



# Meadows Newsletter

Issue 9

December 19<sup>th</sup> 2017

The Meadows  
Primary School

## Forthcoming dates

**Please do check the website regularly**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** Return to school

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** 9-9:30 am Maths Workshop Class 3

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** Half Term

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March** Quiz Night Leycett Cricket Club

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March** End of Term

The end of term is here and Christmas is just 6 sleeps away!

I wish to start with a huge thank you to everyone in The Meadows family for another fabulous term. The children continue to amaze us every single day; the staff have worked tirelessly for the good of our children and the Academy Council have supported and challenged the school in its conversion to an Academy within The Shaw Education Trust.

The weather did provide us all with challenges and I would like to thank you for your commitment in sending your children to school and making your child a packed lunch at home. Unfortunately, we were not informed until late on Monday morning that Sir John Offley was unable to open, hence could not provide us with our usual service. I know this was an inconvenience, but for all our working parents, I am sure this was a small price to pay. Closure to a school does provide extreme difficulties to our parents, and it really is one of those situations where it is impossible to please everyone. My decision is based upon the circumstances at The Meadows and not upon what other local schools have decided. Permitting a late arrival was very well received and I know really did help the situation. I must commend the children for their resilience as they coped well with being indoors all day. The slippers were a real hit!

I must take this opportunity to express my thanks to Mr Maydew, for clearing all the ice and snow in the early hours and visiting the school several times over the weekend.

I know the children were disappointed that we did cancel the disco on Friday evening due to the terrible road conditions that challenged us in the morning. If it is any consolation, I too had a disappointed daughter who also wanted to wear her new outfit. We are in the process of confirming a new date for January and will let you know as soon as we can.

My huge thanks to Santa, who despite being so busy at this time of year, managed to squeeze in a quick visit this afternoon. We couldn't show off our magical grotto, which we had prepared at the cricket club, but we did our very best in the circumstances and there were lots of smiling faces.

This year's Nativity performance was so special to us all and showed just how incredible our children are. They performed for you in an unfamiliar environment without ever having a dress rehearsal or practising with the microphones. It was lovely to see so many of you there and share the children's talents with us.

## Data Protection

You may be aware that in May, the rules surrounding data protection are changing, which will provide both security and challenges for schools. For this reason we are unable to provide class lists to be used for party invitations etc. I know this is inconvenient but is absolutely necessary, so we can demonstrate compliance with the new rules.

## Head Lice



I have been informed that head lice are an issue in Class 2. I ask that all parents check their child's hair as I am sure they won't be isolated to one particular class. Of course this is very common amongst children. There are various treatments available which do very quickly eliminate the problem. However, we must all work together, so reinfection does not appear. More information can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/treatment/>

## School Website

Recently we have received some lovely comments about our website from parents. It is good to know that you find it informative and enjoy looking at the photographs. Keeping it updated is a priority for all the staff. We post blogs several times a week which provide you with a very detailed understanding of the activities in school. We also regularly include pupil voice, which I know lots of you enjoy reading. We have just invested in new software which now allows us to publish short videos on our website. You can find a recording of Class 4 performing their Refuge song which is very emotional indeed. Of course we are challenged with not having consent for all our pupils to appear on our website, which unfortunately means some material can't be published. We are trying to find a way of blurring certain faces, but this is still being developed. Please do ensure that you provide us with consent if at all possible. I know from previous conversations, that some parents have not consented, but are unaware they have done so or the impact. Any questions, please do get in touch and we can check our records.

## **Academy Council News**

Miss Spilsbury has posted a blog regarding her recent visit to the school and meeting with our School Ambassadors and Mentors. It gives you an insight into their role within school. <http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/behaviour-and-welfare-meeting>

## **Pantomime Treat**

Yesterday classes three and four had another very enjoyable afternoon at the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe. Cannon and Ball had us all in fits of laughter and Mrs Jones even got to stroke Bobby Ball's hand! We had front row seats and the children joined in with the songs. We even had an unexpected ice cream treat during the interval. As always the children were a pleasure to take out and conducted themselves impeccably at all times. Advance warning – we have booked to go and see Dick Whittington next year!



