



Meadows Newsletter

Issue 9

26th May 2023

The Meadows
Primary School

Forthcoming dates

29/5/23– 5/6/23	Half Term
15/6/23	Seeing is Believing – Family Learning Cl3 2 pm
22/6/23	Owls Class Music Concert at The Victoria Hall, Hanley
28/6/23	Sports Day
24/7/23	Last day of term
25/7/23	INSET

On behalf of all of the staff at The Meadows, I want to wish you a happy half term. We know that the children are looking forward to their week break after a busy first half of the summer term. The time has flown by since Easter! We have had multiple bank holidays, the King's coronation, Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) for Year 6 and Y2, trips, sporting competitions, as well as all of the usual learning we do in school.

Seeing is Believing

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome parents into school to learn alongside their children too. Last week, parents of children in the Hawks class came in to learn science with their children. They were able to see the typical structure of a science lesson in our school, despite the class being rather fuller than usual! This week, parents of children in the Kingfishers class were able to experience what our history lessons are like in school. They made some fantastic examples of Stone Age houses.



I know the children really enjoyed the lessons they shared with family members, and we hope you enjoyed them too. I hope it gave you a window into our world of learning, so that you can get a taste of the ambitious nature of our curriculum, where all are included, and all have the chance to thrive. I hope you gained a sense of the positive learning culture we have in school and how engaged the children are in their learning. One of our aims in school is to help our children develop a lifelong love of learning, and I hope you managed to see glimpses of what we see every day in school - what a pleasure our children are to teach. We look forward to welcoming the parents of children in the Owl class after half term.

Attendance

A huge thank you for all that our families are doing to promote positive attendance with their children. As you know, attendance is essential for success – both academic and personal. Non-attendance can also be a safeguarding concern. Our school's target for attendance is 97% over the course of the academic year. Attendance is always important because every minute of every school day is a learning experience. When children are absent for a day, they can miss up to 5-6 lessons. We know that there may be days where your child really isn't well enough to come to school. This is understandable, particularly in cases where children have bugs that are infectious and require a period of absence. However, these situations are not frequent and should not significantly impact on a child's overall percentage of attendance. Please remember that we are here to support your child's positive attendance in any way that we can - let us know if we can help. 😊

Recently, we have had an increasing number of families requesting leave during term time. I know, from being a parent myself, that holidays can seem more affordable during the term time. However, please remember that the Department for Education is requesting that schools do their utmost to encourage attendance after the prolonged absences due to the lockdown periods and their continue impact upon learner's achievement. Leave will only be authorised for exceptional and unavoidable circumstances.

If you wish to request holiday leave, please complete our official form and be honest and transparent with us. The children are certainly clear with their teachers and friends about where they are going and what they are up to, and we



want them to feel that they can share their experiences with us and not feel that they must hide things, which is a lot of pressure for a child. We appreciate your support with this matter.



PE Updates

After half term, there will be a slight change to the PE timetable for children in the Owl and Hawks class. On Thursdays, Class 4 will be going swimming for the last half of the summer term. They will be required to bring in their swimming kit on Thursdays. Just a reminder that swimming costumes and trunks must be worn - no bikinis, tankinis or shorts please. Class 3's PE will also change. They will be having a double PE session on Thursdays, where they will be using the fantastic sporting facilities at Madeley School.

Here is reminder of the changes to PE:

Wednesday	Kingfishers (Y1/2) Badgers and Foxes (Nursery/Reception)
Thursday	Owls (Y3/4) Hawks (Y5/6) - Swimming
Friday	Kingfishers (Y1/2) Hawks (Y5/6)

Class Updates

This week, I have had the pleasure to learn Maths with all children across the main site (Kingfishers, Owls and Hawks). It has been wonderful to see what children are learning, and how our teachers are helping them to learn. There have been so many positives to celebrate overall. In every classroom, the intent behind the learning is clear – children know what they must do to be successful and how they can use the knowledge and skills they are learning in real life or in other areas of the curriculum. For example, the Hawks were looking at measuring angles around a point, a skill that they have had to apply in their recent Art lessons. In addition, the Kingfisher class were exploring telling the time, and looked at future careers they might use the skill in, such as a pilot being about to know what time the flight is.

All of the lessons seen were one of a sequence of lessons, where knowledge and skills link and are being accumulated. In the lessons, children were able to hook back on their prior learning to help them remember and apply it.

In each class, teaching and learning was adapted to the needs of the pupils in the class – this was a strength. Adults were used effectively to support learners as well as extend thinking. Metacognition was promoted throughout the lessons and children were able to articulate what and how they were learning and how their teachers were able to make their learning 'sticky', so that they can remember it over time.

I was incredibly impressed with the high quality of work produced by pupils across the three classes, both in the lesson and on their learning journey over time. As is always the case, there are things that we want to continue to enhance. Just like the children, we always strive to be the best that we can be. We will continue to work on our improvements, such as further promoting subject specific spelling.



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

Foxes and Badgers have love watching how caterpillars change into butterflies through metamorphosis. They enjoyed releasing the butterflies into the wild this week.

The **Kingfishers** have been fantastic artists, exploring structures and buildings. We have been so impressed with their focus, patience and attention to detail as artists. Well done children.

The **Owls** class have been exploring recognising money in pound and pence, adding and giving change. They can apply these skills in real life now when on shopping outings.

The **Hawks** have been out and about in the local community, being excellent citizen and showing care for our environment by doing a litter pick. What a great act of kindness to our local community.

School Life

To find out more about life at The Meadows, please 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.



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.



The Shaw Education Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 09067175)
Registered address: Shaw Education Trust, The Lodge, Wolstanton High School, Milehouse Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Staffordshire, ST5 9JU
The details of our academies registered as business names can be found at www.shaw-education.org.uk