



# Meadowdale Academy Newsletter

Newsletter Date: November 2017

Headteacher: Mrs J. Finn

## Headteacher's News

As another term begins we can be proud of how the new school year has begun and be excited about what is yet to come. On the last day of term, on our staff 'Training Day' we began to develop our year of challenge through exploring the 'Thinking Classroom'.

A new journey will be travelled to give children more opportunities to be independent individuals and resilient learners. We aim to invite you at home to encourage this further with debate and discussion about life and learning.

Here's to another successful term where 'Together we can...make that happen'

Mrs Finn

## Future Dates for your Diary this term

- ❖ 31<sup>st</sup> October – Year 7 Dukeshouse Wood trip
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> November – Monster Mash Ball
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Laing Art Gallery visit
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> November – Year 8 Nissan
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> November – Grandparents Remembrance Lunch
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5 'Clowning Around'
- ❖ 17<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5 Enterprise Day
- ❖ 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Viking Days
- ❖ 28<sup>th</sup> November – Year 7 Brilliant Bags
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> December – Year 5 Enterprise Workshops
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Show
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> December – Grandparents Christmas Lunch
- ❖ 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day
- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> December – Year 5 Centre for Life Trip

## Message from the Office Manager

All Can I please remind you if your child is going to be off school you must inform us no later than 9am on the day of absence.

All deposits for trips are non-refundable.

## Community Counts at Meadowdale

### ❖ Harvest Festival

At the end of last term Years 5 and 6 were invited to St Cuthbert's church to take part in their harvest festival. As always the students were excellent ambassadors for our school.



### ❖ CHRISTMAS CHILD APPEAL



Many thanks for all the donations so far towards our shoebox appeal. Deadline date for boxes is Mon 13<sup>th</sup> November as we will be taking these to the Cramlington depot on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### ❖ CHILDREN IN NEED



Students are invited to wear pyjamas or Onesies on Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> and make a donation of £1. There will be Pudsey Bear biscuits on sale for 30p each.

### ❖ PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Students were invited to enter our annual pumpkin competition. As always there were some excellent entries.



### ❖ MONSTER MASH BALL

The Monster Mash Disco was a 'Spooktastic Success'. Costumes were gruesomely scary and the dance moves monstrously good!



## Year 5

### A Stunning Start for Year Five

What a fantastic first term we have had in the year five team! Students have settled in nicely and are fast becoming part of the whole school community. We've had visits from the NSPCC, recruited our mini police force and even flown to Egypt! Each class became super scientists when they completed their very first experiments in science lessons and in English we have developed our skills through the exciting theme of Treasure and Adventure. In addition to this, we have been thrilled to see so many children joining extra-curricular clubs and (my personal favourite) signing up for our residential trip to Robinwood. Thank you for your support this half term, we are thoroughly looking forward to a hard-working, fun-filled few weeks in the lead up to Christmas.

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a very successful start to the year.

We enjoyed our day on Holy Island studying the history and geography of the island. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school. We would like to thank our parent helpers who were an invaluable support during the day.

Year 6 have elected their class MMPs, who have already met with Mrs Allison and fed back to their class about issues raised at the meeting.

We have taken part in the NSPCC workshops. The year group enjoyed meeting Buddy and discussing child safety with the visitors from the charity.

On November 23rd and 24th Year 6 will be taking 2 days off timetable to celebrate Viking life. We will be dressing up as Vikings and learning about different aspects of Viking life and will be welcoming a special guest into school. The children have all been given a letter detailing how to make a simple Viking costume. We do have some spare costumes to lend out but encourage everyone to have a go and make their own.

## Year 7

Congratulations to the new year 7 Digital Leaders who have successfully completed interviews and been selected for the Digital Leaders training

We are also very excited about our new Money Matters programme that will begin in SMSC lessons this half term. Pupils across the school, will be educated on financial issues.

We had a fantastic time at Dukeshouse Wood, all students were very well behaved and came home very tired! Our Year 7 Christmas trip will be to Concordia with further information to follow

## Year 8

It has been an incredibly busy half term and the Year 8's have already done a fantastic job in supporting three key events. Many thanks to all those who assisted in the open evening, parent's evening and our annual MacMillan coffee morning. The level of professionalism and maturity was outstanding.

The Year 8's, along with the school, have also been selecting their House Captains and for the first time in the history of Meadowdale a Head Boy and Head Girl. Congratulations to both Tamarra Kerr and Jonathon Kay who were dually elected by both their peers and the staff to adopt these new exciting roles. Many congratulations also to our elected House Captains who fought off some very close competition. Well done!!

### English

Staff and students in the English department are enjoying another fruitful term. In KS2, students are currently taking half termly tests in reading, grammar and spelling, alongside the study of their termly topics. In KS3, our students are becoming 'high school ready' – Year 7 have studied a number of classic and contemporary poems, whereas Year 8 are securing their knowledge of GCSE standard poetry and the ways in which to write about and analyse them.

In Year 6, formal SAT preparation does not start until next year, however, I was delighted by the number of parents who ordered a revision guide following the letter I sent – these will be with your child shortly. It is always very helpful for students to spend time at home reinforcing and extending in-school learning so it was very encouraging to have such a high uptake.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that our department will be launching a school-wide poetry competition on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. It would be absolutely fantastic if you could encourage your child to get involved – we had around 300 entries last year, and it would be great to see the competition so well received again.

Students can write a poem in their preferred style on a topic of their choice. It can be any length, layout or style. Every entry must be presented on A4 paper. The student's name, form, English teacher and house should be written clearly on the top or back of each page. Entries should then be handed in to **house leaders** by Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Final judging will then take place in the week commencing the 4<sup>th</sup> December by the English department, along with our Head Girl and Boy, and our House Captains. There are many fantastic prizes up for grabs, including the prestigious Poetry Plate, as well as lots of house points. Winners will be announced in our Golden Assembly at the end of term.

### Maths

All the staff at Meadowdale have recently received financial training from LifeSavers, a charity working in partnership with Young Enterprise. This involved looking at how we can be more financially aware, such as shopping around for the best deals, planning to purchase certain items in advance to get a better price and using vouchers. The initiative aims to develop financial awareness with children, exploring aspects of value and money management. Here's to the spending of pocket money more thoughtfully and perhaps saving some.

We will start to share this with our students this term. We are also very excited to announce our plans to set up our very first Meadowdale Savings Bank, shortly after Christmas. "What do you want to save for?" More information will follow later this term.

### Sports at Meadowdale

What a great start to the year for sport. Year 6 Tag Rugby team put on a fantastic performance winning the Blyth/Bedlington Sports Competition on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. They held their nerve in two matches that went to golden try after the full time whistle had blown, one of which was the final against Malvin's Close Primary of Blyth. Well done!

Under 13 Football team have got off to a great start winning three out of three matches convincingly. One of which was a cup match where they will progress through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round against either St Mary's Newcastle or RGS.

Under 11 Football team have also had a brilliant start winning all their matches showing great team spirit.

Under 13 Netball team have made a fantastic start to the year coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Blyth ad Bedlington tournament. We are looking forward to our upcoming league matches!

### Virtual Reality Learning arriving at Meadowdale

We will be one of the first schools in Northumberland to purchase and develop the use of Avantis Class VR as a learning tool. Students will be able to explore aspects of learning in a new 3D reality.