Meadowside Matters 22.05.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels as though summer is finally making an appearance, and I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and longer evenings.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the Year 1 and Year 5 assemblies this term, and we look forward to welcoming you to the remaining year group assemblies next term.

Last week, our Year 6 pupils completed their SATs. They worked incredibly hard and gave their very best, and we are extremely proud of their effort and determination. As always, while tests provide one measure of attainment, they do not capture the full picture of our values and the young people they are becoming.

It has also been a very busy week for Meadowside, as our two day Ofsted inspection took place on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. I was incredibly proud of all the children, who consistently demonstrated our core values of responsibility, reflection, resilience and respect throughout. I would also like to thank all the staff, who work tirelessly to ensure pupils receive the very best learning experiences. We will share the outcome with you once the report has been published.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school and have a relaxing half term.

T Hales-Richardson

Mrs Tania Hales-Richardson
Interim Head Teacher

Attendance

Meadowside Primary School aims to encourage every pupil to achieve the highest possible levels of attendance in order to take full advantage of the learning experiences available to them. The School adopts the Government definition of good attendance as being 97% or above.

This half term our attendance was **94%**

Reminder

School reopens on

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Year Group Assemblies

- **Reception—Wed 8th July (Time TBC)**
- **Year 1 — Wed 6th May (9:15am)**
- **Year 2 — Wed 15th July (9:15am)**
- **Year 3 — Fri 5th June (9:15am)**
- **Year 4 — Wed 24th June (9:15am)**
- **Year 5 — 19th May (9:15am)**
- **Year 6 —*Leavers* - Fri 17th July (2:00pm)**

Year Group Round Up



Buttercups

Buttercups have had a marvellous half term, filled with exciting learning and adventures. A highlight was our visit to West Lodge Farm, where the children enjoyed feeding baby lambs and exploring the farm. It was lovely to see their care and enthusiasm.

Back at nursery, the children have been busy in the garden, planting and growing vegetables despite the cold weather. We are hoping for more sunshine soon to help them grow. We also enjoyed learning about bees for World Bee Day. The children have been fascinated by their important role and have enjoyed spotting bees outdoors.

We were also lucky to receive a visit from a police officer. The children loved sitting in the police car, hearing the sirens, trying on a police officer's hat, and holding handcuffs, supporting their learning about people who help us.

Throughout the half term, Buttercups have explored their community and the world around them with curiosity, enthusiasm, and kindness. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting summer term.

Reception

Reception have had a fantastic half term. All of the children have worked extremely hard.

In English, the children have been learning the key parts needed to retell the story *What the Ladybird Heard* using key actions. In Maths, they have been learning their number bonds to ten and within ten using the helpful Numberblocks. They have been using dice frames to help with recognising '5 and a bit' numbers. In Science, the children have learnt about bugs and the life cycles of ladybirds, caterpillars and worms. They also know why a spider is not an insect. In Writing, they have been working incredibly hard on sentence writing and developing their descriptive word bank. They have shown amazing resilience when writing sentences that have capital letters at the beginning, finger spaces between each word and a full stop at the end.

The children are looking forward to next term, as they have already started practising their running and obstacle races for Sports Day. Have a restful half term, and well done, Robins and Owls.

Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful start to the summer term. We began with a fantastic year group assembly where the children spoke and sang with enthusiasm and confidence. In English, the year group have been busy writing setting descriptions inspired by *The Snail and the Whale*, using adjectives and conjunctions to add detail and bring their ideas to life. In Science, they have been learning about animal categories — mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles — and can now talk confidently about similarities and differences between them. Our Geography work has taken us on a journey from Burton Latimer to Shanghai as we compare the two locations, explore the seven continents, and use atlases to find the UK and China.

We also enjoyed a fantastic Design Technology day, where the children explored different joining techniques, designed their own hand puppets, and then brought their creations to life. They were incredibly proud of their achievements and showed great independence throughout the process.

With the Phonics Screening Check approaching after half term, the year group are working hard to recall their special friends to read words, with increasing accuracy. We are so proud of everything they have achieved and can't wait to enjoy the final part of their Year 1 journey.

Year 2

What an end to the term for Year 2! We are so proud of their wishing stories. They used similes, speech and exclamation sentences to help tell the story and are so impressed by how cohesively they have all brought it together.

In Maths, we learnt about money at the start of the term and have finished on volume, mass and capacity. They have been using grams, kilograms, litres and millilitres.

In Geography, we have had the big question 'What is it like to live by the coast?'. We have learnt about different coastal features such as stacks, arches and cliffs. Mrs Coles described the children as 'exceptional' on our walk around Burton Latimer and we couldn't agree more!

In RW we have had the big question, 'How important is Muhammad to Muslims?'. We have learnt all about the life of Muhammad, how Muslims show respect to him and how his words help Muslims to live a better life.

In D&T we have made a chair for bear, ensuring it is stable and strong.

We hope everyone has a glorious half term and look forward to seeing them again for the final term!

