

Meadowside Academy



A monthly update from the Headteacher, Mrs Maiden.

Dear Parents,

I would like to say a huge thank you for your support this term. Without a doubt, this has been the most challenging term but throughout it we have seen so much kindness and positivity and this has ensured we have safe, happy children.

I would also like to say a great big thank you to all of our staff for making this possible- teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, central team, midday supervisors, cleaners, playworkers, kitchen staff and our amazing caretaker-who has worked every day and many weekends to keep our school open and safe for everyone.

On behalf of all of the staff, we hope you all have a restful holiday and spend quality time with your loved ones in the safest way possible.

All the very best for 2021!

Mrs Maiden

What's the Big Idea?

Our focus on significant people from history has been a great success. I have observed lessons and spoken to pupils about their learning and their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge has astounded me. Our focus on equity and diversity through PSHCE has enabled us to make links and have some really important discussions.

Next half term our focus is 'All the World's a Stage'. Each class is using English literature to drive their theme for example Year 1 are focusing on traditional tales, Year 3 are looking at stories from other cultures and Year 4 are looking at the work of Shakespeare. Pupils will study Drama, Art, and Music. We are busy contacting authors and story tellers to come and visit school or virtually visit, We would love some parents to virtually read too- especially dads if possible so we can inspire all of our pupils and engage pupils who are sometimes reluctant to read. Please let the Office know if you would be willing to read a story or even send a video in for us to show the children.



Class Teachers 2020

Rec- Mrs Taylor

Y1-Miss Jenkins

Y2-Miss Place

Y3-Miss Campey

Y4-Mr Leverett

Y5-Mrs McMahon

Y6-Miss Corkhill/Miss Stockmann

SENDCo- Mrs Gough

Additional Teacher-Miss Stockmann

Whole School Events

Thursday 17th December

School closes for Christmas

Monday 4th January

Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 5th January

Schools reopens for Spring Term

Friday 8th January

'I can ride My Bike'

Please email the office if your child cannot ride their bike so we can help and ensure they are ready for bikeability in Year 5.

This does not include Reception who will have lessons anyway next term.

'Nurturing curiosity, courage and kindness'.

Mrs Maiden- Headteacher

Celebrations

We hope you enjoyed watching our festive videos. We are so proud of all of our children for how hard they work. Our little ones were particularly impressive with their outdoor nativity performance. Well done to KS2 as well for their lovely Christmas songs and to the teachers for putting this altogether to share with you. We have also held some virtual open day sessions this term. Please see the link to the video we made for this which is also on our school website. <https://youtu.be/0Ag8MC20VvE>

Statutory Assessments

As you will know, last academic year statutory assessments did not go ahead in primary schools, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closures. However, this year the Department for Education has announced that most will go ahead with a few changes. This means that the following assessments will be taking place in 2021:

Year 1 Phonics Check (and some year 2 pupils retaking)- Week commencing Monday 6th June 2021

Year 2 End of KS1 Teacher Assessments- there is no statutory requirement to complete the KS1 Tests in 2021

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check- 3 week period from Monday 7th June 2021

Year 6 End of KS2 Tests (SATs)- week commencing Monday 10th May 2021

Monday 10th-English Reading, Tuesday 11th- Maths Papers 1 &2, Wednesday 12th- Maths Paper 3

Lunchtimes

We have been looking at ways in which we can reduce the amount of mud children are coming home in! Although using the field has been great for keeping bubbles separate and providing lots of safe space, it has also caused a lot of mud issues! We are trialing splitting the playground and staggering lunch times further as well as some classes alternating a week at a time on the field. We are anticipating that next half term will be even wetter so hopefully this should make lunchtimes more manageable. We will closely monitor accidents too as actually having lots of open space and soft grass has meant a lot less bumps and scrapes. Please continue to send in wellies and waterproof coats and trousers so that we can get out in all weathers. And thank you for being so understanding with the mud!

Risk Assessment 2021

Much of the DFE guidance is the same around COVID-19 so our risk assessment will remain the same with some updates. This means that classes will still be kept in separate bubbles and Ace Club will continue to have two consistent bubbles. We will be introducing more tables into the Year 1 classroom as well as continuing with some provision areas. We do not feel that Year 1 pupils benefit from sitting on rows and will adapt the seating in this year group slightly to be able to fit more tables into the classroom. This will be highlighted in the Risk Assessment. We are continuing with the staffing structure we have with some additional teaching time for intervention groups. As previously mentioned, we always try to reduce the number of staff crossing bubbles, but sometimes this is unavoidable. Our priority is that we can keep school open as well as keep pupils safe so this does mean that some staff work across bubbles if we have no other choice. Any staff member out of their bubble, wears a mask or visor, tries to reduce contact and works outside if possible. Staff also wear masks and visors in all communal areas around school.

ACE CLUB

There are still some spaces left for booking next term. All bookings are done via KCHQ which you can access via the ACE club tab on the school website. You will need to set up a contract for the term which will then be approved. Invoices are sent at the beginning of the month and should be paid in full by the first week. You can also select childcare vouchers if this is your preferred method. You will need to provide one month's notice to terminate this contract at any point otherwise it will continue for the full term. For pupils in receipt of pupil premium, we can offer a weekly session through this funding to

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support your child's social and emotional development. Places are dependent upon availability on the selected day. Please contact Ace Club bookings to arrange this. ace.club@meadowsideacademy.org

FOM

Friends of Meadowside are the parent committee who raise money for the school. In the past they have supported school by purchasing books, learning resources, outdoor equipment and provided celebrations such as the Year 6 leaving party and Christmas parties. This year the committee have not been able to fundraise as they did previously. If you would like to join the committee or have some COVID-safe fundraising ideas you would like to take forwards, the please let the school Office know and the current committee can contact you.

Well done children!

This term I have awarded more Headteacher Awards than ever before! We have filled one display board and we are now making a new one! Well done to all of our children for how hard they work and for following our rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe.



PIC•COLLAGE

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