



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 7

March 22nd 2021

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

Please do check the website regularly. Full Term dates are on the website.

Thursday 1st April Break up for the Easter Holidays

Monday 19th April Staff Training Day School closed for pupils

Tuesday 20th April School reopens for the summer term

Monday 3rd May Bank Holiday

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June Half Term

Monday 7th June School reopens

Tuesday 20th July End of term

Wednesday 21st July Staff Training Day School closed for pupils

We have settled back into our routines now school has once again fully reopened. The school is full of children's voices, their laughter and their chatter. Their sense of excitement to be in each other's company is infectious. They thrive in the routines of the school day and the excitement of the classroom. It is clear to see that lots of children have flourished at home over recent months and I hope as well as the stress and challenge, there has been some lovely times shared together too. The children have certainly reflected upon these happy times together and their memories will follow them as they grow into adults. They really have lived through a moment in history!

There is much talk about the need for children to catch up. As yet information released to schools is extremely minimal. So far, the school has received just over £6500 additional funding. You can see how this has been spent on our website by [clicking this link:](#)

What we can say with certainty is that children are so resilient, and they really have all continued to develop and progress on their own learning journeys throughout the course of the last 12 months. They really are incredible!

Over the last two weeks, across the school, we have been studying a text together. We chose such a beautifully illustrated and inspirational book as a vehicle for our journey of recovery. We all

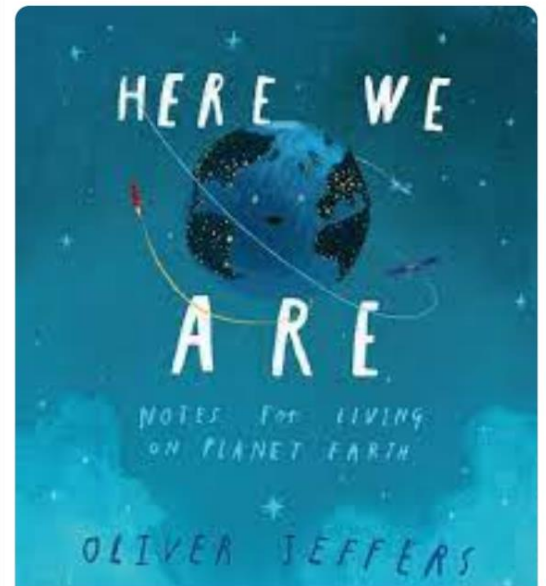
share our planet earth and yet people act, look and sound different. There are lots of different animals too and there's still so much to do. The most important thing is to be kind and know that there's enough for everyone: on Earth, you can never be alone.

The children have been captivated and it has stimulated such discussions and reflections. The children have produced such delightful work across the curriculum using this stimulus. We are just editing a video which captures some of their learning. We will send it to you very shortly.



The Meadows Primary School
@primary_meadows

Over the next two weeks, across the school, we are exploring the fabulous text, 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. The book is a great vehicle for us to make sense of the world we are living in so that we can move forward on our journey of recovery.



Staffing News

We sadly said farewell to Laura last week. Although employed by Caterlink, she has very much been a member of our staff team. She has served the children their lunches with such kindness and understanding. We really will miss her, but wish her well for the future.

The position is currently being covered by a member of the Seabridge team, until the recruitment process has been completed.

Separated Parent Policy

The Academy Council and the Trust have ratified a new school policy. This is in response to an increasing number of sensitive situations, where family relationships breakdown leading to disputes between parents which have involved the school. This policy states clearly the school's position and our expectations of those with parental responsibility.

The Meadows expects that all those with parental responsibility will support the school in working together for the benefit of their children.

It is very important to note that **any dispute between parents sharing these rights will need to be resolved between them, with the assistance of legal advice if necessary, and cannot be resolved by the school.** In all cases where parents cannot agree on various issues, parents should seek independent legal advice as to the options available to resolve those issues, either by agreement or by obtaining a court order.

Parents should seek to resolve contact issues without involving the school. The school will not mediate, "take sides" or act as an intermediary between parents who do not communicate with each other.

You can read the policy [here](#). Should you have any questions regarding this, please do get in touch with the school office.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are delighted that the government has enabled us to recommence these after school. We are encouraged by the children's enthusiasm to participate and it really is a good way for them to rebuild their physical fitness and stamina. Of course, it also is a further opportunity for them to socialise with their peers in a less formal setting. Reconnecting these relationships is vital for their wellbeing. They are organised in class groups to encourage participation for ALL children, regardless of sporting ability and do of course prevent mixing between the classes during the Covid pandemic. If your child has yet to join, but would like to, that really can be accommodated by contacting the office.

