



The Meadows
Primary School

Meadows Newsletter

Issue 10

9th June 2023

Forthcoming dates

29/5/23– 5/6/23	Half Term
12-16 th June	Y4 Multiplication Tests administrated
12-16 th June	Y1 Phonics testing
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
3/7/23	Y6 Rounders Competition at The Meadows Primary Academy (Team to be selected)
5/7/23	'Moving Up' transition at The Meadows
5 th –6 th July	Y6 Transition Days at Madeley School
6/7/23	EYFS (Foxes and Badgers) Sports Day
12/7/23	Y3,4,5 Trip to The National Space Centre
19/7/23	Y6 Leavers' Play at Madeley School 6pm
24/7/23	Last day of term Class Parties
25/7/23	INSET

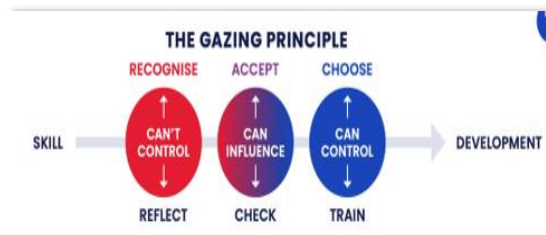
Our first week back after half term has flown by! It has been wonderful to catch-up with the children this week and find out all about their adventures last week. It seems that they all made the most of their week off and thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine. 😊 We have been really impressed by the way that our school community has settled quickly back into school life, showing positive learning behaviours. Our school average behaviour continues to be 99% positive behaviour at the end of this week, which remains above our target 97%.

In assembly this week, we have been reflecting on our curriculum drivers: spirituality, possibilities and resilience. These **three curriculum drivers** shape our curriculum, bring about the aims and values of our school, to respond to the particular needs of our community. Our drivers are designed to ensure that our children are personally successful, independent thinkers ready for their journey of lifelong learning. Life is not a straight line, therefore we want our pupils to be prepared to overcome their challenges and embrace new opportunities.



We have focused specifically on what 'resilience' means this week, and why it is important to our children. We know that we all come across challenges and hurdles or face failures along the way. As an adult, I know that this is certainly the case. However, what we want our children to do is to develop resilience and bounce back from adversity.

We have explored different strategies children can do to help them bounce back. This includes helping them to recognise the things that they can't control, accepting the things that they can influence, and choosing the strategies to deal with things they can control, so that they deliberately choose what to focus their energy and attention on.



As I have mentioned previously in my newsletters, Mrs Davies and Mrs Panagi are currently completing a coaching course on Gazing's 'Red2Blue' programme, which is about promoting positive wellbeing by adopting a growth mindset. This week, our new coaches have completed their course and have begun the process of implementing the strategy

throughout our school. This will involve training the staff and then training a select group of pupil wellbeing ambassadors, who will help to roll out the programme with our whole school community. More information will be released over the next few weeks, including the dates of some parent workshops that you can attend to find out more. Watch this space!

SET Surveys

At The Meadows, the voice of the community is always important to us. This is reflected in our school motto, "Learning by caring and sharing", which is something we are passionate about. We are a reflective community, always striving to be the best we can be. Throughout the year, we make regular opportunities to listen to and reflect on the voice of our community. We do this through many ways, including:

- Using regular pupil voice when monitoring our curriculum provision.



- Having an open-door policy, where you can speak to a member of staff whenever you need to. We are always here to help.
- Encouraging the use of the class email addresses, so that you can get in touch with your child's teacher if you have a worry, concern or you want to celebrate your child's achievement.
- Taking the voice of parents, pupils and staff when completing events such as our 'Seeing is Believing' sessions.
- Through the use of termly online surveys.
- Pupil leaders help to reflect the voice of the children when meeting with staff or visitors.

It is that time of year again where we ask you to complete the Shaw Education Trust's parental survey. The staff and pupils will also have their opportunity to share their voice in school by completing individual surveys.

The results of the surveys will then be analysed and reflected upon, so that we can celebrate our successes and recognise ways we can continue to improve. We really value your voice! 😊 Please click on the link below before the deadline of **Friday 16th June.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Parentsurveyterm32023>

PE Changes Next Week

Due to Cl3's 'Seeing is Believing' session on Thursday, there will be a few changes to PE **next week only** for Cl2 and Cl3:

- **Class 2** will have PE only on **Thursday afternoon only**. They should come dressed in their PE kit please. It will be a double PE session using Madeley School's fantastic sports centre and equipment.
- **Class 3** will have PE on **Wednesday and Friday next week only**. They should come dressed appropriately.