## **F.U.N Maths**

In September we launched FUN Maths – a new initiative aimed at helping our pupils to become fluent and proficient mathematicians. The reason for this is that we recognise that a lack of fluency of number facts can act as a barrier to learning; pupils who are not able to recall number facts quickly often struggle to apply this skill when calculating, problem solving and reasoning.

Each day all pupils have a twenty-minute FUN Maths session. The aim of these sessions is to enable children to practise number facts in order to improve the speed of their recall. The sessions involve singing and chanting number facts, playing games involving number facts as well as the opportunity to solve problems and apply their knowledge when calculating.

Now we are at the end of the term, we have been able to evaluate the impact of these sessions and I am delighted to share that it is most positive. Not only has there been a marked improvement in confidence, but the scores in the fluency tests have certainly risen.

Thank you for your support at home in learning the weekly facts and your encouragement. We can certainly see which children work hard on these at home. You can find out more about the impact on our blog:

<http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/fun-maths-review-autumn-term>

## **Swimming**



Today I awarded all of the children in class 3 a certificate ranging from level 2 all the way to level 7. Each and every child has improved and certainly gained stamina. Our 45 minute lessons have certainly tested the children's physical fitness. It has been an absolute pleasure to take class 3 this term to the

Chesterton pool. We have certainly gained a great deal from the longer lessons and also the sole use of the pool. A reminder that after Christmas, I shall be taking Class 2 on a Thursday morning. These will commence on 11th January. We shall send out a letter regarding goggles after Christmas, but please ensure that you check your child has a full swimming costume/ trunks (not baggy shorts) over the holiday. Please also note that children with longer hair are required to wear a hat.

## **Dojo Awards**



In our end of term assembly, we have congratulated all our children for their continued outstanding behaviour. We have awarded lots of certificates to children who have earned the most dojos for each of the Secrets of Success. We also presented certificates to the overall winners and runners up in each class. Those children who were the overall winners had over 200 dojos each! That is

tremendous.

At school we do spend a lot of time reminding children that nobody is perfect and we all make mistakes. For that reason our school target is always 97% positive behaviour. We want our children to own their own mistakes, take responsibility and reflect on the choices they have made. Please do also encourage this positive mind-set at home too, if your child tells you they have lost a dojo at school. We do find that a very small number of our children do over react emotionally, rather than drawing a line and moving on. All our staff here at The Meadows are very consistent with our behaviour policy and their professional judgements should be respected and upheld. It is very important that home and school work together, as we all do have the children's best interests at heart.

## **New Menus**

A reminder that our new catering provider: Alliance in Partnership begins operation when we return after Christmas. A paper menu is being sent home today and you should have received a copy by email last week. I am looking forward to the positive changes and new foods to try.

## Attendance

Class	Attendance	Lateness
Class 1	98.59%	0.07%
Class 2	96.75%	0.35%
Class 3	98.35%	0.47%
Class 4	97.48%	0.75%

Today over one third of our pupils received a 100% attendance award. Whilst there is an element of luck involved in good attendance, it does also acknowledge those children who do push themselves and attend school if they are feeling slightly unwell.

Please be advised that in January the Local Authority will be operating their revised regulations regarding lateness and unauthorised absences. Ten late marks in a term is regarded as persistent lateness and will result in a fixed penalty. Furthermore the Local Authority will be issuing penalty notices for unauthorised holidays taken during term time. Unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable, it will not be authorised. A detailed letter was sent out earlier in the term and I would like to once again draw your attention to it. It has been attached to this email for your reference.

Finally on behalf of all the staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for such lovely gifts and kind words in your cards. We are humbled by your kindness and your generosity. Working with children never ceases to take us by surprise and there is never a day without lots of laughter here at The Meadows.

I wish all of you a lovely Christmas and hope that time with your families can be cherished.

## 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.*



*Please do contact me if you would like my assistance at any time, Mrs. Procter*



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