



Newsletter

12th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all, it has been wonderful welcoming all pupils back to school. This week in assembly we listened to a poem called 'You' by Kristina Stevenson about what makes us all unique and what aspirations pupils have for the future. From a Palaeontologist in our reception class to sporting heroes, a space explorer and an astrophysicist our pupils are all aiming high.



Inquisitive Owlets!

Happy new year! It has been lovely to welcome the owlets back after the Christmas break.

This week we will enjoy looking at the photos on tapestry from our Christmas celebrations at home with our family. We will also be beginning our focus book for this half term 'Hairy Maclary'. This a lovely rhyming book and I'm sure the children will be enthusiastic joining in reading it together.



Pre-school Rummaging Robins!

This week the Robins have met Jigsaw Jenie and Jerry Cat who are helping them with their PSHE lessons, we have learnt to breathe a rainbow. The Robins have also been reading "Rainbow Fish" and discussing how sharing makes us feel good.

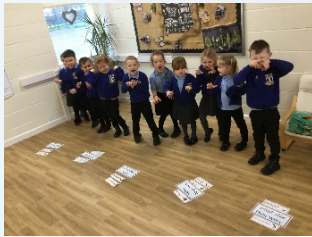


Keep up to date with more school news via our website and social media channels.

Perfect Puffins!

Welcome back Puffins!

The Puffins have returned to school full of excitement and enthusiasm about our new theme 'Dinosaur World'. We have worked together to establish what we already know about dinosaurs, clarified any misconceptions and also learnt many new facts together from various non-fiction texts. The Puffins are embedding their learning so quickly and can't wait to find out more about these amazing creatures and how they lived – palaeontologists in the making!



Our phonics and reading continues to go from strength to strength, and we have been investigating the importance of zero in maths. The Puffins have shown super speedy subitising skills and are quick and accurate at identifying groups with more and or fewer objects



A brilliantly positive start to the new year, well done Puffins!

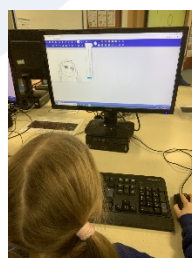
Curious Kingfishers!

Our Kingfishers have been working hard this week to settle back into routines and have been trying their best in every lesson.

In English, there is 'something fishy' going on in our current story. Ask your children to tell you all about what happened in the laundrette! They have been practising retelling and acting out this story and are preparing to write it out in their books this week.

In maths, the Kingfishers are continuing to delve deeper into number work to really secure our 'number sense' so that they can start to use their number knowledge to solve tricky problems. This week we have been using vocabulary such as 'more than, less than, fewer, greater, most and least – try to practise using these words at home.

Computing learning was fun this week, as we used the 'paint' programme to draw self-portraits. Kingfishers love using the computer suite. Our next unit is all about using the keyboard and typing, now that we have mastered our mouse skills.



Shining Skylarks!

Happy New Year to all of our Skylark families. I hope that you all enjoyed a restful Christmas holiday. It has been lovely to see our super Skylarks back in school with their friends. We have enjoyed sharing our holiday stories and talking about our New Year resolutions – of which there are many!

In writing this week we have begun our new story writing unit based on the fantastic book 'Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story' by Alex Morss, Cinyee Chiu, and Sean Taylor. During this unit pupils will learn about the features of a non-fiction text such as the main heading, subheadings, the introduction and factual information.

We have begun our Magnificent Monarchs topic in history, which will also inspire our art work of 'Portraits and Poses'. The Skylarks were intrigued by this week's portraits of Henry VIII. In PE we are beginning with our gymnastics unit and starting to link together gymnastics skills in short sequences.



Super Swifts

Happy New Year to you all! The Swifts have had a great start to the New Year. Last week they created New Year's resolutions during their PSHE lessons and enjoyed beginning their new P.E topic: gymnastics. This week they have been working hard in their English lessons, beginning to look at a story 'My Strong Mind' and following instructions to help cope with difficult situations. In computing they have also enjoyed starting their programming unit on Scratch. Well done to everyone.



