Meadows Newsletter

Issue 3 *October 12th 2018*

The Meadows Primary School

Forthcoming dates	
Please do check the website regularly	
Wednesday 17th October	Fundraising Meeting 9am ALL WELCOME
Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November	Half Term
Thursday 8th November	Flu Immunisations YR to Y5
Monday 12th November	Progress Meetings for parents and carers
Tuesday 13th November	Progress Meetings for parents and carers
Wednesday 14th November	Sponsored Dance Children In Need Fundraising event
Thursday 15th November	Whole School Trip to Chester Zoo
Friday 16th November	Children In Need Non-Uniform Day
Monday 17th December	Classes 3 and 4 trip to Crewe Lyceum Dick Whittington
Wednesday 19th December	Nativity Performance The Madeley Centre 1:30pm Classes 1 and 2
Friday 21st December	End of Term

Maths at The Meadows

At the start of this academic year we launched a new approach to the teaching of mathematics. At the core of all our teaching, we are using the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach. This approach recognises that in order for pupils to understand abstract concepts, they must first learn mathematical concepts through the use of concrete resources and pictorial representation. We have purchased a new scheme of learning called 'Power Maths' in order to help us embed this approach. This scheme is based upon extensive research into maths teaching around the world, particularly Singapore. We have all been learning things in a different way and getting used to using lots of physical resources. This has obviously been a considerable financial investment, which has been possible due to the revenue generated by both myself and Mrs Kuffour supporting other schools.

Although we are just a few weeks into the term, we can already see a remarkable difference in our pupils' confidence and progress. This morning I was amazed at the Y2 children in particular. They are already confident in using the column method for addition and can articulate with such understanding why they need to carry a ten. This is something previously which we would not have secured until the summer term.

We shall be holding parent workshops later in the term.

For more information on our approach please see our website: https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/power-maths

Holiday Club

We are delighted that due to the very successful holiday club in the summer break, ASM will be running a club over the half term holiday. The children really enjoyed themselves and the popularity exceeded our expectations. They are now taking bookings, so please do contact ASM to reserve a place. I hope our parental community will support this venture so it can continue throughout the year. Children can attend just a half-day session.

This year the community will be gathering on our school playground on Sunday 11th from 10:45am. We have been invited to join the community commemoration event by contributing to a display at The Madeley Centre. We would like to ask for your help by collecting empty 2 litre plastic bottles. We shall be using these in our artwork. We would like you to bring them in on Monday 22nd October please.

Children In Need

It is once again that time of year when we think about all those children who are facing difficult issues and how we can support all the charities who provide support. On Friday 16th November there will be an optional non uniform day, where Pudsey inspired clothing or children's own choice of clothing is encouraged. We are asking for a £1 donation.

We have in school been thinking how we can do something a little different this year and have decided to hold our very own special afternoon of dance on Wednesday 14th November. Miss Blake, our specialist dance teacher, will be teaching us all a variety of dances, both Latin and Ballroom. This will be a sponsored event with all money being directly passed onto the Children In Need Charity. I am sure we will all have a great time, push ourselves out of our comfort zones, try something new and raise money for such a worthwhile cause. More details will be communicated shortly.

Online Safety

Keeping our pupils safe in the digital world is a responsibility we take most seriously and we try our best to educate them about their responsibilities, the dangers and of course the positive opportunities that the online world brings. We are very aware that most of their digital exploration happens outside of school, however we aim to influence their behaviours so they keep themselves

safe and are respectful at all times. We have launched a fresh online safety curriculum this year to our key stage 2 children called *Internet Legends*. We are in the process of updating our website with lots of information and will be holding events for parents and carers too. For those of you who engage in our Twitter communications, you will see that we often signpost you to very useful and relevant information, so you keep your knowledge updated and can ensure there are appropriate boundaries at home. I hope you have spotted our new logos around the playground, which are visual reminders to the children about the five pillars of online safety. If you would like to find out more about Internet Legends and how you can use these resources to make safety choices that fit your family, please take a look: https://storage.googleapis.com/gweb-interland.appspot.com/en-gb-all/hub/pdfs/Be%20Internet%20Legends%20-%20family%20activities.pdf

Our Trust Sponsor, the Shaw Education Trust are conducting surveys across all of their schools. The pupils are completing surveys in school, so are the staff and they have also designed a short survey for you. I know we conducted our own detailed survey in June, but this one is to provide feedback directly to the Trust. Pleased do take a few minutes to complete: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CM8DM67

We are delighted that we have been successful in securing funding from the Trust to replace the corridor carpet and a new boiler! Many of you will be aware of how old and inefficient one of our boilers is and I know I will sleep easier this winter knowing that it has been replaced.

Y6 Parents

A reminder that the closing date for applications to secondary school is October 31st. The quickest and easiest way is to apply online. Parents will be notified of the outcome on March 1st 2019. Please see the Staffordshire website for more details: https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/admissions/secondary/home.aspx

Fundraising Ideas

We know from our recent parental survey that many parents would like to be more involved in fundraising. We are holding an informal meeting on Wednesday 17th October at 9am. Please come along if you can and share a coffee with us, so we can explore ideas regarding potential fundraising events and also how you think the money should be invested into the school.

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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