Year 3

The beginning of Year 3's Summer term has been filled with hands on learning, curiosity and growing confidence across all subjects. In Maths, the children have been developing a strong understanding of fractions, learning how to recognise, compare and find fractions of shapes and quantities. They explored unit and non unit fractions and used practical resources to deepen their understanding.

In Writing, the focus has been on character change, and the children have explored how characters develop through a story. They learned to describe thoughts, feelings and motivations, and to show how events can transform a character's behaviour or outlook. Through model texts and their own creative writing, they practised using dialogue, powerful verbs and descriptive language to bring these changes to life.

Science has been all about forces, with pupils investigating how pushes, pulls and friction affect the movement of objects. They carried out experiments to test how different surfaces change the speed of a toy car and explored how magnets attract and repel. This hands on work encouraged them to think like scientists, making predictions and drawing conclusions from their observations.

In Geography, Year 3 studied settlements, learning about villages, towns and cities, and what makes each type of settlement unique. A highlight of the term was the local area walk, where pupils explored their own community, identified human and physical features, and considered why the area developed the way it did. This real world experience helped them connect classroom learning to the world around them.

It's been a fantastic term full of discovery, creativity and growing independence.

Year 4

This half term has whizzed by and Year 4 have learnt lots.

In Writing, we have been looking at Twisted Tales. We focused on a version of The Three Little Pigs written by the Wolf, who claims to be a gentle soul making a cake for his Granny! In our Maths lessons, we have been looking at decimals and money. Our Geography has focused on rivers and the children have also been introduced to OS maps. We have been honing our athletics skills in PE lessons, preparing ourselves for Sports Day next term. The children are now able to tell us about their family members in Spanish.

We are looking forward to the final term of Year 4 and hopefully some sunshine!

Year 5

This term has been another busy term full of learning. We created our own persuasive speeches in English, a unit that we have thoroughly enjoyed, and in Maths we have learnt all about angles and position and direction. In Science, we conducted a growth survey measuring children's height, foot length, head circumference and forearm length, selecting one boy and one girl from Reception to Year 6, and then we analysed the results to see what we had discovered about children's growth. In Spanish, we have been writing our own weather forecasts. In PE, we have worked on our cricket skills and in D&T we have created our own recipe for Spaghetti Bolognese following tasting existing recipes. We became desert explorers in Geography and wrote our own postcards home following visiting the Mojave Desert, which produced great writing from Year 5. In Religion and Worldviews, we improved our knowledge of the Easter Story and in Music we explored a range of skills from glockenspiels to beat boxing to body percussion. Finally, we would like to say a huge well done to Year 5 for their fantastic performance in the Year 5 assembly. We are incredibly proud of you and you should be proud of yourselves too! Have a lovely half-term break and we will see you in June for our final term of the school year!

Year 6

SATs have gone well with both Eagle and Hawk class finishing the week in a positive mood and looking forward to the next stage in their education. One happy member of Hawk class commented. "Is that it? Don't know what all the fuss was about."

SPORT

This year Meadowside Primary has entered two teams in the Kettering Schools League. Year 6 and Year 5. After three weeks both teams are doing really well with both teams only having one defeat each.





Congratulations to Year 6 pupils Sydnei, Jaedyne, Maddie and Emily, who were part of the Finedon Volta Juniors FC U12 Girls team that won the NWGFL Plate Final last Sunday with an amazing 3–0 victory.

After 14 unbeaten games in the league, the girls finished an incredible season as league runners-up, Plate Final Winners and secured promotion for next season.

Well done to the whole team on such a fantastic achievement!

Important Safety Reminder – Grapes

To help prevent choking, please ensure that all grapes are cut into quarters (lengthways) before being sent in with your child. Whole grapes can pose a serious choking risk to young children.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone safe.

Thank You Sainsbury's and Weetabix!

We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to Weetabix and Sainsbury's Burton Latimer for their incredibly kind donations of breakfast items for our Year 6 pupils during SATs week. It means so much to be able to welcome the children in early each morning for a relaxed breakfast, helping them to settle their nerves, feel positive and start each day well fuelled and ready to do their best.



