



Meadowdale  
Academy

# NEWSLETTER

APR  
2023



# SPRING

## A message from our Headteacher...

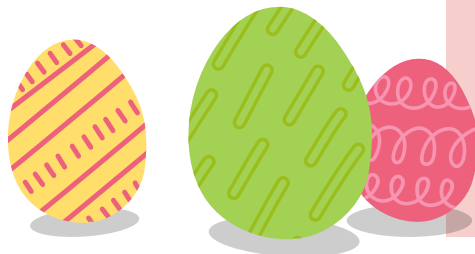
I would like to thank all families, pupils and staff for being so welcoming and supportive during my first months at Meadowdale Academy. Here, we have an incredible team of staff who work hard to ensure your child's education, development and well-being is at the forefront of everything they do.

This term, we have seen new developments to our curriculum, ensuring learning is built upon in small steps - the steps to success! Pupils are making good progress across school with the target of meeting end of year goals. We certainly have some budding authors, mathematicians, artists, musicians in and out of school.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank families for their ongoing support. We value all of the work you do at home with your child. I hope you all have a lovely Easter break. Take time to rest and enjoy with family. I look forward to seeing you all back for the start of the summer term.

*L Coates*

**Lindsay Coates,  
Headteacher**



## In this issue...



### World Book Day

This month we celebrated all things reading as World Book Day returned to Meadowdale Academy.



### Magical music

Our children have been developing their skills and knowledge in and out of the classroom this term.



### Springtime creations

Our pupils have been working on some Easter themed art and poetry - take a peek inside...

# We are Meadowdale

A poem by Luisa and Nolah, Year 5

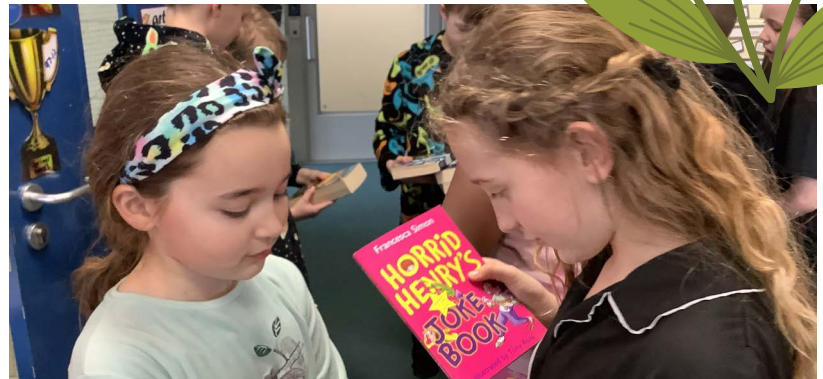
Meadowdale, a school full of love,  
Meadowdale, a school full of hope,  
A school with kind and caring people,  
A place you can trust,  
Meadowdale, a place we love,  
Meadowdale, a school we are thankful for,  
We are team Meadowdale.



# World Book Day 2023

Our children and staff had a wonderful day celebrating all things reading as the much-loved World Book Day returned to Meadowdale Academy.

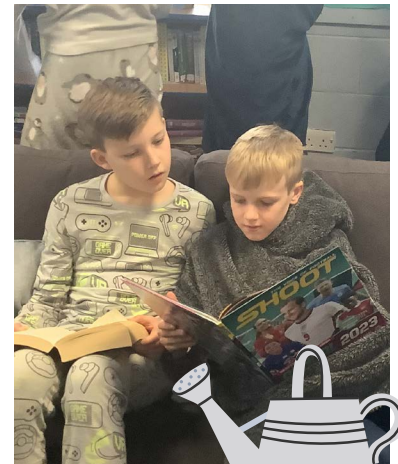
Pupils came to school in their pyjamas and brought in books to use in our book swap. Our children discovered new stories to explore and spent time relaxing while reading.



# Year 4's Easter joke

How does the Eater bunny feel at Easter?

Answer: Hoppy

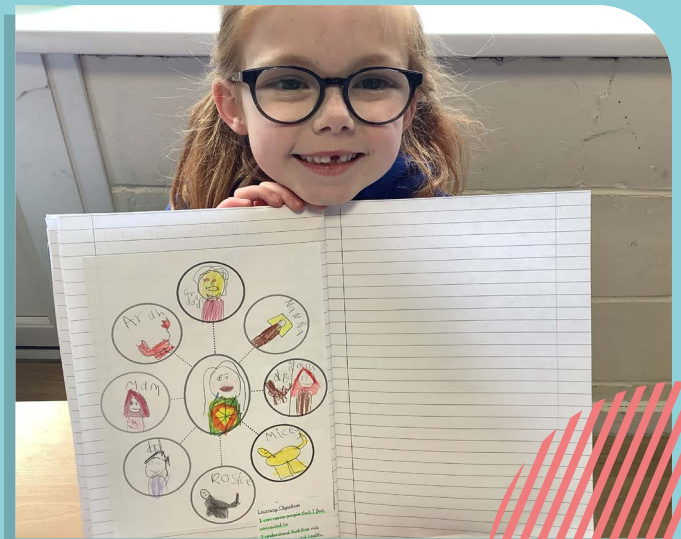


# Children's Mental Health Week

To mark Children's Mental Health Week, our Skylarks began the week by reading *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst.

