



# Meadowdale Academy Newsletter

Newsletter Date: December 2018

Headteacher: Mrs J. Finn

## Message from the Headteacher

Another busy and successful term is coming to a close and Christmas is only 18 days away! **DON'T PANIC!**

It is a time to celebrate, appreciate the many gifts we already have in our lives and think of those who perhaps aren't quite as fortunate. Our assembly this week launches our Christmas appeal to support the RNIB. Their slogan is 'See differently...' and is aimed at raising awareness of the challenges that being partially sighted or blind raises. We all take for granted the sharing of Christmas books and stories whilst many parents and children with sight issues cannot enjoy what the rest of us take for granted. The appeal is about raising money to fund audio books and our Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December will be dedicated to supporting their initiative with a donation of £1.00. I hope you will all participate in donating and agree that the gift of an audio book to share is a very special gift that the children and parents of Meadowdale can give this Christmas



## See differently in January with a new Leadership Model

Meadowdale is always striving to be 'More than just a school..' and as part of this there will be changes in leadership roles to take the school forward in the new year. I am excited about stepping up to being the 'Executive Head teacher' of Meadowdale. This is a strategic role that will focus upon ensuring the quality of provision at all levels and developing future landscape options. I am most happy to inform you that Mrs Allison has been appointed as the new Head teacher and will be responsible for leading the school at operational level. These new roles will begin in January and we can't wait to work in partnership with all stakeholders to take the school forward to new heights and potentially, over time, to new beginnings.

**Together we can make it happen.....**

**All the staff at Meadowdale wish you a very merry Christmas**

## Primary School Consultation update

An initial update was shared on our website and we have now completed our consultation upon Significant Age Range Change and will be publishing our Consultation Report next week. Thank you for your comments, questions and understanding of the drivers and reasons for change, all of which are summarised in the report.

Summary of outcomes:

- We have listened to the views of all stakeholders and in the light of this propose to delay opening as a primary until 2020. We will not be opening as a primary in the academic year 2019-2020
- We are in discussion with the authority, Diocese and first schools to agree and collaborate in moving forward together
- We will be submitting our bid to the Head teacher Board on December 10<sup>th</sup> and it will not be until the Spring that we will have their response

We will continue to involve you in the process and invite your views, as we progress through the journey to secure the best outcomes for the children and parents of the Bedlington community.

## Staff update

Mrs Bunce as newly appointed Northumberland Maths Hub Lead has led teachers from around the county in Primary Subject Knowledge Enhancement. She is working with teachers one day a week to share best practice.

Mr Graham has successfully been appointed as ICT Computing and E-Learning Consultant and will take up his position in January working county wide. We wish him well and look forward to him continuing to visit on a Friday to complete ECDL with Key Stage 3.

## Curriculum News

**SPORT** - Meadowdale's years 7 and 8 girls' football team and year 6 indoor athletics team won their competitions last week. Well done to the two teams who excelled in the competitions.

**MUSIC** -The brass band would like to thank everyone for their help and support at the Sage concert. The concert went very well and everyone enjoyed it. Our carol singing group also did extremely when they participated in the Bedlington light switch on.

**ART** - First Arts Awards students start their portfolios this week. Watch this space for further updates.

Monday and Tuesday evening Art club students have hand-crafted truly delightful ceramic Christmas tree decorations. You can't buy such individual festive tree decorations in the shops . Our students hand cut each clay tree, then after firing them in our school kiln, each was skilfully hand-painted to complete unique tree designs which should last a lifetime.

These delightful tree decorations will be offered for sale from 19th December at £3.00 each. Every penny will go directly to Art Club's adopted charity, Wateraid, helping the one tenth of our world's population who do not have access to safe water.

Spreading Christmas cheer and love all year round: **Meadowdale's Well Being Award** has begun.

Thank you very much to everyone who competed and returned their 'Wellbeing' questionnaire. Your responses have informed our planning on how to continue to develop the great work that already goes on at Meadowdale. I will write to you soon with the results of the questionnaire.

**ENGLISH** - Thank you so much to those who supported their child in writing an entry for the 'Emotions' poetry competition. We submitted over 130 entries and are now waiting to hear whether we have any finalists at Meadowdale. This would be FAB-U-LOUS new for the start of 2019

## Dates for your diary

**Christmas holidays – School closes on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1.30pm**

**School reopens on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 Jarrow Hall
- ❖ 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 Tetrahedron

**February half term – school closes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**School reopens 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

- ❖ 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March – Parents evening
- ❖ 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 8 Career Speed Dating
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April – Year 8 London Trip
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 Robinwood

**Easter holiday – School closes on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**School reopens Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**