



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 1

14th September 2023

The Meadows
Primary School

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a fantastic start of the new academic year. I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm the children have shown already towards their learning and how quickly they have settled down into their class routines. It has also been wonderful to welcome new members of our school family to our EYFS setting as well as to the main site. It is always tricky getting used to a new setting, building, staff and routine, but we are so proud of the achievements of our children already.

😊 We have high expectations of their learning behaviours and academic achievement, and they are certainly rising to the challenges a new year brings. Their enthusiasm for learning is phenomenal. Well done.



Across the school, we are actively promoting the importance of taking pride in our presentation – I have been so pleased seeing the children looking smart in their new uniforms and being proud to be representatives of The Meadows. This is a brilliant way to start the new term. Keep it up!



It has also been wonderful to see the excellent punctuality and attendance of our school on the whole. This year, our collective aim is to **at least exceed our school target of 97%**. Students whose attendance in school is strong are more likely to succeed (both personally and academically) because they will not fall behind in their learning. It is important that we work together to do all we can to ensure that this is not the case for pupils at The Meadows. We are here to support you every step of the way to ensure that our children exceed their potential, and positive attendance is part of this. Please do all that you can to promote positive attendance with your child this academic year.

School Improvement

At the Meadows, our mission is to enable all children to be successful, both personally and academically. This drives our school improvement. Our staff are committed to working collaboratively to ensure our children achieve the best outcomes. They are incredibly reflective and innovative practitioners. We use a range of data (both internal and external) to enable us to celebrate our many successes as well as identify areas we can continue to enhance.



We are incredibly proud of the fantastic individual achievements of our pupils last year, which can be found on our school website.

We also value the importance of continuous, sustained improvement. As a result, our school has recognised the following priorities for the academic year:

1. To further enhance provision for borderline pupils to make accelerated progress through increased opportunity for cognitive challenge. (WTS to EXS, EXS to GDS)
2. To embed consistent application of strategies to secure key mathematical facts to enhance mathematical recall across all year groups.
3. To support mid-year transfers to make accelerated progress from their starting point to reach their full potential through an ambitious curriculum.
4. To embed the Red 2 Blue approach to further promote positive mental wellbeing and self-regulation, particularly for the most vulnerable families.
5. To continue to raise the school's profile within the community and explore avenues to generate income.



Safety Reminder – Pick Ups and Drop Offs

I would like to remind families of the guidance regarding pick ups and drop offs at the main site and the EYFS site.

Main Site:

Drop Off

Pupils should enter the school **via the front gate (Newcastle Road, A525)** from the pathway onto the playground **no earlier than 8:30am**, unless attending Before School club. Pupils should **not enter school through the car park** for safety reasons, due to vehicles entering/exiting the school site. If you are crossing the **main road (Keele Road, A531)**, please cross with the lollipop assistant. The side gate will be unlocked to allow families to visit Mrs Cooper at the School Office. **If your child is late to school, please ensure that you accompany them to the Reception Office** and speak to Mrs Cooper. Unfortunately, we have had increasing incidences where pupils are sent into school on their own after the bell has rung, which is a safety concern.

Drop off time is between **8:45-8:55am**. Please be aware that this time is used by pupils to complete tasks allowing them to activate prior learning, so prompt arrival is essential.

Pick Up

Pick Up time is **3:30pm**. Pupils should exit the school **via the front gate (Newcastle Road, A525)**.

EYFS Site:

Drop Off

If driving, please **do not arrive on site until 8:40am**, to allow the Madeley High School children time to safely enter their school premises. Please take care when driving on the school site and drive slowly (**5mph**).

Pick Up

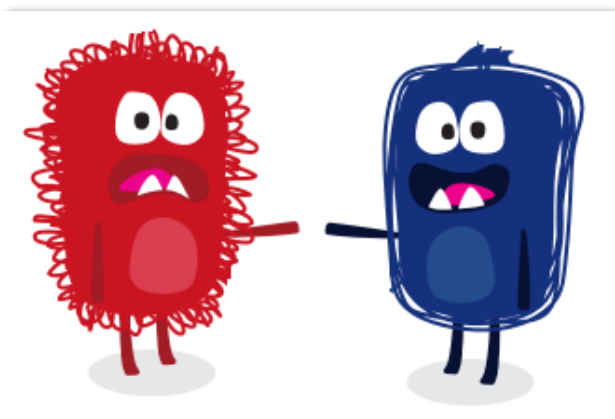
Pick Up is between **3:15-3:30pm**. Please drive carefully on the school site.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

A huge thank you to all the parents that were able to join us for our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions this week. We hope you have had the opportunity to see what life will be like for your child in their class this year and how we can work together to help our children thrive.