The children discussed the people in their lives that they are connected to and talked about why these connections are important.

The class finished off by making visual maps of their connections to loved ones.





# Reception's poem

Our Reception children have worked together to create an Easter themed acrostic poem.

Easter time,  
Always fun and exciting,  
Shoots growing,  
Tiny lambs and chicks,  
Eggs to find,  
Running in the spring and sunshine.



## Faith during spring time

As a predominantly Christian country, most of the UK celebrates **Easter** during the spring time to mark the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion. Each year, Easter Sunday takes place on a different date - the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.

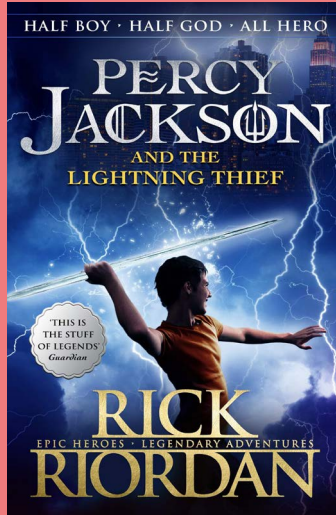
**Passover**, a holiday in the Jewish calendar, also takes place in spring. Passover celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. It is tradition to eat a special bread that does not contain yeast (unleavened bread) called matzo. You must have speed on your side when making matzo as the bread begins to rise after 18 minutes!

**Ramadan** is celebrated by those who follow Islam and this year it's from the end of March to the end of April. Those who celebrate Ramadan practice fasting, prayer, reflection and celebrating community. Food can only be eaten after sunset or just before dawn, meaning many families create plentiful feasts to enjoy after daylight hours.

## Book review

### Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

By Isabel, Year 6



The book is about the Greek gods and goddesses and what they may be doing today in their home, Olympus. In this Percy Jackson story, the king of the gods, Zeus, thinks that Percy has stolen his master lightning bolt and sends him on a quest to find it before the Summer Solstice. It is a great book and I would recommend it to everyone! It's a great adventure story from the beginning to the end. I'm

sure anyone who has also read it will agree that it's an amazing story. It's also really funny. It is educational as you learn about the Greek gods and goddesses and the stories in Greek mythology.

## Making music

Our Merlins have been making music this term. Not only have Year 5 been perfecting their keyboard skills, but they have also been learning the guitar with Mrs Henderson in their Tuesday lessons.

Keep up the great work everyone, you have been so focused!



# Egg-cellent crafts by Year 1

Our Year 1 children got into the Easter spirit by creating some lovely hatching chick crafts. The class used a split pin to creating a moving paper mechanism for their hatching eggs.



# DATES

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**31 MAR** – Break up for Easter

**18 APR** – Back to school

**01 MAY** – Bank holiday

**08 MAY** – Bank holiday



## Poems by Year 2

We asked Year 2 what they love about Easter and no surprise, chocolate was one of their answers! So we challenged the year group to write poems all about chocolate.

'A basket of yummy, chocolatey, gooey, dairy milk chocolate. So yummy and beautiful. I love it when it melts in my mouth.'

- Lucas.

'Chocolatey, melty, gooey Easter egg. The Easter Bunny delivers these yummy treats. My favourite chocolate egg is a melty milk chocolate egg.'

- Maddison

## Year 5 find their zen



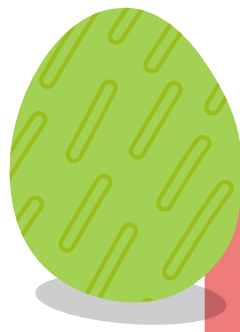
Year 5 had their first yoga lesson this term, learning the moves for the Salutation story as well as different breathing techniques and how to start and end a yoga session.

What a relaxing end to the week!





# Easter traditions around the world



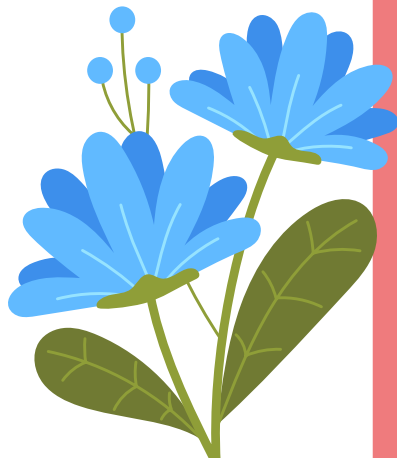
In the UK, hot crossed buns are eaten to represent the crucifixion of Jesus. We also see supermarkets packed with Easter eggs - did you know in 2021, we spend a whopping £299 million on them!?

