



**Meadowdale**  
Academy

# NEWSLETTER

DEC  
2023

## WINTER

### A message from our headteacher...

So much has been packed into this term, ensuing children's academic and personal development has been enhanced.

Since returning to school in September, we have spent a lot of time and effort implementing our school rules and values, which we are passionate about here at Meadowdale. Pupils have shown how capable they are in following these rules and upholding our values.

Our wider curriculum area of 'respect and tolerance' has been a focus of learning and development in school this term. Staff have looked closely at our priority of expanding children's awareness of diversity and celebrating what makes them unique through national and international celebrations such as Black History Month, Anti-Bullying Week and International Tolerance Day. Pupils speak highly of their experiences throughout the term and have enjoyed learning about these concepts.

**Continued overleaf...**



### In this issue...



#### **A glowing Ofsted report**

This term we celebrated a great report from school inspectors Ofsted.



#### **Christmas performances**

Our children have been showing off their talents in the lead up to Christmas!



#### **Halloween spook-tacular**

Things got spooky here at Meadowdale Academy back in October!



#### **Sporting stars**

In September we were wowed as pupils took on the junior Great North Run!

## Head's message continued...

We will continue to develop this further in the upcoming term and throughout the year.

Our Festive Fun timetable in December has brought buckets of fun and enjoyment across school. There have been a vast range of activities for all of our children to relish. Pupils have enjoyed taking part in school and community events and loved having their families in school! We look forward to planning further events next year.

I'd like to thank every member of our school community for their support and hard work in ensuring that Meadowdale Academy is a place where every child experiences excellence every day. On behalf of all of the staff here at Meadowdale, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy Christmas and end of term break.

*L Coates*



**Lindsay Coates**, Headteacher



## Glowing report from Ofsted...

In September we received a glowing Ofsted report, grading our school as 'Good' in all areas after an inspection in July this year.

Inspectors praised our school, describing it as a caring place 'where everyone is made to feel welcome' and 'where relationships between staff and pupils ensure that pupils enjoy coming to school.'



In addition to providing high-quality pastoral care, staff and leaders were commended for designing a curriculum that is 'ambitious for all pupils'. Inspectors commented: "From Nursery to Year 6, leaders have ensured that pupils' knowledge builds over time."

Safeguarding arrangements and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) were judged to be effective. Parents echoed this by saying that the support for their children with SEND is helping them to achieve alongside their peers.

After joining North East Learning Trust (NELT) in 2022, our school has undergone a range of improvements which did not go unnoticed by inspectors. The report stated that our school 'works extremely well with leaders from the trust to ensure that the areas for improvement are addressed systematically.'

Our Headteacher, Miss Coates, commented:

"I am absolutely thrilled with the report and the fact that the positive changes have been recognised. We have been on a real journey, and I look forward to continuing this success to ensure the very best for every single pupil at Meadowdale Academy."

"I must say a huge thank you to our team of teaching and support staff who go above and beyond every day, I am so proud of you all. A special thanks must also go to our pupils who are the heart of our Meadowdale family and at the centre of everything we do."

Chief Executive Officer of the North East Learning Trust, Lesley Powell CBE, said:

"Meadowdale Academy is a wonderful school that cares for its pupils and I am pleased that Ofsted inspectors recognised this."

"I would like to thank the dedicated team of staff who work so hard to ensure that pupils experience an excellent education every day. I must also extend my thanks to the families who have embraced the positive changes."



# Christmas art by Year 5s Quinn, Emily and Nancy



## Junior Great North Run

In September, we were so impressed that a number of our pupils took part in the mini Great North Run - WOW!

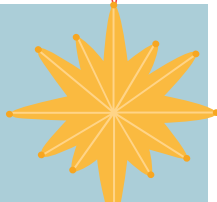


## A festive feast

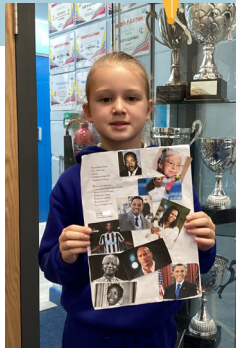
As well as taking part in lots of fun Christmas activities, we got into the Christmas spirit with a yummy Christmas dinner with all the trimmings! A big thank you to our catering team for making our dinner so special for everyone!



