



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 6

November 26th 2021

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

Wednesday 1 st December	Classes 1 and 2 Theatre Trip
Wednesday 15 th December	Classes 3 and 4 Pantomime trip
Friday 17 th December	End of term
Wednesday 5 th January	New term begins

Over the past two weeks, it has been evident that the weather is changing and winter will soon be approaching. The dark nights are drawing in and, if the weather forecasts are accurate, snow will soon be on its way. In light of this, please can we ask that all children to remember to bring into school their waterproof coats, hats and gloves to keep them wrapped up warm during their playtimes and lunchtimes.



I would also like to remind you of the procedures that will take place if the appearance of snow causes any disruption to the school day. If there is a need to close the school as a result of heavy snowfall, a text will be sent out as soon as possible via Parentmail. Please note, this extreme measure will only occur if the site is unsafe for our community, if we are unable to

staff provision due to treacherous conditions or should there be an issue with the heating. We will endeavour to do all that is possible to ensure that our school remains open so that our children's learning is not impacted.



As the children have been reminding me today, we are now less than a month away from Christmas. Although, as a parent myself, this thought partially fills me with dread (I am definitely behind with helping Santa to get presents for my family this year), it is also a time that we traditionally look forward to at school. Our school nativity is normally a highlight. Last year, as a result of the pandemic, we weren't able to do this. However, this year our children in Classes 1 and 2 will be performing a nativity for their parents. We are busily trying to put all the necessary arrangements in place, which has been quite tricky recently due to the staff shortages we are experiences. More information about this will be given out next Monday, including the allocation of children's parts. Please keep a look out in your child's book bag for more information.

Covid-19 Update

This week, I have received an update regarding transmissions rates in our local area. In Staffordshire, they continue to be higher than the national average. As a result, our current measures that are in place in school will remain, including the pupils being in separate bubbles. Each day, we continue to remind children how to 'stay safe' in school (linking to our 'Secret of Success'), including the regular washing of hands.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help protect our school community, by following national and local guidance regarding your child. Just a reminder: if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, your child should isolate and you should arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. These symptoms include:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We will continue to use the newsletter, as well as other communication through Parentmail, to keep you informed of any updates we receive from the local authority regarding transmission rates.

Drop Off Times

We are so proud of how our school community has adapted to the opening of our new unit based at Madeley School. Whilst being a spilt site school has posed some logistical challenges for us all (in particular, for some parents who now have to drop off children at both of our sites), we are so amazed how seamless this transition has gone. Our pupils' punctuality is fantastic, meaning that every minute of learning time is maximised in school allowing our children to thrive. Thank you. Because of this, we will now be returning to our normal opening hours at the main site. **Please ensure that your child is at the main site between 8:45-8:55am.** If you are using our before school provision, please ensure your child is there before 8:30am, after which they will be transported to school on the minibus. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Parental Survey

A few weeks ago, I sent out the link to our parental survey from the Shaw Education Trust <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentalSurveyTerm3>. If you haven't yet had the chance to complete it, we would really appreciate and value your feedback. The survey is short and should not take too much time to complete. Your thoughts are always welcomed to help our school to drive improvement. The survey will close on Friday 3rd December.



Children in Need

A huge thank you to our school community for your donations last week to Children in Need. In total, we have raised £261. In particular, well done to Zachary Bull for his fantastic donation of £160 from all of his fundraising at home. He has been completing a range of fitness challenges including a 12 mile bike ride with his grandad, a 10 mile walk up the lake district, 2 x 6 mile bike rides and 3 x 2 mile runs! What an achievement!



A Message from our Ambassadors

One of the responsibilities that our ambassadors, Adam and Ellenor, have is to know about our school and the priorities we are working on in order to improve. Pupil voice is an exceptionally important part of our development, because everything we do is aimed at providing our children with the very best education so that they can exceed their potential.

Adam and Ellenor have written a message to tell you about one of the things we have been working on as a school, particularly in our Maths, to help our children remember their learning:

It's us again the ambassadors and this time we are going to tell you about our starters. Across the school, in all our learning, we do starters before we start the lesson and these starters are very helpful. We think that they are good because they make our learning sticky by recapping our past learning. We know what you might be thinking, what does make your learning sticky mean? Well we will tell you: to make your learning sticky it means to make your learning stick in your brain so that you know it and can remember it. So, these starters are all about rejoyging our memory on the previous lessons and in some sense warming up our brain and preparing us for what the lesson will be about.

In all of the lessons, we do a starter (like a quiz) and then we mark it to check that it is right. This is a great opportunity for us to recognise what we are good at and improve on things too. If we get something wrong, the teacher will ask if we know where we went wrong and if we don't get where we have gone wrong, then they will help us understand. Once have done the starters then we get on with our lessons, where we often apply what we have learnt.

By Adam and Ellenor

Thank you, children. It is great to see you recognising how we are trying to help you with your learning by developing your long-term memories, constantly interleaving past learning with new learning, allowing for the accumulation of knowledge, skills and understanding. Research says that by sequencing your learning this way, we will help you to make conscious connections in your learning, in order to aid your memory.



Also, as we say, our school is a 'safe place to make mistakes'. Mistakes are an essential part of the learning experience, because they help us to improve, nudging further on in our learning. This is one of the reasons why, 'To Improve' is one of our 'Secrets of Success'.

Early Years Update

The children at our new EYFS unit continue to enjoy settling into their new school building. From role play and baking, to bird feeder making, they have been learning in lots of different ways! Ms Bebbington has thoroughly enjoyed sharing the children's learning with them this week, as she notes below:

This week I have had the pleasure of visiting our new Early Years provision. It is a couple of weeks since my last visit, so it was lovely to see the developments. The addition of lots of new learning resources are enabling our continuous provision to facilitate children's application of their learning and most importantly develop their language and social skills. Listening in on their conversations really did bring a smile to my face. The new signage is now installed and we feel so proud that as a Trust and school family, we have achieved the outcome we have pursued for a number of years. Tenacity really does pay off!
Ms H Bebbington



Visitors have been aplenty this week. Today, Mr Hope and Ms Boustead (from Madeley School) have come to see our new site and meet the children, who now share their school site. The children presented them with a card and some biscuits to thank all of the staff at the high school for their continued support for our school. They really have been so supportive of our school in this new and exciting venture. We are constantly reminded how lucky we are to be a part of the Shaw Education Trust family, dedicated to providing high quality education to pupils from the ages of 3-16 in our local community.



The children have also welcomed their parents and siblings into school today. They have been so confident discussing what they have been learning during their 'Friday Feedback' session. We know how important our families are to our children's learning, and this is a great opportunity for us to come together and share in the learning experience together so that our children can thrive. Mrs Davies was exceptionally excited to welcome all of the younger brothers and sisters too to our Meadows family!

If you have a child who is nursery aged (3 or above), we are excited to be holding an open afternoon on Tuesday 7th December at 2pm. You will be able to see our learning environment and meet our lovely staff and children. For more information, please contact our school office.

For more information, please check our EYFS twitter account.
[@TheMeadows_EYFS](https://twitter.com/TheMeadows_EYFS)



A few of our recent Twitter highlights:



If you are not yet a follower of our Twitter account, I urge you to do so. It is a great way of keeping informed and seeing snapshots of learning and activities in school. Our two accounts are:

@primary_meadows
@TheMeadows_EYFS

Have a lovely weekend,
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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