Some North Western European communities kick off Easter celebrations by enjoying a bonfire while people from Italy often gather for firework displays which dates back over 350 years!

People from Ethiopia often celebrate 'Fasika' which is similar to lent, where people avoid meat and animal products for 55 days in the lead up to Easter Sunday.

In the city of Antigua Guatemala people mark Easter by creating colourful carpets where locals cover the streets to prepare for the Good Friday procession through the city.

What is your favourite Easter tradition?



## Out in nature

As the weather gets warmer and the days get brighter, why not head out into the fresh air with a grown up and take in nature during the holidays?

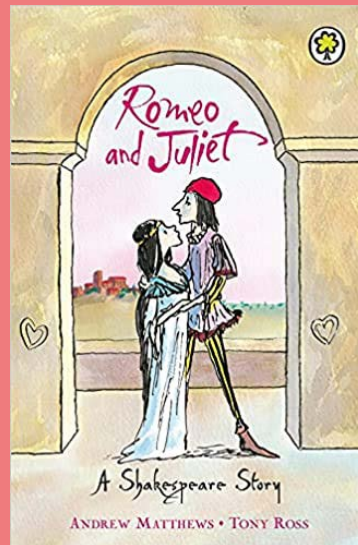
How many things can you tick off our wildlife checklist?

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daffodils | <input type="checkbox"/> Blossom  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds     | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clouds    | <input type="checkbox"/> A rabbit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insects   | <input type="checkbox"/> Berries  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A snail   | <input type="checkbox"/> A worm   |

## Book reviews

### Romeo and Juliet – Andrew Matthews adaptation

By Anna

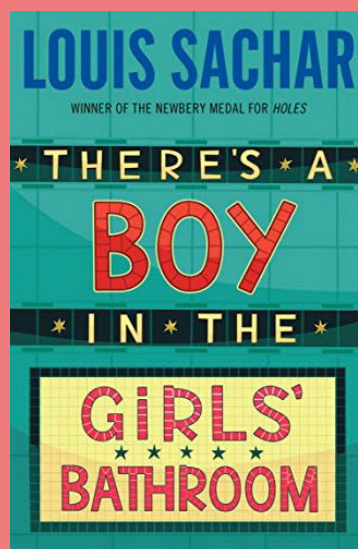


This is a fiction book and a classic love story. A beautiful young lady falls in love with someone she ought to hate. Fighting, bravery, love and hate. Will they be together?

I highly recommend this book if you're aged over 8 as it is about murder, love and hate. This book is worth reading as it's very exciting and adventurous.

### There's a boy in the girls' bathroom – by Louis Sachar

By Maisie



This heart-warming book is about a fifth-grade bully - called Bradley who slowly turns into a good guy with the help of two people: the new boy and the school counsellor. They appreciate his far-fetched stories (lies), and they find him interesting and generous. If only Bradley felt the same way... Slowly but surely he learns to believe in himself, makes new friends, does his homework and gets a gold star on the star

chart at school! This book was described as 'One of the best and toughest books in recent years' by The Guardian and I completely agree. I totally recommend this book, especially if you have read other books by the best-selling author Louis Sachar!



# WHAT WOULD DAVID DO?

Is your child an eco champion? We're launching a new eco-campaign in school to encourage all students to join our exclusive What Would David Do? (WWDD) club, where membership is reserved for our most eager energy experts, resolute recyclers and superior species savers.



←  
**MERCH!**

Your child is in with a chance of bagging this year's must-have uniform embellishment if they can prove that they have worked hard to save energy, reduce waste and improve the environment around school and at home.

Students (even sixth formers!) across the North East Learning Trust will be sent one of our limited edition pins and certificates at the end of each term if they can prove that they are an eco champion.

Is there anything you can do at home to help them bag one of our recycled wooden David Attenborough pins?

## HOW TO WIN A BADGE:

START AN ECO INITIATIVE

SHOW PROOF OF YOUR ENERGY SAVING

SHARE ECO IDEAS OR PROJECTS + MORE

### How to apply:

Your child will need to download an application form and fill it in (including a signature from their teacher) before sending it to NELT Head Office. At the end of term our eco champions will be decided and their place in the WWDD club confirmed with the delivery of their certificate and pin.

Visit: [nelt.co.uk/WWDD](http://nelt.co.uk/WWDD)



North East  
Learning Trust