



Newsletter

27th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a week it has been! I would like to begin by thanking all staff, pupils, and their families for such a warm welcome to Meadowdale Academy. It has been great to see so many pupils coming into school with huge smiles on their faces, eager for the day ahead!

The week began with Meadowdale's Attendance assembly; I was impressed to see four classes had achieved the school's attendance target of 96%. Pupils in each of the classes enjoyed a delicious treat! I hope to see even more classes achieving next week.

Throughout the week, I was set a challenge by pupils: to learn their names at rapid rate. Each day, I have been tested on my memory skills, which have proved quite a concern at times! Through their rigorous quizzing, I am learning day-by-day all of the wonderful pupils' names at Meadowdale Academy. Over the coming weeks and term, I hope to have achieved a 100% pass rate.

Inquisitive Owlets!

The owlets absolutely love books. This half term our focus book is 'Hairy Maclary.' We also enjoyed another book based on the children's interest this week - 'Here comes crocodile.'

We provided props to encourage the children to retell the story from memory. Taking part in this activity improves concentration, memory, and helps build oral language.



Pre-school Rummaging Robins!

The Robins have been reading "Little Red Riding Hood" this week. We have made sandwiches for the picnic and put on a puppet show. Some of the children made Little Red Riding Hood some extra picnic snacks using the playdough. A few of the Robins decided to make their own costumes and dress up as super-heroes.



Perfect Puffins!

The Puffins continue to thrive in Reception and are now quite accomplished palaeontologists! We have been learning how fossils are created, using and understanding wondrous words such as extinct and predator, and even learning about sedimentary rock and erosion. If you pass a Puffin, ask them what a 'thagomizer' is, you'll be amazed at how much they know!



In Maths we have begun measuring in the classroom, investigating objects that are longer or shorter than the length of our arm – it was great to see the children take this learning into their continuous provision following their adult led task. Some Puffins even took their string home with them to continue their measuring.

We are loving our reading and phonics, a highlight of continuous provision has been the children leading their own Pinny Time with their apron, speed sound cards and of course, not forgetting, Fred.

Curious Kingfishers!

As always, our Kingfishers have been hard at work this week. They were very excited in Monday's assembly to receive a trophy to add to their notice board for excellent attendance!

This week we have been striking a pose in PE as we improve our balance and flexibility in gymnastics and yoga. Our Kingfishers impressed me with their perseverance with some tricky stretches!

In our geography lessons begun our learning all about the United Kingdom and revisited compass directions to help us describe the locations of the four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We used our scientist hats to investigate objects and their materials – there was lots of discussion using the words: 'absorb', 'waterproof' and 'transparent' when we discussed why certain materials were good choices to make certain objects. For example: we decided that rubber was a good choice for wellies because it is waterproof and so would keep our feet dry!

Writing lessons this week are focussed on writing instructions. We have been using bossy verbs to write command sentences and thinking about the importance of clear instructions. We had some giggles when we saw what happened when instructions weren't clear enough!

In maths we have been working on adding by counting on and using the part whole model to help us. We've been working on using the vocabulary: 'part', 'whole', 'altogether', 'plus' and 'equal to'.



Shining Skylarks!

In writing this week we have been using subheadings to organise our non-fiction writing about hibernation. We enjoyed practising using alliteration in our sentences and found some alliterative tongue twisters really tricky! We have now come to the end of our addition and subtraction topic in maths and have been consolidating our learning. We are looking forward to moving on to our new topic of multiplication.

In science, the Skylarks visited the computing room where they worked in pairs to research one of the world's habitats – arctic, desert, ocean or rainforest. We found out about some really unusual animals such as flying squirrels, poisonous tree frogs and blob fish. We also learnt about Chinese New Year this week and had fun opening and reading our fortune cookies - Xīnnián hǎo (Good New Year).

Super Swifts

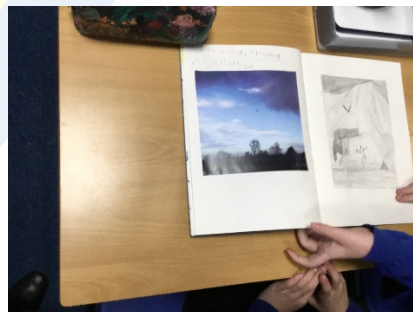
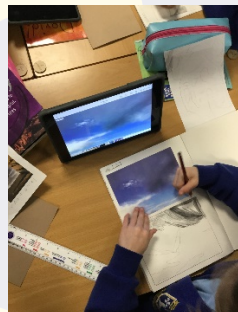
The Swifts have had a busy week with lots of changes and they have worked hard to adapt to these. In maths, they are working on consolidating their multiplication knowledge and understanding of the structure of multiplication. In Geography, they learnt about Mary Anning and how she discovered the fossils of dinosaurs on the south coast of England.

We also welcomed Miss Bartlett and a few other new members to our class this week: Gerald, Charlie, Messi, Freddy and Wednesday. In Science, Swifts built their own skeleton using their scientific knowledge and couldn't resist naming them. Next week, we will look at the names for the bones to build on this learning.



