



# Meadows Newsletter

Issue 16

July 3rd 2017

The Meadows  
Primary School

## Forthcoming dates

**Please do check the website regularly**

<b>Monday and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Y6 transition days at MHS
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Mrs HB's Music Concert St John's Keele 6pm
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Y5 D and T afternoon at MHS
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>NEW</b>	Y6 Body Changes talk with the Nurse
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	9am - Y1 transition meeting
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>NEW</b>	3pm Y1 transition meeting
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Beach Day Reception and Class 2 Details to follow
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>NEW</b>	Class 4 trip and picnic Details to follow
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of year reports
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Y5 Technology lesson at MHS
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Parental Consultations 3:30-5:00pm
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>NEW</b>	Teddy Bears' Picnic Reception class and new intake
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Celebration Assembly Madeley Centre 1:45 to 3pm
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Evening Madeley High School 6-9pm
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	End of term <b>Pupils only</b>
<b>Monday and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Staff Training
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Start of the new academic year

## Staying Safe

We recently received the news that I have been dreading for some time, given my previous concerns regarding the dangerous roads in the Madeley area. It was most alarming for us all to hear the news that a child had been very seriously injured in a road accident. I am also aware that quite a few of our families and children did witness the aftermath of the collision as they walked home after school. I can only imagine how difficult this must have been for you. We are encouraged by the immediate response of the passers-by and I am led to believe that is the quick actions of those people, who kept the boy alive until the emergency services arrived.

We received a visit from Mr Hope (vice principal at the High School) and the Police the next day, who wanted to give me a factual account of what happened and also ascertain if there were any children who witnessed the actual collision. We are really encouraged by his improving condition and of course all our thoughts are with his family and friends at this awful time.

As you will be aware, I have previously communicated to you my concerns regarding the roads in this area. I know that a handful of children at The Meadows have not always behaved sensibly which has put themselves at risk. The local police have been most supportive and have visited the children to remind them of their responsibilities and how to reduce the risks. They are also returning on Friday to provide further reinforcement.

I know that the community desperately wants to improve our roads and reduce the risks to our children. A parent has set up an online petition to reduce the speed of traffic in our village. It can be found here: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/madeley-parishioners-speed-calming-petition>. There is also a paper petition in the One Stop and the Madley Centre.

Miss Ann Spilsbury, who is our chair of governors, is a member of the Local Action Partnership group. She has asked me to inform you of their involvement in tackling this issue.

Concerns have again been raised regarding:-

- the speed of the farm machinery travelling through Madeley and their ability to make emergency stops although this was not the issue last week
- the appalling state of the narrow pavements along Newcastle Road
- the need for a pelican crossing outside Madeley High School

Following this tragic incident I feel that we must do whatever we can to keep our residents safe. We want the children to enjoy Madeley without fear of fast traffic and welcome any proposals of how we can take this forward whether it be an online petition, signed petition, applying for funding from Safer Communities to provide road safety awareness education in our schools. All too often in the past we have been beholden to the County Council who have openly said that something serious would have to happen before anything could be done. That time is now and I appeal to Parish and Borough Councillors, Schools, Police and other agencies to work together towards an effective outcome. I realise that this may be a long job but we can but try.

There is a Locality Action Partnership meeting at The Madeley Centre 10th July at 2.00 p.m. If needed we can amend the agenda to include any input. Please share with any other relevant parties you may be aware of.

## Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along and support the children. I am sure you will agree that the photographs taken by Chloe Cooper are stunning and capture the children's



emotions well. As they are candid shots we cannot ensure that each child is photographed. We did of course photograph all our winners on the podium. We have received lots of positive feedback regarding the photos and we have received lots of orders. Please see Mrs Cooper as soon as possible for any remaining orders.



I was proud of each and every child regardless if they appeared on the podium or not. The afternoon was a brilliant celebration, not only of the many talented athletes we have at school, but also of how much our children have developed personally. All of the children worked hard, competing to the best of their ability; they certainly pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. Furthermore, they showed great sportsmanship, encouraging each other and cheering for their peers irrespective of whether or not they won. This is a real achievement, I'm sure you will all agree and something of which they can be very proud.