PE Kits

As you are aware, we continue to ask children to come to school dressed in their PE kit on the days they have PE. The clubs have been timetabled accordingly too. This is part of our Covid risk assessment procedures. A reminder that children should be dressed warmly for the outside including a waterproof coat. We ask that dark plain coloured jogging bottoms/leggings are worn, with a plain dark coloured hoodie/sweatshirt. The Meadows school jumper or fleece is ideal too. Items containing any replica team logos though, should be kept at home please. The removal of the need to get changed for PE really has been a positive change, so much so we are exploring the idea of keeping this as a permanent arrangement. We are working with our school uniform suppliers regarding possible options, but please be assured these are only initial thoughts at this stage.

Nursery Provision

I hope you have all read the information recently communicated to you regarding our forthcoming Nursery provision and the consultation to move our Reception class to the new setting. The window for submitting comments or questions does end next Monday 29th March. You will be able to view this through your Parent Mail account. An article detailing our plans was also published in the Sentinel recently too.

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/plans-unveiled-new-nursery-site-5102641>

We are currently finalising the details regarding prices and admission arrangements, which will be published shortly. I am sure you will agree these really are very exciting times and is a much needed investment, to enable us to provide high-quality, all-through provision in the Madeley community.

Zumos



We are passionate about building strong mental wellbeing and resilience in all our pupils. Their personal development is at the core of their success as individuals and achieving their academic potential. This is why as a school we have embraced Zumos as a part of our school's pastoral care. Zumos is a leading online wellbeing system that is CAMHS kitemarked and was developed as part of the HeadStart project.

During this uncertain time where everyone has been spending longer periods of time at home, it is even more vital that we take care of our children's mental wellbeing as well as our own.

Not only are we beginning to use this great resource in school, but we will also be sharing it with you at home too. We really want to involve the whole family. We are currently sending home the login details, please look out for these in your child's diary. We shall shortly release more information and how we would like your child to work with your support, at home too. For now though, we are just encouraging families to explore the resources together. A few of our parents have very kindly been trialling this for us and we have received such positive feedback. One parent commented that it was a great resource for families to use and talk about their feelings openly.

The system has been developed to follow a curriculum, so all you need to do is sit with your child, get them to login and play the recordings. It is a great thing to work on together as a family. We encourage you to discuss the recordings and ensure the messages have been understood.

A message from Dylan and Tizzy (our School Amassadors)

Zumos is a mental health and wellbeing website which answers a lot of topics about growing up: topics about making new friends in a new school or concentrating in lessons. It has a 'chill room' and a 'worry box' where you can type your worries to go straight to the teacher. Zumos also has a 'life book' where you can write and choose how you feel every day and whenever needed you can change how you feel after saving what you have done before.

So, in conclusion, Zumos is a great website for children's mental health and wellbeing.

Home Learning Update

We have been in a transitional period, ensuring our children settle back into school routines and adjust to long days in school. We have adjusted our home learning expectations to accommodate the recent challenges faced by children and indeed their families. We have reflected carefully on educational research, children's learning and of course their wellbeing needs.

Our revised expectations are communicated below:

Class 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonics: Sounds of the Week consolidation and application (Flashcards)• Reading: Rocket Phonics library book, a reading for pleasure book and a decodable (physical book)
Class 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonics: Sound of the week with phonic based spellings. Phonics mat have already been sent out. Reference to online games to access at home.• Reading: Rocket Phonics library book, a reading for pleasure book and a decodable (physical book)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths: Fun Maths task set each week (promotion of recall and calculating) • Spellings: A weekly test
Class 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Decodable books where appropriate and reading for pleasure books (age appropriate). Minimum 3 entries each week and a Canine Comment. • Maths: Fluency, recall and calculating based worksheet • Spellings: Given out weekly with two tests (word level and sentence level) • Fun Maths: Fun Maths task set each week (promotion of recall and calculating)
Class 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Decodable books where appropriate and reading for pleasure books (age appropriate). Minimum 5 entries each week and a Canine Comment. • Maths: Fluency, recall and calculating based worksheet • Spellings: Given out weekly with two tests (word level and sentence level) • Fun Maths: Fun Maths task set each week (promotion of recall and calculating) • SPAG: Worksheet to consolidate SPAG

The addition of short Zumos activities will be added shortly.

As always, any issues or worries concerning home learning, please let us know via the class email addresses, so we can provide support.

Fitness Challenge Reminder



Keep your activity snapshots coming into school and remember to keep a record of your activities. We are so looking forward to celebrating your achievements with the medals. Will any of you total up an amazing 100km?

Even Mrs Procter bumped into one of our previous families whilst enjoying her run at the weekend. The spring sunshine certainly makes you feel more motivated to go outside.

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.

Mrs Procter



We believe, you achieve



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