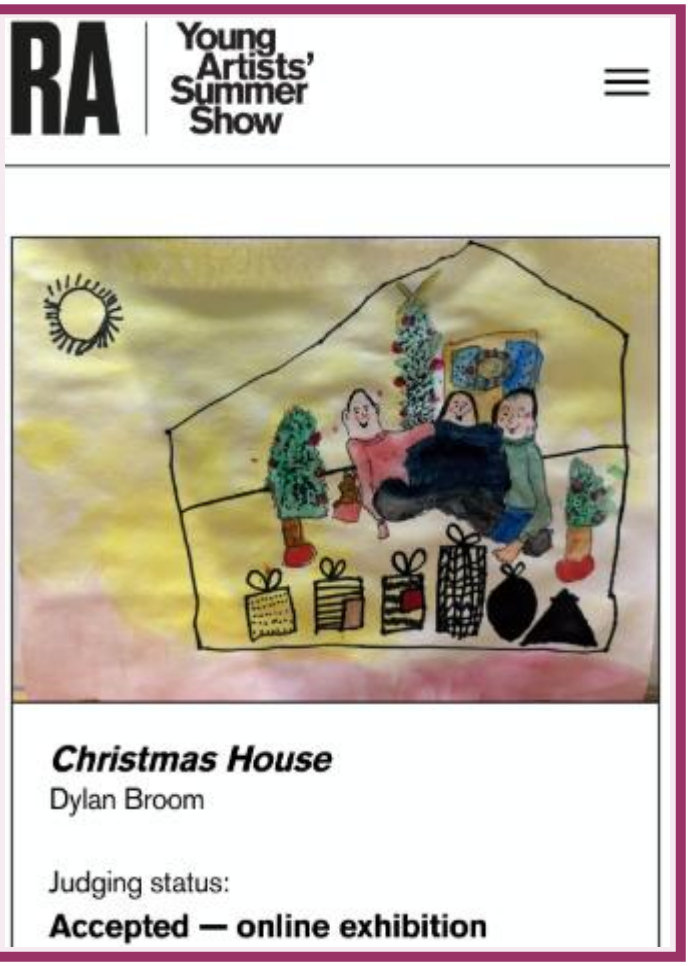


The Young Artists' Summer Show

Dylan Broom, 5 from Owl class entered the Young Artists Summer show and has been selected by the judges to be exhibited online. WOW!!!

Below Dylan describes his painting:

"This is a painting of me with my cousin Ethan and big brother Archie at Christmas. The Christmas trees and presents show that it is Christmas time and it was at my house on a cold sunny day in Winter."



Celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday!



A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to send such beautiful cards, drawings, messages and pictures to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's birthday!

We've been truly touched by the creativity, kindness and thoughtfulness behind every single one. From bright, colourful artwork to deeply heartfelt notes, each contribution has been incredibly special and a wonderful reminder of how much Sir David means to people of all ages.

We're so pleased to share that your amazing creations are now on their way to him, and we know they'll bring a very big smile to his face. Thank you for helping make his birthday such a meaningful and memorable celebration!

Baby News!

Miss Kynoch-Owen

We're delighted to share the wonderful news that Miss Kynoch-Owen has recently welcomed a baby boy.

It's such a special time for the whole family - congratulations Miss Kynoch-Owen!

Mrs Garrett and Miss Thomas

Mrs Garrett and Miss Thomas are both delighted to share the wonderful news that they are each expecting a baby.

Plans regarding class cover will be shared nearer the time.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs Garrett, Miss Thomas, and their families on their lovely news!



Holiday Photo Challenge

During the holidays, we challenge you to take a photograph of something from the natural world around you. This could be a river, tree, plant, flower, landscape, or a beautiful view. Please make sure your photo is your own work.

When you send in your photograph, please:

- Name your photograph with your child's name and class. Give your photograph a creative title
- Think carefully about your title – it could describe the scene, the mood, or something special about your photo.

We will be displaying all entries to celebrate your work.

Entries to be submitted by: 5th June

Photos can be **printed and brought in** or **emailed to:** FAO Mrs Cooper earlyyearsreception@meadowsideprimary.org

We look forward to seeing your amazing natural world photography!

Mrs Cooper

Save the Date!



Summer Term 1	
Friday 22nd May	Last day of school before half term
Monday 25th May	Spring Bank Holiday (school closed)
Half Term Break **Tuesday 26th — Friday 29th May**	
Summer Term 2	
Monday 1st June	Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 2nd June	Welcome back to all pupils
Friday 5th June	Year 3 Assembly 9.15am
w/c 15th June	Creative Mission Sports Week
Wednesday 17th June	EYFS Sports Day 9.30am KS2 Sports Day 1.30pm
Thursday 18th June	KS1 Spots Day 1.30pm
Wednesday 24th June	Year 4 Assembly 9.15am
Tuesday 30th June	Year 4 Cadbury World Trip
Wednesday 1st July	Buttercup Nursery Graduation 9.15am
Thursday 2nd July	Year 5 Holdenby House Trip
Monday 6th July	Move Up Day
w/c 6th July	Open Classrooms
Wednesday 8th July	Reception Year Assembly (Time TBC)
Thursday 9th July	Year 2 Woburn Trip
w/c 13th July	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 15th July	Year 2 Assembly 9.15am
Friday 17th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm
Friday 17th July	Last day of school
Summer Holidays **21st July — 3rd September**	
Autumn Term 1	
Monday 31st Aug	Summer Bank Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd Sept	Training Days (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 3rd Sept	Welcome back to all pupils

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.

2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.

3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use below the age of two, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.

4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.

5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and fair, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.

6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.

8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.

9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neuroteachers and the author of "The Other 29 – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".



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See full reference list on our website