



The Meadows
Primary School

Meadows Newsletter

Issue 8

December 8th 2017

Forthcoming dates

Please do check the website regularly

Tuesday 12th December	PM – Class 1 Christmas Party at Madeley School
Wednesday 13th December	Classes 1 and 2 Nativity Madeley Centre 1:45 pm
Friday 15th December	Christmas Lunch Disco Leycett CC
Monday 18th December	Classes 3 and 4 Pantomime at Crewe Lyceum Theatre PM
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Parties Non-Uniform End of term
Wednesday 3rd January	Return to school

Well the snow did not arrive as predicted, which was a relief for the school staff and I am sure you too. Let's hope that we do get some over the weekend instead and the snowmen do make an appearance. The children have really enjoyed wearing slippers and some think we should even do this every day!

We are now of course rapidly approaching the last few days of the term, which will be a busy time. We have the Nativity to look forward to next Wednesday, which is always a personal favourite of mine. We have rearranged a final practise at the Madeley Centre on Monday morning. However this is within normal school hours, so will not involve any change to drop off or collection arrangements.

Class 1 and 2 Santa Train Ride

This week the children enjoyed their trip to the Churnet Valley Railway for a very special train ride. They learnt how the train is powered by coal and enjoyed learning about how different trains were in the past. Of course the highlight was a visit from Santa himself, who gave every child their own present.

All the staff thought their manners and behaviour were exemplary. A special well done to class 1 as this was your very first school trip.

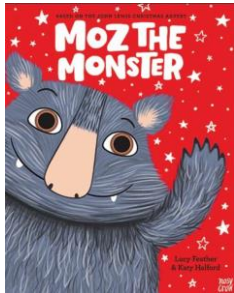
More photographs can be found on the blog pages:

<http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/santa-and-steam-0>



Writing For Pleasure

A year ago Mrs Edwards launched a new initiative to our writing curriculum, so that we provide the children with opportunities to write with more freedoms and not worry that their work will be under scrutiny and then they will be asked to edit. Instead we appreciate the children's creativity and encourage them to express their own passions, in a format that suits them.



This time our whole school theme was "Moz The Monster", which is the accompanying book to the John Lewis Advert. This stimulus has enabled each class to explore the themes and issues in a different way. The work produced has been very creative and imaginative and has thoroughly been enjoyed by everyone. We shall be putting some of the work in our display book, which is in the corridor for you to share.

It is innovative approaches such as these which enable The Meadows to have such outstanding writing results. For two years on the run, the strong progress our children make in writing, places us in the top 5% of schools nationally.

Sports Competition

On Tuesday 28th November, a team of children from Y5 and Y6 represented our school in an athletics competition at Newcastle Academy. They competed against 6 other local schools in a range of track and field events. All pupils participated in two track and two field events in order to earn points. At the end, the winning team was the team which had earned the most points in total.

During the course of the competition, the children certainly demonstrated characteristics of an athlete. They applied the skills that they had learnt in lessons, demonstrated high levels of fitness and worked well as part of a team. They also showed how much they have developed in our new Secret of Success - 'To Compete'. They were determined to succeed, pushed themselves to achieve their potential as well as showed a competitive spirit. They were great sports and encouraged their team mates to do their very best. Overall we came 4th out of 7 teams.

Governor News

As we are now an Academy within The Shaw Education Trust, our governing body has now reformed as an Academy Council. Governors are now known as Academy Councillors. If you would like to know more about who these people are, their roles and when we meet, please do visit our website: <http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/academy-council>

We now have a vacancy for a parent Academy Councillor as Mr Daniels has had to resign due to his own work commitments. I shall be writing to you in the New Year regarding the appointment process, but in the meantime you can have a look at what the role demands on our website. You would need to be able to set time aside, so you can fulfil your role and gain a full understanding of the strategic direction of the school.

Mrs Jo Cookson is the other Parent Academy Councillor. She really does play a full and active part in our school community. She is a regular visitor to the school and meets with staff to discuss development priorities and issues arising. Her latest visit was to focus upon our FUN maths initiative and help to monitor the impact with Mrs Kuffour. Her report is very informative: <http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/link-academy-councillor-review-fun-maths-1st-dec-2017>

Of course it is also important that the Academy Council meet with our pupils, it is their school after all. Their views are very important and they really are a good source of information. This week the Behaviour Mentors and Ambassadors met with Miss Spilsbury who is the Chair of the Academy Council. I was so impressed with them as they were so articulate and confident. Certain children have developed so much more confidence in talking to an adult audience. Well done children, you were absolutely wonderful!

They have written the following:

On Wednesday 6th December, we had a meeting with Miss Spilsbury and Mrs Procter. We answered questions regarding our roles and responsibilities. We shared how we had helped to measure the impact of the recent work on Anti Bullying and how we carried out surveys with the children. We were also given the task of presenting a sample of work that was produced in PSHE lessons. We also spoke about how we help children who need to reflect upon bad choices, so next time they can make a different decision.

Christmas Disco

Thank you everyone for supporting our fundraising event next Friday evening. We have lots of visits booked with Santa. Adults do not need to stay with children at the disco, as school staff will be attending. However it is imperative that when children are dropped off, you do speak to the person at the door to make them aware they are being left and provide details of who is picking them up. Children must not be dropped off without making these arrangements first. Thank you



Catering Changes

In the New Year, the school will have a new catering provider. The Meadows is part of a group of schools who have joined together to procure this service collectively. This achieved Best Value for all the schools. Following a statutory full tender process, the contract has been awarded to Alliance in Partnership. Whilst the service with Mellors, over the past four years has been positive, they were not successful this time. Alliance in Partnership were selected primarily, because they have the highest standards for food ingredients, spending far more than their competitors. They have achieved the prestigious Food for Life Gold status. One noticeable change the children will see straight away is that we will be moving to plates and dishes immediately, rather than the flight trays. It is good news for you as they have fixed the price for the next 3 years at £2.15 per meal. This is 15p per day cheaper than the standard cost in primary schools. During the tender process, I did sample a wide selection of their food, which was delicious I must say. Next week we will be sending home the new menus and other further information.

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.



Please do contact me if you would like my assistance at any time, Mrs. Procter

