

# Meadowside Academy



**A monthly update from the Headteacher, Mrs Maiden.**

Dear Parents,

As we move from Autumn to Winter, we are all beginning to get excited for the fun events we have planned to finish this term. Although we still have many restrictions, we are focusing on the positive experiences we can bring, so that our children feel happy, safe and supported.

I am so very proud of all of our families and staff in how we have continued to come together, in the most challenging of times, to make the very best learning opportunities for our children.

Sending my very best wishes to you all,

Mrs Maiden

## Celebrations

We have had so many pupils achieving great things this term. We love to praise in public and enjoy giving house tokens, PSHCE certificates, 5R Certificates and stickers. A highlight of my week is awarding Head Teacher awards where pupils have gone above and beyond with their learning. Our display in the Central area is nearly full up again already!

Our virtual celebration assembly is another highlight where we get to see all the pupils together in true Meadowside spirit. If your child has achieved anything outside of school, please encourage them to share this with us so we can celebrate together. Everybody loves praise and we love to see happy children.

We will be doing some festive activities this month, kick-starting today with decorating our classrooms. Thank you for the fabulous decorations. **We would like to thank Mole Country Stores in Ripon who have generously donated us a real Christmas tree for our Central Area.**



## Whole school Events

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Xmas Tree decorations in classrooms

**Monday 30 November**

Whole-school flu vaccinations

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Finish 5.30**

Xmas Film night in each class-Parent Pay

**Thursday 10 December**

School Christmas dinner and

Christmas jumper day

**Friday 11 December**

Virtual Carol Service

**Last week of term**

Class Christmas celebrations



**Friday 18 December**

School closes for Christmas

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

Teacher Training Day

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Schools reopens for Spring Term

'Nurturing curiosity, courage and kindness'.

Mrs Maiden- Headteacher

## New Staff

We have two new teachers joining us in January 2021. **Mrs McMahon** will be teaching Year 5 as Mr Butterworth will be leaving at the end of this term to take up his new role as Headteacher at South Kilvington School, Thirsk. Mrs McMahon has been in school this week and has met the children and staff. We are also appointing Miss Stockmann from January, who has already been doing some work across school. **Miss Stockmann** will be a Senior Leader and will be responsible for English. She will continue to work across school delivering intervention and supporting teachers to do this too as part of the Catch-Up funding strategy. Catch-up funding is money given from the government per pupil to support with recovering after COVID-19. So far we have used this to purchase new technology and online academic interventions, additional teaching assistant time for intervention, additional teacher time for intervention and investment in a new spelling scheme and training for staff. In the new year we will communicate the impact of this so far. Finally, we are very pleased to be appointing a new SENDCo who is also the SENDCo at Aspin Academy, **Mrs Gough**, and will work across both schools in this role. Miss Corkhill and I will work closely with Mrs Gough and so will Miss Gale our PSA, to fulfil this crucial Pastoral role.

## COVID-19

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has caused many challenges this term so far. We have had all but Year 1 and 2 Bubbles having to close so far and we have heard from families as well as staff that COVID is in the community. However, we are pleased that the safety measures we have in place and the meticulous cleaning taking place indoors is helping to keep staff and pupils safe. All adults and pupils have followed our new routines so well and this now feels almost 'normal'. As adults, we must maintain social distancing indoors and outdoors and you will have noticed that staff wear face coverings in all areas outside of their bubble space. Please do respect this when in the school grounds.

### Absence

Autumn and Winter are always challenging with staffing due to all the usual viruses spreading around. However, this year has been particularly challenging due to COVID-19. Although we do try to minimise staff crossing bubbles, we also sometimes have no choice. Our priority is to keep school open, by ensuring we have enough staff to cover classes so sometimes staff crossing bubbles is unavoidable. If this is the case, we further reduce risks by taking learning outdoors and staff wearing masks.

COVID related absence for pupils is high with pupils isolating in many different circumstances. Most of these pupils are accessing home learning which is essential to ensure pupils do not fall further behind. However, absence for other reasons is not as high as it would usually be and this is largely due to pupils not taking holidays during term time. We also believe that due to the meticulous cleaning taking place and handwashing, other germs are not spreading as quickly. If your child is absent for any reason, please telephone the school Office.

## I can Ride My Bike!



Each Friday 'Magic Dave' comes into school to teach children to ride their bikes. So far nearly all of our Year 1s and 2s can ride and we are working our way up the school before going back to Reception in the Spring. In Year 5, all pupils take part in Bikeability which is the equivalent of Cycling Proficiency but we want to make sure they are all confident to do this. In Reception we currently have two high quality balance bikes. If anyone has a balance bike their child has grown out of and they would like to donate this and/or any helmets, we would be most grateful as we would like to get 4 more so we can teach in groups of 6. Please let the Office know if you can donate one or if you know someone who can.



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Mrs Maiden- Headteacher

## Communication

We appreciate that it is more challenging to communicate with class teachers during this time as we are not allowed visitors into school. However, we also understand the importance of regular communication. Last week we held Parent Consultations via Zoom where everyone had the opportunity to speak with their child's teacher and we will hold these again next term. Please do ensure you make an appointment as teachers plan specific time for this. Following on from these, we will be sending out progress reports just before we break up this term. We would also like to give you the opportunity to see your child's books in the New Year, if we are continuing with virtual meetings, and we will send out further information on how you can access these in January.

Below is a list of what you can expect in terms of communication from your child's teacher.

[EYFS- Tapestry updates which are done throughout the day whilst pupils are accessing provision](#)

[Y1-Y6- Blog updates](#)      [Newsletter from class teacher](#)

[Termly Parent Consultations](#)      [Termly Progress Reports](#)

We also send out regular communications from our admin team including:

[Weekly Newsletter with key dates from admin](#)      [Monthly Headteacher Newsletter](#)      [Letters](#)

[Termly Parent Support Advisor Newsletter](#)      [Termly ACE Club Newsletter](#)

If you would like to meet with anyone from school such as class teachers, PSA, SENDCo or Safeguarding lead then please contact the school Office to make an appointment to meet with them virtually or over the telephone. Our teachers will also use email and this can be very useful for communication.

During the last lockdown and during isolation periods, teachers have communicated via email all day, but as teachers are now teaching all day, with very limited breaks, we would like to try and reduce the volume of emails going directly to them, unless this is essential for communication. Additionally, on weekends and very late evenings we would prefer you to email [admin@meadowsideacademy](mailto:admin@meadowsideacademy) so that this can be forwarded to the correct person. Sometimes we do agree email as a specific communication tool to support pupil well-being, so if this is already agreed then please continue with this communication plan.

## EYFS Classroom Resources

We had our brilliant Virtual Open Days this week for new starters 2021. It was a proud moment to share our fabulous school.



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Mrs Maiden- Headteacher