Our aim is to provide an opportunity for competitiveness, balanced with a range of sports activities designed to test their speed, agility, stamina and control. All children are continually involved and participating, rather than sitting waiting for their turn.

I am aware that our venue is not ideal given the distance and car parking, but unfortunately as we do not have a school field, we are very limited. However at least for all those parents who book the time off work, you know that the date is not weather dependant. This year I have heard that many sports days were cancelled due to the heat, rather than the rain. The field on Heath Row is unfortunately not suitable even **if** we could guarantee the weather. There are no toilet facilities and there have been numerous occasions where we have been unable to use it for rounders and such like, due to the very long grass and dog fouling. I am without doubt that the children thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon, which is always our priority. You can read more about their thoughts on our blog pages:

<http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/sports-day-21st-june-2017>

### **Transition into New Classes**

As we rapidly approach the end of the academic year, we have been talking to the children about moving up into their new classes. Madeley High School is committed to improving transition and have invited the year 5 pupils to a range of activities. The first of which was last week, where they enjoyed learning a new sport – Badminton. The majority of our year 6 pupils are spending two days there this week and those who are moving to different high schools enjoyed visiting their new schools last week.

Here at The Meadows our small size means that our children know all the teachers and come into contact with all members of staff constantly. This really does help when it is time to move onto to a new teacher. This morning the children have spent time in their new classes and I am sure will enjoy telling you all about it this evening.

I am pleased to say that we will be maintaining our current staffing structure and all teachers and support staff are remaining with the same year group. September will be here before we know it!

### **Visit to see the Mayor**

Last week I had the pleasure of accompanying Class 4 to the Mayor's Parlour and Chamber. We received an invitation from Mayor Simon White, which was of particular significance given his connection to the village and also the fact that the building is soon to be demolished. Such facilities are not being replaced in the new hub. The children asked lots of insightful questions and it helped to provide a local context for their understanding of democracy and how decisions are made in Newcastle. You can see our photographs and read an interesting account of the visit on our blog pages:

<http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/class-4-visit-mayors-parlour>

### **Community Event**

I have recently met with Heather Grant who is the manager of the Madley Centre. Although we are unable to participate this year due to the very short notice, we have expressed our desire to be involved next year. We hope the event runs smoothly and is enjoyed by the community.



### **Online Safety**

I am sure you have heard the latest warning about Snapchat.

Snapchat has released a new update that connects to your phone or tablet's GPS and automatically (unless "ghost mode" is activated) shows users who follow you where you are on a map, down to the exact street.

In order to activate 'ghost mode', you need to do the following:

Pinch the screen when the app is open and this will load the map.

When you do it for the first time, it should ask you if you want to activate "ghost mode."

If it doesn't, tap the icon in the top right corner, where you will be able to check a box to enable "ghost mode." While we are aware that the age requirement for this app is 13 and above, there are children within the school who do use Snapchat. As always, we feel it best to educate the children on how to use these apps safely rather than avoid the conversation. If you have any further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff.

### **Getting in touch with YOU**

Please ensure that the school has at least two telephone numbers which are active **at all times** throughout the day. We sometimes find that we are unable to reach a parent due to the mobile phone number provided being switched off. It is essential that we are able to contact all parents immediately. Therefore if you do have to switch off your phone during the day, please ensure that we do have an alternative number on which to make contact. Thank you for your compliance with this important matter.

### **Governor News**

Mrs Carol Commins, the Vice-Chair of Governors came into school last week. As link governor for SEND and Early Years she regularly meets with Mrs Davies to look at action plans, data and children's work. You can read all about her visit and findings on the governor blog: <http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/link-governor-early-years-send-visit-0>

### **First Aid skills for Y6**

As part of our PSHE curriculum, the Red Cross visited the school last week. It was a very hands-on session, where the children created sketches, with the help of the instructor's props. They were taught about how to handle emergency situations and how everyone can help in such situations. We allowed the children free use of the camera to capture their learning. Their pictures really do illustrate how such a serious subject can be made fun for children. Please do take a look. <http://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/blog/y6-first-aid-training>

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

