



# Meadows Newsletter

Issue 6

November 30th 2018

The Meadows  
Primary School

## Forthcoming dates

**Please do check the website regularly**

<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 9am</b>	Class 1 Phonics/ Reading workshop for parents. <b>Non-Uniform Chocolate tombola Donations</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Class 4 will be singing to the Residents at Lea Court The Madeley Centre
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Disco Leycett Cricket Club
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Lunch
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Classes 3 and 4 trip to Crewe Lyceum Jack and the Beanstalk
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Nativity Performance The Madeley Centre 1:30pm Classes 1 and 2
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	End of Term Class Parties
<b>Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Start of New Term

It is hard to believe that December is upon us and of course all of our minds are drawn to the Christmas celebrations and events, which provide so much joy to the children. Please take note of the dates, so you are aware of key events.

### Nativity

The children in classes 1 and 2 are busy practising their play and are really enjoying all the lovely songs. It is always a highlight of my year to watch the children perform and see the proud faces of parents. There is a change this year to this annual event. The children will perform their dress rehearsal in school with classes 3 and 4 as their audience. On the day of the actual performance, which is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, we are inviting only parents and families of classes 1 and 2. This is so we can ensure everyone can be seated and so that the children can enjoy refreshments afterwards with their families. We have listened to parental feedback and appreciate that many of you would prefer this. It will also make transport arrangements so much simpler and quicker.

### Class 1 Family Workshop

Mrs Davies and Mrs Fowler would like to invite Class 1 parents to a Phonics Workshop next Friday at the start of the day. This will be an opportunity for you to find out more about how we teach reading and spelling using the Phonic approach. Afterwards the children will decorate Christmas biscuits alongside their parents. We do hope you will be able to come along and share in some festive fun with us.

### Christmas Disco

You should have received this week both via email and in paper form, a letter regarding the disco on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This is an important fundraising event for the school, as well as a fun filled evening for the children. We are requesting cash for both the tickets and the Santa visit. Please send in your money with the completed forms.

We would really like to run a raffle, but are struggling with prizes. We have had very little joy with our letters/phone calls to local businesses etc. If any of our parental community are able to use their work connections, it would be appreciated greatly. So far we have had a very generous donation of shopping vouchers thanks to Mrs Bradshaw, but clearly we need to quickly gather many more prizes. We would also like to put together some Christmas hampers, so donations of wine, prosecco, biscuits and other seasonal delights would be great.



The chocolate tombola is always very popular. We are therefore holding a non-uniform day next Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> December. We are asking for donations of chocolate items than can be used in the tombola. There will also be other activities for the children such as face painting, Lucky-Dip, and tuck shop. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to run these for us and also for your kind donations.

Younger siblings are welcome to attend also, but we do ask that their parents do accompany them.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Mrs Cooper who is leading this event and to all the staff team who are able to volunteer on the evening at such a busy time of year.

### Winter Weather



I am sure you will all recall the extreme wintry conditions we experienced last winter. We were one of the very few schools in the area who managed to stay open throughout. This is most certainly one of those occasions where it is impossible to please all the people, all of the time. Such decisions are made with the information that is known at that given time and are always made with the best interests of the children at heart. Whilst a very early decision makes it easier for everyone, I can only make an informed decision when I know the facts e.g. Number of staff expected to arrive at school on time, the weather forecast, condition of the roads /school site and if we will be able to source our cooked lunches. Our lunches are now brought in from Seabridge Primary School and should they be unable to open, we would not be able to provide any lunches. In this case we would ask that you provide a packed lunch for your child. Again I can only communicate this information to you once I hear from Seabridge. The Meadows will remain open if at all possible and we do adjust the close of the Registers to allow families additional time to travel to school when conditions are difficult. We would therefore expect all children to attend and absence would not be authorised.

We will communicate any closure or alternative arrangements via text and we encourage you to sign up to alerts on the Staffordshire County Council website:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/emergencyschoolclosures.aspx>

I urge you not to rely on local radio stations as they have been known to confuse our school with another school of the same name in Leek.

### **Spirit of the Blitz Day**

On Friday 23rd November, Class 4 went back in time and became WW2 evacuees. The purpose of the day was to enhance the learning done in lessons and provide further opportunities for pupils to:

- Empathise with children who might have been evacuated during the war, exploring what their life might have been like.
- Experience what type of food might have been eaten or what clothes might have been worn.
- Recognise how evacuees would have felt when they were separated from their families.
- Explore how music was used to rally the troops and those at home.
- Identify the role of women during WW2.
- Explore propaganda and how it was used for political reasons.



They came in dressed as evacuees (some even brought with them gas masks) and all pupils had a ration lunch consisting of food that might have been eaten during WW2. The children particularly enjoyed changing their names and adopting a character (as did Mrs Kuffour – alternatively known as Mrs Green).

In the afternoon, we invited family members to join us for a tea party where the children shared with them a delicious array of food that they had baked/made. The beef tea in particular did not seem very popular! However, the rest of the food was devoured, even the spam sandwiches.

A huge thank you to all children and parents for being such good sports - we really enjoyed being in role for the day and the children looked fabulous in their outfits!

### **Maths Family Workshops**

Thank you to everyone who has been able to come along and join their child in a Maths lesson. As you will be aware we have implemented a new approach to teaching Maths this year which is all about teaching concepts and calculations through using concrete and pictorial resources. The feedback has been extremely positive and we shall be developing further workshops later on in the year. We do regularly post examples of learning on our Twitter account, which are attracting great interest nationally amongst schools and other education groups.

This week we conducted monitoring of the new approach to ensure consistency across the classes and also the impact of the new strategies. We are really pleased to see so many different representations in the children's books and how they are using their blue thinking hats to problem solve.

We do need to continue to develop our children's mathematical learning behaviours as seen in the image. They are very much linked to our Secrets of Success and such dialogue, both at home and in school really does enable progress.



### **Academy Council**

One of the most important jobs of the Academy Council is to gather pupil voice and talk about our school with the most important people of all – the children. Last week, our School Ambassadors and Y6 mentors met with our Academy Council to discuss Online Safety, how the school has changed since joining The Shaw Trust and what our priorities are this year, as we progress to becoming an Outstanding school. I was so pleased with how articulate and confident they are. They certainly showed they know our school well and can reflect on their roles. You can find out more about their meeting on our blog pages. <https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/academy-council-pupil-voice-%E2%80%93-20th-november-2018>

### **School Crossing Patrol**



You may be aware from recent media coverage that Staffordshire County Council is proposing to remove funding for **ALL** School Crossing Patrols. You can find out more about this proposal and take part in the consultation exercise through this website:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/SchoolCrossing/SchoolCrossingPatrols.aspx>

We are very concerned about this move considering the dangerous location of our school. I have had preliminary discussions with the Parish Council regarding future funding, which would be in the region of £4000 per year. As part of our discussions with the Council we will be sending out shortly a questionnaire to establish the use of this service in our community. Please do look out for it next week via ParentMail and answer the short questions. I will continue to update you when more information becomes available.



#### **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*



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