



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 2

January 23rd 2023

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

20/2/23- 24/2/23	Half Term
6/3/23- 9/3/23	Parents' Consultation Meetings
20/3/23	Cl3's Trip to Dewa Centre, Chester
21/2/23	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 are now thoroughly in the swing of our Spring Term. We have been incredibly impressed with how our small community has faced our recent changes in staffing structure and have really valued your patience and support with this process. I am so proud of the positive attitudes our pupils adopt each day towards their learning and towards supporting one another; this is demonstrated in our **daily Zumos scores** (which the children fill in every day). The average score for our school community currently is that they are **feeling 10/10 'Bring it on!'**. Wow!

Our **school motto, 'Learning by Caring and Sharing'** remains deeply embedded in our school culture and this is something we are incredibly proud of. The children really value one another's support, and they are so eager to help the staff too – always offering to do jobs and adopt leadership roles, taking on responsibility across the school. As you may know, I have the privilege of teaching Year 1 and Year 2 on Fridays now, and the children have been excellent at helping me to navigate the school classroom and their usual routines.

With this mind, one of the things we always model to our children is that learning is not fixed or limited – you never stop learning. I have been reminded of this whilst taking on my exciting new role as headteacher. Learning requires hard work, perseverance, imagination and the invaluable support for others too. Our knowledge, skills and talents are not fixed and something we are born with, rather they can grow and are cultivated through our efforts. This **'growth mindset'** is something we continue to promote with our children, particularly when things don't go quite right, they make a mistake, or they find things tricky. As parents, we can be faced with times when our children worry that they can't do something and find something too hard – I know this from my own experience as a parent. Here is a **handy guide** to the approach we use at school to help you:

PARENT'S GUIDE TO A GROWTH MINDSET

Big Life Journal

*Your brain is like a muscle. When you learn, your brain grows.
The feeling of it being hard is the feeling of your brain growing!*

PRAISE

FOR:

- EFFORT
- STRATEGIES
- PROGRESS
- HARD WORK
- PERSISTENCE
- RIISING TO A CHALLENGE
- LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE

NOT FOR

- TALENT
- BEING SMART
- BORN GIFTED
- FIXED ABILITIES
- NOT MAKING MISTAKES

THE POWER OF "YET" SAY

"YOU CAN'T DO IT YET."
"YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET."
"IF YOU LEARN AND
PRACTICE, YOU WILL!"

BRAINS can GROW



FAILURES AND MISTAKES = LEARNING

SAY

"MISTAKES HELP YOU IMPROVE."
"YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES."
"LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES YOU CAN TRY."

RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN MINDSET

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR
OWN THINKING AND THE
MESSAGES YOU SEND
WITH YOUR WORDS AND
ACTIONS.



ASK

"WHAT DID YOU DO
TODAY THAT MADE YOU
THINK HARD?"
"WHAT NEW STRATEGIES
DID YOU TRY?"
"WHAT MISTAKE DID YOU
MAKE THAT TAUGHT YOU
SOMETHING?"
"WHAT DID YOU TRY
THAT WAS HARD
TODAY?"

A particularly important message from the above guide is regarding mistakes being part of the learning process. We promote with our children that school is a safe place to make mistakes. This is why our target for behaviour is 97% and why we reflect on our errors and move on, starting each day afresh.

One of the ways we encourage the development of this 'growth mindset' is by celebrating the characteristics of a successful learner, called our '**Our Secrets of Success**'.



In school, we promote these characteristics in every lesson, in assemblies, whilst on the playground, through our interactions with one another and as general role models. **It has been wonderful to see that our school has already accrued 5006 positive dojos since the start of term! What a phenomenal achievement.**

Children's **home learning** also plays a valuable part in their learning because they are able to

practice, hone and refine the skills that they have already been taught in school. Engagement in home learning at The Meadows is incredibly strong – thank you for your support! Please continue to encourage your child to do their best in their home learning. This will have such a positive impact of their learning in school, aiding their retention. It will also help your child to become 'Secondary Ready', a focus for CI4 in particular. If your children require any support with their home learning, please do get in touch with their class teacher before the work is due in – they are always there to help. Either email them directly on the class email address or contact myself (whilst I am on the door) or the school office.