# Black History Month



This term our children marked Black History month by taking part in lots of informative activities. We were very impressed when Year 3 pupil Ruby wrote a lovely acrostic poem at home about the importance of celebrating Black History Month. Great job!



# DATES

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**22 DEC** – Break up for Christmas

**09 JAN** – Back to school

**16 FEB** – Break up for half term

**26 FEB** – Back to school

## Spooktacular

In October, our pupils had a great time getting dressed up and dancing at our Halloween disco. Same again next year!



## Thank you to Morrisons!

Our Reception Puffins were delighted that our lovely friends at Morrisons donated some of the supplies and ingredients for their Christmas crafts and treats.

Reception also loved heading to the Bedlington store to perform for lots of Christmas shoppers, family and friends.



## Harvest festival

This term saw pupils visit St Cuthbert's Church in Bedlington where they enjoyed a harvest service with Reverend Iain. The children's behaviour was fantastic and we heard some excellent singing.



## Christmas joke

What do you call a snowman crossed with a vampire?

**Frost Bite** - By Grayson in Year 5



# A Christmas poem

Christmas,  
Ho ho ho!  
Roast Dinner,  
Icy ground,  
Snow is falling,  
Tinsel on the trees.  
Merry Christmas  
And  
Stay Safe!

by Ruby in Year 4



# Hitting the high notes

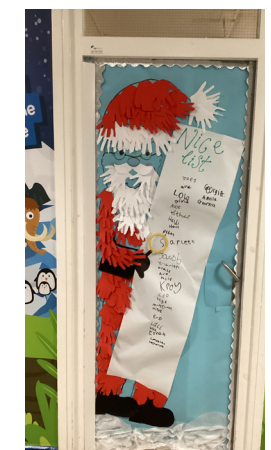
Our Meadowdale choir helped get everyone in the festive spirit by performing at Bedlington Academy's Christmas concert earlier this month.

It was lovely to see parents and carers supporting in the crowd! You can find videos of their performance on our Facebook page: [@MeadowdaleAcademy](#)



# Christmas door competition

Our school was transformed into a winter wonderland as our classroom doors had a festive makeover as part of our Christmas doors competition. We were overwhelmed by the number of votes we received and we're pleased to announce the winning door was Year 3 with their Swift into Christmas door!



# Christingle services

Lower Key Stage 2 were very excited to visit St. Cuthbert's Church for a Christingle Service delivered by Reverend Ian. Key Stage 1 and upper Key Stage 2 were also delighted to welcome him into school for their service. All our pupils were so well behaved and learnt all about the Christingle tradition.



# Caring in the community

When organising prizes for our raffle, we were overwhelmed with the number of donations from our generous families. Our Meadowdale Members of Parliament (MMPs) thought it would be a nice idea to donate the surplus prizes to children in Bedlington who may not receive a selection box this Christmas. We thought it was a brilliant idea.

So, our MMPs visited the Salvation Army to donate a whopping 50 selection boxes to hopefully put a smile on some children's faces. The Salvation Army will use our donations alongside food parcels for children in Bedlington.

We are so proud of our pupils and their kind, generous decision to think of others.



# Christmas traditions around the world

In Germany every year on 5th December, German children leave a boot or a shoe outside their bedroom door. When they wake up, if they've been good, they'll find their shoe filled with sweets! If not, they'll open their door to find a branch...

In Columbia, Little Candles' Day, or Día de las Velitas, marks the start of the Christmas season across the country. Locals across the country place candles and paper lanterns on show in their windows, balconies and front yards and over the years, the tradition has evolved and now entire towns and cities are lit up around this time of year.