This year, we have included information about our new '**Red 2 Blue**' approach that we have launched with our pupils to support their mental wellbeing. We hope you found it useful. We will be leading a follow up **parent workshop on Monday 25th September 2-3pm on the main school site**, where you can learn more about how we are supporting your children to move from Red to Blue and how you can use this approach, with some useful techniques, to support your family at home too. Here is a little reminder about the approach, which was sent out last term:



Red 2 Blue

At The Meadows, one of our aims is to help our children to be personally successful. We do a lot of work with our children to help their personal development. Every day, our pupils come into school and have 121 time with their teacher to scale how they are feeling. This daily dialogue helps our children to feel recognised, to develop their social and emotional language and it also helps our teacher to triage and address any worries or concerns they may have, putting immediate support into place. We use Zumos to help us do this, which all children have access to at home. We also promote personal development through our curriculum, our assemblies and through our restorative approach to managing behaviour, as indicated in our policy.

Last year, we have focused on helping children to self-regulate, so that they recognise strategies they can use to help them to regulate their emotions. Across the school, we have now launched our new 'Red 2 Blue' approach to support pupils' emotional wellbeing and self-regulation. This is an approach that has been launched across The Shaw Education Trust family and is an approach that is being implemented at Madeley High School too. As mentioned in previous newsletters, Mrs Davies and Mrs Panagi have completed their coaching qualifications and have delivered training to staff. Leaders have launched this approach with pupils in assembly and teachers are beginning to explore it with pupils through their daily interactions and through PSHE.



In school, we are using this new approach to help children to recognise and manage their feelings so that they can focus on the things they need to be doing, like our learning. We recognise that where our attention goes, our energy follows. Certain feelings can stop us from focusing on the things we need to be doing for example, feeling worries, anxious, upset, overly excited, angry or nervous. Whilst these are normal emotions we all experience at times, they can be unhelpful because they can divert our attention and energy away from the things we are supposed to be doing.

When we are feeling these emotions, we refer to them as our 'Red Head' state. Having a 'Red Head' might make us feel:

- hot • uncomfortable
- not ourselves
- distracted
- not able to concentrate

Having a 'Red Head' might make us:

- Act aggressively (shouting, pushing, shoving)
- Say, "I Can't!"
- Say, "I won't!"
- Use unkind words
- Do and say things we don't mean

We are working with the children to help them to know the tools and techniques they can use to move from red to blue. When we have a 'Blue Head' we can concentrate. We might feel cool, calm, clear and aware of what we have got to do.

Also:

- We will say, "I will try!"
- We will say, "I will do!"
- We control our actions and our words and make good choices. We have to choose to move from red to blue! We are working with the children to choose some techniques to help them to move to blue.

Get Physical

When you feel your **Red Head** coming...

- 1 Do some physical action**
e.g. holding the wrist, brushing hands, stamping foot
- 2 Change your body posture**
e.g. stand taller, wider feet
- 3 Look up and around you**
Notice shapes, colors.
Notice space around you
- 4 Change your position**
move closer/move away
- 5 Blink three times**
- 6 Choose your next task**

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'Small Things' by Mel Tregonning – Exploring Red 2 Blue

Across the school, over the past week, pupils have been working on the text 'Small Things' by Mel Tregonning. This text portrays the story of a young boy dealing with his worries. We have explored what a 'Red Head' state is like, what people are feeling, how they show it in their words and actions and how it impacts their life. We have then explored how the children managed to move from 'Red 2 Blue' and the strategies we can use to help us to regulate our emotions. Many classes have explored this in their artwork, including Owls (Cl3) and Hawks (Class 4). We have used the illustrations as a stimulus for our artwork this week. Here are a few examples:



HARVEST COLLECTION

COLLECTION POINT HERE

SHOPPING LIST MOST NEEDED

- Soup
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned cold meat
- Coffee
- Tinned tomatoes
- Long life milk
- Long life juice
- Rice pudding or custard

DONATE NOW!

Help by donating an item or two from the list to support people facing hardship.

You can also donate money to help to cover the costs of storing and distributing emergency food as well as delivering additional support and advice.

0300 102 9088
newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk

Registered as a CIO in England & Wales (1194404)

Caring for our Community

Our motto is '**Learning by caring and sharing**'. This is something we are passionate about. We are committed to developing our children into reflective, tolerant and respectful global citizens of the future. We believe that a successful lifelong learner is one who cares about their education as well as caring for others around them: they are able to share resources, ideas and their knowledge with enthusiasm.

To support vulnerable families in our local community, we will be doing a **Harvest Collection** for our local foodbank. From Monday 18th- Friday 22nd September, we will be asking our school family to bring in donations that we will collect and then send to our local foodbank. If you can help by putting a few extra items in your shopping basket next week, it would be greatly appreciated. A collection box will be placed in the Hayward room and children can place their items in it at the start of each day.

Please remember that if you are struggling at this moment, or have any financial worries, the school is always here to help. Please contact the school office directly and one of the team will be there to offer support.