Heroic Harriers

What a wonderful first week back for our Heroic Harriers! It was lovely to hear about everyone's holiday and learn all about the resolutions we have set for the year ahead! We have picked up where we left off with our learning attitudes and how created some excellent poems in our English learning. We have been learning about factors in maths and continue to go from strength to strength with our tables. We have started a new topic in PE and Geography. I was hugely impressed by our knowledge of compass points and we put our body tension and control to the test with some tricky balances in our Gymnastics. A brilliant first week and I'm looking forward to the rest of the term.

Marvellous Merlins

The Merlins have made a great start to 2023 with their learning. In our geography lessons, we have been learning about Grid References and how to find places on an Ordnance Survey Map. The children loved getting out the huge maps and finding places within their locality.

In English, we are looking at the diaries of Robert Falcon Scott, who led an incredible expedition to the South Pole in 1912. Below are some of the sentences the children have written thus far.

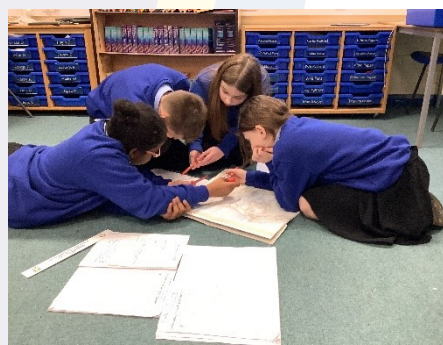
7th January 1911

To those who read this...

After encouraging our wooden demon through the harsh, icy conditions, unloading the ship of its supplies and building for countless days, we finally moved into our hut at Cape Evans today. (George)

Calling it a hut seems a little biased as I'm just shocked with its size – it is snug with its cosy welcoming bedrooms – and it feels like home. (Evan)

The Ross Ice Shelf, which is the largest in Antarctica, (about the size of France), is several hundred meters thick and was ideally located in proximity to Camp Evans. (Hallie)



Outstanding Owls

Year 6 Owls have had an amazing start to the spring term. They have all returned to school full of enthusiasm and eager to learn, which has been lovely to see. The spring term will see us working hard to prepare for our end of Key Stage SATs and this week the owls have all practised completing past SATs papers. They should all be very proud of the effort that they put into these. In other curriculum areas, we have been finding out about environmental artists, playing the guitar and keyboard in music lessons, programming in computing and completing fitness circuits in PE.



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: Elena
Reception: Olivia W
Year 1: Joseph Bainbridge
Year 2: Isaac
Year 3: Sienna
Year 4: Emily
Year 5: Mae
Year 6: Isabelle T



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
90%	90.8%	94%	95.8%	80.6%	98.4%	93.9%



From Here to Maternity

January 20th will be Mrs Moore's final day at Meadowdale before beginning her maternity leave. We wish her all the best with her new arrival and eagerly await the happy news.

Miss Bartlett, (Please note this is different to Mrs Bartlett, Primary Executive Head!) who has worked in school on a number of occasions will be teaching year 3 during Mrs Moore's maternity leave. She will be working alongside Mrs Moore for a handover prior to Mrs Moore going on Maternity leave.



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 16th 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>

Class Information

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

Year 1 – On Outdoor Learning days, it is useful for children to have waterproofs to wear if they have them. Please remember that children must wear long trousers on Thursdays and not shorts, to protect them if we venture into Forest School. If you haven't already done so, please could I urge you to use the information sent home in book bags to connect to your child's dojo account. The children are enjoying earning their dojo points and seeing rewards for their brilliant behaviour, kindness and hard work.

Year 2 – Read Write Reading books will be in book bags on Thursday or Friday this week

Year 3 – Tuesday & Friday

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 - Homework: Homework will continue to be given out on a Friday and it is very important that this is brought back into school by the following Wednesday. Can I also ask that your child is reading every night at home.

Year 6 SATs Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May

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

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

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated. Remember if you have any queries, please do not hesitate in contacting school.

We are always here to help and support our children and families.

Mrs Morgan
Deputy Headteacher