



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 4

3rd March 2023

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

6/3/23-9/3/23	Parents' Consultation Meetings
20/3/23	Cl3's Trip to Dewa Centre, Chester
21/3/23	Cl2/Cl4 Trip to Think Tank (more information to be released soon)
31/3/23	Last Day of Term
3/4/23-14/4/23	Easter Holidays

We have had a fantastic start to the half term here in school. The children have settled back into learning quickly, after sharing their adventures from last week. They have enjoyed seeing one another again and, as always, have been actively engaged in their learning.

Recently I have been reviewing our school's ethos and culture, in order to inform the strategic direction we are moving in. This week, the pupils have helped to contribute to this review by giving their voice about our school and what they think makes us special. I met with a group of children on Wednesday, including our school ambassadors and behaviour mentors, to hear their thoughts. They talked so passionately about what makes our school great and how we can continue to improve - I was so proud of them.



When asked, 'What makes our school special?', they said:

- "We work together as a family to support on another."
- "This is a safe place for everyone to learn."
- "School is a safe place to make mistakes."
- "We have different ways of learning for example, if you are struggling your teachers give you different things to help you learn. "
- "We have special ways to help us learn for example we use RUCSAC and DAB in Maths to help us solve problems."
- "Everyone is friendly."
- "No one is afraid to be themselves."
- "The children and adults all create and share their ideas about our school for example, the children help to come up with fundraising ideas to raise money for charity."
- "Teachers support you and make you feel welcome."
- "You feel seen."
- "Teachers encourage us to push ourselves out of our comfort zones and challenge ourselves so we learn."

From their responses, it is clear that our school's motto, 'Learning by caring and sharing' is thoroughly embedded. The pupils demonstrated a strong sense of belonging (even those who have not been with us long) and that is an incredible testimony to the caring attitudes of our children, our staff and our parental community.

To continue to promote a sense of belonging to our school and a pride in our community, we have **renamed our classes**. As you know, our children in Nursery and Reception are already called badgers and foxes. The children have explored other wildlife in our country (linking to their poetry text from 'World Book Day') and have chosen the following names for their classes:

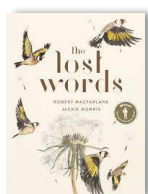
Nursery: Foxes

Reception: Badgers

Class 2 (Y1&2): Kingfishers

Class 3 (Y3&4): Owls

Class 4 (Y5&6): Hawks



Regarding things we can do better, they suggested that they would like to develop our playground further to enhance provision and have more opportunities for enrichment such as tournaments in sports. We have listened to their feedback and have fed it into our school improvement. For example, one of our priorities this half term is to develop our outdoor environments so that they encourage our children to be creative and curious, whilst also regulating their own learning. More information will shared on this over

the coming weeks. We also have some exciting sporting events planned next term, including Kwik Cricket, Athletics, Rounders etc. There is a lot to look forward to!

'World Book Day'

On Thursday, it was fantastic to celebrate Reading for Pleasure with children in school through 'World Book Day'. So many children came dressed in fantastic costumes! We had some lovely outfits including wizards and witches, princess and pirates and a range of animals from some of our best loved stories such as 'Cat in the Hat' and 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. Interestingly, the adults that dressed up were all villains! Below is a message from Miss Parry about the event:



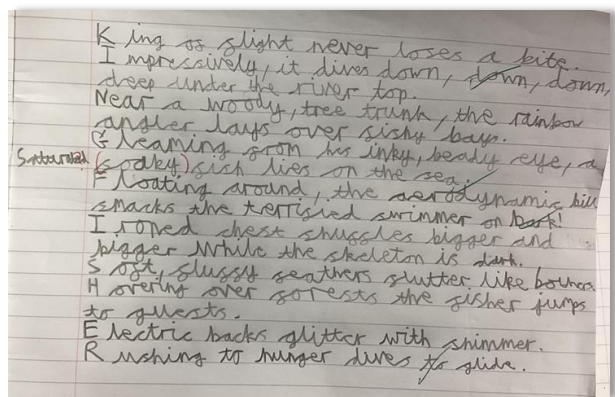
World Book Day was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our Reading for Pleasure ethos. Across the school, the children explored the poetry anthology 'The Lost Words'. This is a text that focuses on British wildlife with rich vocabulary. The children performed several of the poems and created artwork in the same style as the illustrator. We will be announcing the winner of our wildlife mask competition on Friday 10th March.

Miss Parry

Class Updates

Here are a few updates about some of the exciting learning that has been taking place over the past few weeks in school:

EYFS (Foxes and Badgers) have enjoyed exploring Spring, in preparation for the change of seasons.



Class 2 (Kingfishers) have

enjoyed looking at poetry for World Book Day, writing their own acrostics inspired by a kingfisher. This work influenced their new class name!

Yesterday, **Class 3 (Owls)** have created some beautiful artwork linked the British wildlife. They really enjoyed using pastels, developing blending techniques to show tone.

In **Class 4 (Hawks)** this week, they have begun to explore algebra in Maths and a new non-fiction text based on Ancient Greece. The children enjoyed researching the very first Olympic games - they

were shocked to find out many of the events were completed naked!

Improving Attendance

As previously mentioned in my last newsletter, we are currently reviewing our attendance policy to ensure that we do all that is possible to support our families and increase attendance. Whilst we know our school's attendance has always been strong, and remains above national, we also know that it is not as strong as it was pre-covid.



