI2-CI4) 1-3pm, Leycett Cricket Club</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Summer Fayre</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Leaver's Performance</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>'Celebrations Assembly' at the Madeley Centre, 2-3pm</b>
<b>Fri 19th July</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
<b>Mon 22nd July</b>	<b>INSET (Staff Training)</b>
<b>Tues 23 July – Fri 30 August</b>	<b>Summer Holiday</b>

### Managing Screen Time

We know that Christmas is one time in the year where children may have received different electronic gadgets and digital devices. Whilst there are so many positives of the digital world in which we live, please do take time to read up useful guidance we have sent out previously about helping your child to stay safe in the digital world. On place we tend to share lots of useful guidance is on our Twitter page, which I would strongly encourage you to follow.

Below is a useful guide from National Online Safety about supporting your child to manage screen time. We hope you find it useful. It has lots of great tips to support your family to stay safe online:

# Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

## GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

## TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

## GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

## AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

## HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

## BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

## 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

## SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

## TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

## SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

## WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead designs and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities - empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

### **Safety Crossing the Roads and Parking**

A reminder that children should not enter school via the staff school car park. The car park gates will be closed at the start and end of the school day. Please enter school via the school playground gate as this is the safest access point. If you are crossing the main road, please cross with the school crossing patrol. However, please also remain vigilant whilst crossing with the patrol due to the dangerous nature of the road and the speed at which cars do tend to travel down the road. I have put in official concerns to highways about this and have contacted the local authority to see whether any further traffic calming measure can be put in place, in addition to speed signs already there, to support us with this concern.

In additional, a polite reminder that it is illegal to park on the yellow zig zag lines in front of the school. This is also dangerous for our school community as this is near to our school entrance. Unfortunately, we do have very few members of the school community who continue to park there on occasions. I know that drop offs and pick ups can be a stressful part of the day for many parents and carers, particularly those travelling to/from work and since parking is limited. However, I urge you to take the extra few minutes required to park safely to protect our whole school community. Many thanks for your support for this matter.

### **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.*



The Shaw Education Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 09067175)  
Registered address: Shaw Education Trust, The Lodge, Wolstanton High School, Milehouse Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Staffordshire, ST5 9JU

The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at [www.shaw-education.org.uk](http://www.shaw-education.org.uk)