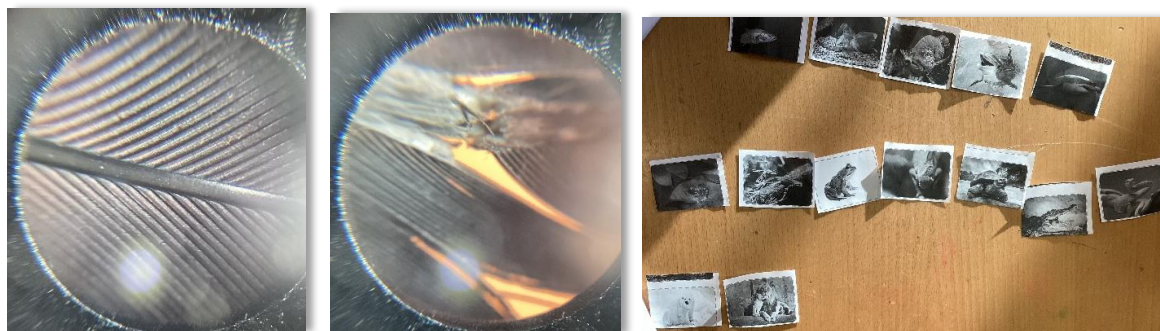
Class Updates

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

EYFS (Nursery and Reception) have had lots of fun whilst learning about conditions and animals that live in the polar regions of the world. They have focused on penguins in Antarctica and found out lots of fascinating facts. They then had the opportunity to explore the snow and ice first hand as the snow came to Madeley!

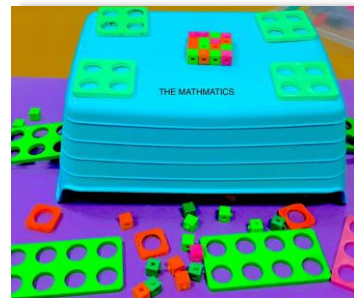


In Science, **Class 2** have been learning about animals. They have chosen different ways to identify and classify animals into groups and have used a digital microscope to examine feathers when looking at birds.



Class 3 have been exploring Microbits in D&T and how they can be used and programmed to create their own e-Charms, which are small pocket-sized computers that you can turn into a game. They have learnt that there are usually LED lights (blue, green, red and yellow) in them that flash at once for different purposes and shapes. They will be programming their own Microbits soon!

In **Class 4**, they have been exploring digital photography. They have identified the features of Derrick Boateng work, who was a photographer known for using his iphone and editing his images to replace natural colours with a bold palette. The children had to choose a theme and create an image that could be used for an album cover. Here are a few examples:



Strike Action

As you will be aware, schools have been informed that Industrial (Strike) Action will take place on:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023: all eligible members in England and Wales.
- Tuesday 14 February 2023: all eligible members in Wales.
- Tuesday 28 February 2023: all eligible members in the following English regions: Northern, North West, Yorkshire & The Humber.
- Wednesday 1 March 2023: all eligible members in the following English regions: East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern.
- Thursday 2 March 2023: all eligible members in the following English regions: London, South East, South West.
- Wednesday 15 March 2023: all eligible members in England and Wales.
- Thursday 16 March 2023: all eligible members in England and Wales.

I know that this has had a great deal of press coverage recently. **I want to take the opportunity to inform you that it is unlikely that our school will be affected, therefore we are currently planning to remain fully open.**

Promoting British Values

To help our children develop as global citizens, each week we have an assembly which explores events in the news and promotes British Values. This week, we are focusing on 'Mutual Respect and Tolerance', exploring the question: **How much control do influencers have over our choices?**

In order to explore this question, we looked at the recent news story that a drink called 'Prime Hydration', sold, and promoted by online influencers, has arrived in the UK and as quickly as it arrived, it sold out. We explored different ways in which we can be influenced – some good and some bad. We reflected that although influencers may guide our decisions, it is important to make them for ourselves, taking into consideration the positives and negatives.

Please take the opportunity to discuss this at home with your child, and feel free to share any interesting conversations that you have with your children via our class email address.

Regarding 'Prime' drinks, please bear in mind that, according to its website, **'Prime Energy'** contains 200mg of caffeine per 12oz. This makes it stronger than other energy drinks such as red bull, equivalent to drinking 5 cups of coffee. It is not recommended for children under the age of 18.

School Life

To find out more about what your child gets up to each day, please remember to check out our website <https://www.meadowsprimary.co.uk/term-dates> and follow/share our Twitter account @primary_meadows. They are great ways to keep up to date with school life and up-and-coming events too. Here are a few highlights recently:





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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