At The Meadows, we have high expectations for all learners because our **mission is for all children to be successful – both personally and academically**. Attendance and punctuality at school is essential as it is instrumental for success. Absence from school affects pupil's attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes – all research supports this. Persistent absence can also raise safeguarding concerns.

The Meadows is committed to **championing our pupils** and to **working alongside our supportive parents** to help our children thrive, whilst also maintaining our high standards. To do this, we are going to:

- **Raise the profile of attendance** with our pupils and our school community.
- **Celebrate attendance** with our community.
- **Communicate regularly** with parents about your child's attendance, being honest and transparent in order to support you and foster positive relationships.

- **Work together to identify and address any barriers** to our pupils' attendance in school by offering support such as through social/emotional interventions or through external support.
- Run **monthly attendance 'drop ins' or coffee mornings**, where you are free to pop into school for a drink and a chat about how we can support you. More information will be sent out about this next week.

As always, we are dedicated to working in partnership with our whole school community and value your collaboration and support for our fantastic pupils.

Supporting children with SEND

At The Meadows, we are also committed to providing all our pupils with an ambitious, creative and inclusive curriculum that will help all pupils to develop the academic knowledge and skills they require in real life and to be secondary ready. We continue to be reflective of our provision and refine it, following guidance and based on research. One aspect of our school improvement recently has been on using **adaptive teaching** so that all children can thrive and so that we have high expectations of all, as Mrs Davies (our SENCO) notes below:



Over the last half term, we have been researching and implementing a more adaptive approach to teaching our children with SEND. This means that instead of children completing differentiated tasks, all children will be working towards the same objectives and given appropriate scaffolding and support to enable them to access a broad and balanced curriculum. Adaptations can include targeted questioning, further explanation, discussion and support or guidance from teachers and TAs. Our pupils may work in small groups which are flexible and responsive to need or access to technological assistance. It is an inclusive way of teaching using metacognitive strategies for teaching and learning.

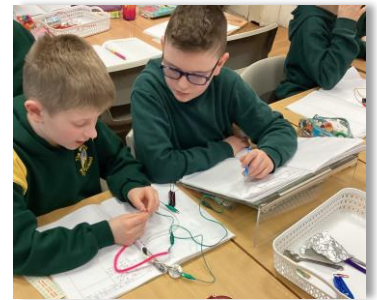
Mrs Davies

Science Pupil Voice

Mrs Farrand, our Science lead, has been reviewing teaching and learning in Science. She recently spoke to a group of children to find out their thoughts on our lessons:

The children were very enthusiastic about learning Science, saying they enjoyed everything about it, especially doing experiments and finding out new, interesting facts. They were clear about the three different sciences there are and proudly showed me examples in their books of when they had studied each of these. In our Science lessons, we make lots of real-life links which helps the children to understand the importance of their learning and put what we do into context, which was very evident in talking to the children that they understood this. One of the areas the children said they would like us to improve, is having even more equipment in school, which is something we have started to address having science boxes for playtimes and we will look further into how we can develop the outdoor environment, including making science links. We have also made links with high schools within our trust to borrow new and exciting equipment.

Mrs Farrand



School Social and Fundraising Events

As you will be aware from national strikes taking place, funding in schools remains tight. We continue to be innovative with the way we spend our funding, however we recognise that every little helps. We are keen to develop fundraising events in school.

Consequently, we are in the process of creating a school social events calendar for each term we have planned activities to fundraise (both for school and other charitable organisations). They will also be a fantastic opportunity for our families to socialise too, enabling children to develop a deep sense of belonging to our school. Increased opportunities for social events have recently been requested in our pupil voice too.



This term, we will be holding two events for our school family:

- Quiz Night (date to be confirmed next week)
- Spring Fayre (date to be confirmed next week)

We only have a small team of staff here, so if you are able to volunteer your time or support, or if you have any suggestions about fundraising or social events at The Meadows, please email our school office on:

office@meadows.set.org

School Pre-loved Clothing Shop

This year, as you may know, we have created a small pre-loved clothing shop at school, where parents can purchase school uniform for a small fraction of the price that they are sold in uniform stores. We know the cost-of-living crisis has impacted many in our local community and we want to do whatever we can to support our families. We also know how quickly our children grow! Reusing clothing is also good for the environment.

Please do come to the school office to see what we have available. It is there to be bought! 😊 All proceeds will go to school funds.

Also, if you have any clothing that no longer fits your child, and is in good condition, please consider supporting our school community by donating it. In particular, we are looking for:

- School t-shirts
- School sports shirts
- School jumpers/cardigans
- School sports jumpers
- Black school shoes in good condition
- PE trainers in good condition



Many thanks, in advance, for your support. It is greatly appreciated!

School Life

To find out more about life at The Meadows, I would strongly encourage you to follow us on Twitter @primary_meadows. This is a great way to find out what your children have been learning and for us to signpost events coming up. You can help us to raise the profile of our school in the local community too by liking and sharing our tweets. 😊 We would really like to increase our community's footfall on our account – don't forget to view and like our posts. We are currently looking at other ways to use social media with our school community so that you can keep updated about life in school. More information will be released on this soon...

For the moment, here are a few snapshots of recent activity at school:



Have a lovely 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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