Fundraising

Zara from Y5 is demonstrating our Secret of Success '**To Understand Others**' by raising money for the Little Princess Trust.

Since 2005, The Little Princess Trust has provided thousands of real hair wigs to children and young people, aged up to 24, across the UK and Ireland who are undergoing treatment for a range of illnesses, including cancer. Links have also been made with salons in Sweden, Bulgaria, Portugal and Germany to provide their free wig provision service abroad. We are incredibly proud of Zara's thoughtfulness and consideration for others. At The Meadows, we do our best to show serving hearts, always willing to support others. **Please consider sponsoring her on her Just Giving Page (see our Twitter page for the link).**

← Post

The Meadows Primary School
@primary_meadows

Promote ...

Zara from Hawks class is running a fundraiser for the Little Princess Trust. She will be donating her hair on Friday 15th September. She would appreciate any and all donations at this link: [justgiving.com/page/lisa-shee...](https://www.justgiving.com/page/lisa-shee...) Well done Zara!

Updated Term Dates

An updated list of term dates for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 can be found on our school website here:

[Term Dates | The Meadows Primary School](#)

Improved Calendar

This year, one way we are developing our communications with parents is through a new calendar. We are trying, where possible, to give as much advanced warning to parents about up-and-coming events for you to book into your diaries.

The calendar will evolve during the academic year, and more events will be added on in due course. It includes:

- Term dates
- Holiday dates
- INSET days (staff training)
- Swimming Dates
- Class Trips
- Photographs
- Fundraising Events
- Concerts
- Workshops

Please note that some events are list, but we are awaiting confirmation therefore they are TBD. We hope you find it useful.

Forthcoming Dates	
Date	Event
Mon 18th September	Y5 Bikeability
Tue 19th September	Y4 Bikeability (Please note, if your child is participating in Bikeability, they will not be attending swimming this week only.)
Tue 19th September	CI3 (Owls) Swimming Begins
Mon 25th September	Red 2 Blue Parent Workshop, Main Site, 2-3pm
Tues 26th September	CI4 (Hawks) 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' NSPCC workshop in school
Thurs 5th October	SCFC Assembly (Main Site)
Tue 24th October	Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting 3pm, CI4
Tue 17th October	Individual/Siblings Photos (Please ensure your child(ren) come in to school dressed smartly in the correct uniform)
TBD	Harry Potter Themed Quiz Night
Sat 28th October - Sunday 5th November	Half Term
Mon 6th November	INSET (Staff Training)
Tue 7th November	CI1 (Badgers/Foxes) and CI2 (Kingfishers) Trip to Blue Planet
Sat 11th November	Remembrance Service at The Madeley Centre (All of the school community invited to attend)
Tue 28th November	CI3 (Owls) Last Swimming Session (Autumn)
Thurs 30th November	CI3 (Owls) Trip to Liverpool Museum
Thurs 14th Dec	CI3 (Owls)/CI4 (Hawks) New Victoria Theatre Trip to see 'The Nutcracker', 2:30pm-5pm
Wed 20th December	EYFS/KS1 (Badgers, Foxes and Kingfishers) Nativity at The Madeley Centre, 2-3pm
TBD	Christmas Carol Concert
TBD	Winter Fayre
Mon 25th December - Fri 5th January	Christmas Holiday
Mon 8th January 2024	Term Starts
Tue 9th January	CI3 (Owls) Swimming Starts (Spring)
Tue 16th January	CI4 (Hawks) Standon Bowers Parents Information Meeting, CI4, 3pm

TBD	Whole School Movie Night
Mon 12th February – Fri 16th February	Half Term
Wed 14 th March	CI3 (Owls) Trip to Lower Drayton Farm
Tue 19 th March	CI4 (Hawks) Trip to Tamworth Castle
Tue 19 th March	CI3 (Owls) Last Swimming Session (Spring)
TBD	Easter Concert
TBD	Easter Disco
Mon 25th March – Fri 5th April	Easter Holiday
Mon 8th April	Term Starts
Mon 15th April	INSET (Shaw Education Trust Training Day)
Tue 16 th April	CI4 (Hawks) Swimming Starts (Summer)
Wed 1 st May	Group Photos
Mon 6th May	May Day
Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May	Half Term
Mon 7 th -Fri 11 th June	CI4 (Hawks) Residential Trip to Standon Bowers
Tue 25 th June	CI4 (Hawks) Last Swimming Session (Summer)
Fri 19th July	Term Ends
Mon 22nd July	INSET (Staff Training)
TBD	Summer Fayre
TBD	Leaver's Performance
	'Celebrations Assembly' at the Madeley Centre, 2-3pm
Tues 23 July – Fri 30 August	Summer Holiday

Safeguarding Child in our Local Community

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in immediate danger, 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 weekend,

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.



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