Building Updates

Over the past term, myself and my colleagues (including those from the Estates team at the trust) have been working hard to see how we can continue to improve our school building to make it more energy efficient, to enhance the learning environment and to make the school an inviting place to be. During the Summer holidays, there will be lots of improvements being made to the building, including all of the internal fire doors will be replaced, we will have a new door onto the main playground and all of the lighting and ceilings will be replaced in the corridors. I am currently working hard to procure funding to get all of our classrooms on the main site redecorated too. This will be phase one of our plans to improve the school building.

In addition, I am exploring the cost of making enhancements to the outdoor learning environments too, including replacing the trim trail and painting the fences. As you can imagine, for all schools nationally, budgets are incredibly tight, and our small school is no different! If you have any suggests for potential fundraising activities that could help us to fund improvements, please do get in touch with the school office. It would be much appreciated.

Fundraising

Don't forget that next Thursday we will be holding our Quiz Night to raise much needed funds for the school. At the moment, numbers are looking disappointingly low. Mrs Cooper has been working hard to arrange this event, which promises to be great fun and the staff are looking forward to it – we get rather competitive, and Mrs Cooper won't show us the questions, they are top secret! 😊 If you would like to attend but are struggling to make up a team don't worry – get in touch with the school and we will help you create or join a team. To book, please get in touch with the school office – we hope to see you next Thursday. Friends and family members welcome!



A black poster with yellow and white text. At the top is a yellow circle containing a pink brain with a lightbulb inside. Below this, the words 'TRIVIA NIGHT' are written in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline. Underneath, the date 'Thursday 15th June' is written in yellow, followed by the time '6.30pm-8.30pm'. To the right, under the heading 'PRICE', it says '£3.00 per adult', '£2.00 per child', and 'Teams of 3 - 8'. At the bottom, it says 'Top prizes to be won!' and 'Money to be handed in at the office'.



Competitions

Over the past few weeks, pupils in KS2 have had the opportunity to represent the school in different sporting events. Children from Cl3 participated in a cross-country tournament against 12 other schools and performed brilliantly. Our top position was 8th place in a race of over 100 pupils! The children who competed were excellent sports, encouraging one another.

This week, a group of children from Cl4 represented our school in a Kwik Cricket tournament. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we came 3rd overall. I have received many compliments again about our

children's exemplary behaviour. Well done children being such great role models and making such a positive contribution to our school community.

Class Updates

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



Foxes and Badgers have loved visiting The Meadows airport using their passports to travel around the world, including to Greece. They have had so much fun and shown great imagination. The Badgers also enjoyed a visit from Mrs Farrand, who will be their teacher next year. She loved getting to know them more during their Phonics lesson.

The **Kingfishers** have been exploring seed germination in Science and the best conditions for this to occur. We have so many super scientists of the future, and they are enjoying growing plants in their beds on their own playground.

The **Owls** class have enjoyed visiting Madeley School for their PE lessons this week. They enjoyed revisiting their prior knowledge and skills of gymnastics, applying them when creating sequences. Well done.



The **Hawks** have had their first Tween Safe session this week, where they explored how to stay safe online. They discussed the purpose of age restrictions on games and apps, like social media. They thought about how age restrictions are there because they indicate the nature of the content that is appropriate for people that age. If a child uses an app that is above their age range, they can not only encounter inappropriate adult content, they also often must input a false age to create an account. Below is a useful guide for parents from National Online Safety about age restrictions.

School Life

To find out more about life at The Meadows, please follow us on Twitter [@primary_meadows](https://twitter.com/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.

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.



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What you need to know about...

AGE RATINGS



What are they?

'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

16 & UP ONLY

12-15

Know the Risks



Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. Kudos is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, smaller development teams are sometimes reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

Spot the Signs

Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or Itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game without realising their inappropriateness.

Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants the move the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in shared area where you can see the screen.

Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping an eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been a new purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

Safety Tips

Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

Review parental controls

Review your parental controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble for playing the game in the first place.

Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

Our Expert

Heather Cardwell



Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.