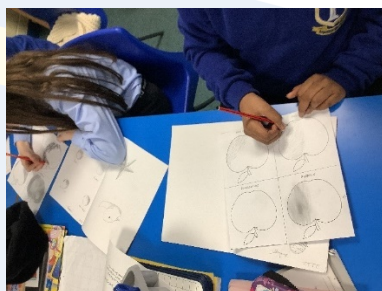
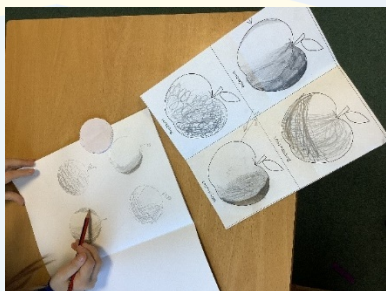
Heroic Harriers

What a great week the Heroic Harriers have had. A brilliant learning attitude from all! This week we have been working hard on landscape drawings in Art. We took pictures of the yards and sketched them in our sketch books. We have then used the theme of mountains to add atmospheric perspective to our drawings.



Marvellous Merlins

In Art and design this week, the year 5 Merlins have been learning the different shading techniques such as: cross-hatching, contour lines, stippling and scribbling. They practised each technique on an apple. Great work everyone!



Outstanding Owls

The Owls have been truly outstanding this week. There has been a theme of resilience running through our lessons and they have demonstrated our golden standard of 'Never Give Up' whilst programming in computing, completing fitness circuits in PE and building sculptures from recycled materials in art. I have also been impressed with their attitude to reasoning and problem solving in maths. Great teamwork and determination have been shown by them all. Well done.



Golden Awards

Our Headteacher Golden Awards were presented today to the following children who have all impressed their class teacher and shone very brightly.

- Nursery: Joshua
- Reception: Emilia
- Year 1: Lydia
- Year 2: Hope
- Year 3: Millie
- Year 4: Lennox
- Year 5: Tristan
- Year 6: Lana



Well done to you all, we are very proud of you!

Start times

All children from Reception to Year 6 should arrive from **8.30am - 8.40am** and go straight to their classroom to get ready for the day of learning. We close the top gate at 8.45am when all children are then registered and ready to learn. All children will need to report to the school office if they are later than 8.45am parents will be notified that their child was late.

Mr Grant opens the top gate at 8.30am and will lock it at 8.45am.

Class Attendance

The government expectation is 96% attendance for individual pupils and school. Attendance and punctuality really matter to your child's education - every day counts! When your child's attendance drops below 95% school will begin monitoring. Referrals to the local authority may also be made if there is no improvement seen.



Reception	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5	Yr. 6
96%	96.7%	97.6%	98.9%	87.4%	94.2%	93.3%

Well done everyone!



**PE Days for Spring 1
Children to wear PE kits to school
on PE days**

Reception – Monday
Year 1 – Mondays and Thursdays
Year 2 – Tuesday & Thursday
Year 3 – Tuesday & Friday
Year 4 – Tuesday.
Year 5 – Wednesday & Friday
Year 6 - Monday and Thursday

Next week's lunch Menu

The menu for week beginning 30th January is Week 2.

School dinners are £11.25 per week, paid online by Monday please.

Our school menu can now be found on our website. If you would like to look at the menu please click on the link below

<http://www.meadowdaleacademy.co.uk/school-information-1/school-meals>

Clubs for next week

Tuesday – Choir years 3,4,5 & 6 3.15 – 4.15
Thursday – Multi-skills Years 1 & 2 3.15 -4.15 – Fully Booked

Class Information

Nursery: Please could all children bring a named water bottle and a small bag to stay on their peg.

Reception – Please now bring your book bag to school every day.

Year 1 –On Outdoor Learning days, can children wear waterproofs if they have them. Children must wear long trousers on Thursdays to protect them if we venture into Forest School.

Year 2 –Please can all homework books be returned to school on a Thursday so that new tasks can be put in.

Year 3 – PE kits on a Tuesday & Friday please

Year 4 – Swimming is Thursday (Wear PE Kit).

Year 5 – Homework will be given out on a Thursday with Tuesday being the deadline for all homework to be handed in. Children have homework books to complete their homework which will go home on a Thursday.

Year 6 – Bookbags to be brought be into school every day.

Lego League is back! I need a team of 10 Year 6's to compete in March. If you are interested in taking part, let me know and I will pick a team. Session will be after school on a Monday and the occasional lunch time. Many thanks, Mr Carney

Year 6 SATs Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May

Message from Admin

Please inform **Mrs Bradford** before **9am** if your child is going to be absent from school.

Wraparound

Wraparound will now run every Friday until 4:15pm from next week. The cost will be £4.50 for the hour.

Spring Term Dates

School closes – Friday 17th February and re-opens Monday 27th February
School Closes – Friday 31st March and re-opens Tuesday 18th April

The continued support parents, carers and families provide our school is invaluable. We appreciate this greatly. From everyone at Meadowdale, have a great weekend. We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday.

Miss Coates
Head of School