



MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Mrs Hewitt

Another week of mixed weather, but spirits have remained high in Meadows.

Get your child's voice heard and make a difference. The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives. It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and 'The Big Ask' will be the largest ever consultation held with children. The survey is asking children what they think is important for their future and what is holding young people back. The Children's Commissioner will use what children tell her to show the Government what they think and what they need to live happier lives. It's an exciting opportunity for every child in England to have their voice heard.

There are different versions of the survey for the following age groups: 4-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13-17 and 18+ Each version has been professionally designed to be appropriate and has been trialled with children in the relevant age group. There are also two 'easy read' accessible versions of the survey, one for 6-8 year-olds and one for 9-17 year olds. The survey is online and available to any child who can access the internet. The survey does not ask respondents to submit any directly identifiable information such as their name. To take part go to:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

A good school library isn't just important for academic achievement. Reading for pleasure also improves children's wellbeing. We are in the process of developing our new school library and we have been made aware of a competition to win £5000 of National Book Tokens for a school library. Anyone can enter on behalf of their local school. If someone's entry is picked, they also get £100 book tokens to spend on books. Please encourage as many people as possible to enter on behalf of Meadows to improve our chance of winning. Thank you.

https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=schools-prize&utm_campaign=20210506_schools

Here is the report from our Artsmark Gold Award. We are so pleased that our hard work in developing an arts curriculum has been recognised.

'The values and ethos of Meadows First School's clearly place a premium on the Arts and the importance of imagination and curiosity in learning. This is the foundation on which the curriculum is built and allows your commitment to the Arts to be further developed. You were recently judged to be outstanding by Ofsted and are a Platinum Rights Respecting School. The three action points driving your curriculum are conducive to arts learning: deepening an awareness of diverse culture; learning something new and children taking a greater lead. Your thematic approach to learning creates modules which are arts rich for every year group and which are linked to artists, different historical periods and diverse cultures. You have invested in arts materials and musical instruments, showing a long-term commitment to these forms of learning. Your response to Covid has been impressive. You have pointed to the many challenges but found solutions wherever you could. The staff are thinking more creatively, e.g. using outdoor spaces to ensure that drama, music and art can still be embedded within the curriculum. The range of activities you were able to continue with is very impressive. Your plans for the future are all excellent 'next steps' as you move to become a local arts hub within your community. Do strive to forge links with other schools and as Covid pressures reduce your idea of opening up your space to be a performance venue or gallery space will certainly help with that. Your parents are actively involved and levels of commitment to your way of doing things seems very strong. It would also be good, as you continue your journey, to build up a discourse that describes your way of working and approach. This will serve you well as you appear to have potential to be a champion for the Arts in the future.'

Speech and Language Support

Monica Smith, a speech and language therapist is running an information session for parents from 1-2pm on Friday 25th June on supporting your child's emotional regulation. This focuses on helping the children talk about their emotions and how to help them manage them. It will be via zoom and will hopefully be helpful and lots of fun. If you are interested in joining this session, please send an email to senteam@meadows.worcs.sch.uk and they will send you joining instructions.

Key messages for parents re COVID

Although life is slowly returning to normal, guidance for schools remains the same (except the use of face masks for secondary pupils).

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children

NHS Test and Trace have announced that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

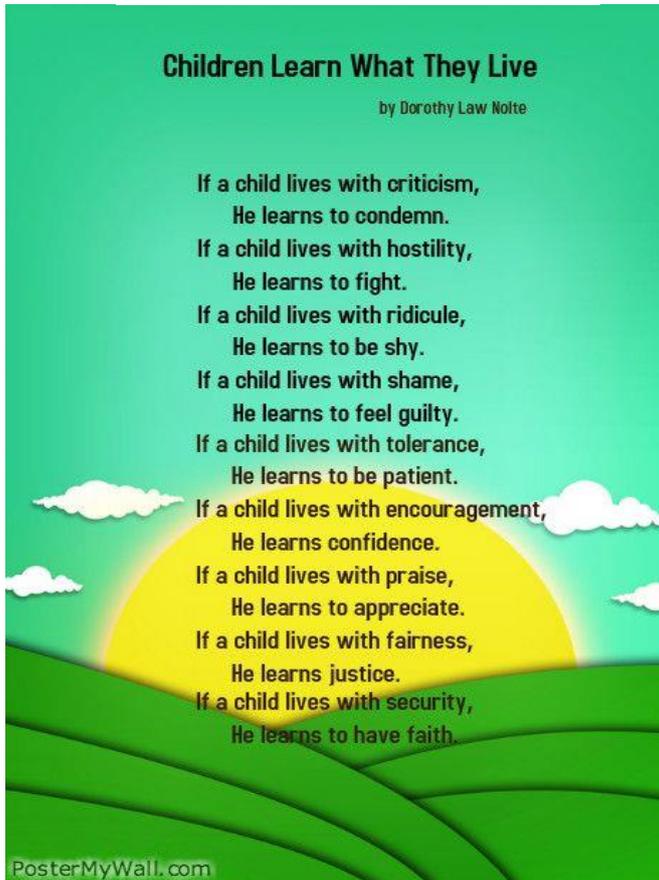
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests. <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.



Meadows Mouse Awards

Goslings	Florence B - super improvement in writing & her keenness to write. Oliver P - thinking deeper about numbers & always offering answers in Maths.
Cygnets	Abbi-Marie - trying really hard this week. Olivia - making superb progress in reading and phonics.
Caterpillars	Eden - great focus in English lessons & writing an interesting story. Aidan W - working hard and trying his best, showing good focus and concentration.
Dragonflies	Anna D - great story writing in English, you are determined. Zachary - great reading enthusiasm this week.
Owls	Vlad - great improvement with his handwriting. Kaius - super work measuring in Maths.
Hedgehogs	Joseph E - being focused & enthusiastic with his writing. Harry H - helping others in P.E. and being a good sportsman.
Sharks	Mason W - amazing effort with his writing. Kristian M - trying really hard with his maths.
Dolphins	Willow H - excellent work in Maths on our time topic. Ailsa D - consistent hard work and enthusiasm in all lessons.
Jaguars	Dylan - amazing character description. Oliver - being kind and helpful.
Tigers	Jenson O - working so hard in all lessons and always trying his best. Oliver W - being focused and determined in all lessons.

A lovely poem about a child's development and our role in this.



One of our reception children has been growing her hair for well over a year now for a special reason. She decided that she wanted to cut it all off up to her shoulders and donate the hair to the Little Princess Trust. When a child loses their hair to cancer or another condition, the Trust are there with a free, real hair wig to help restore their confidence and identity. They pledge that they won't stop until the research that they fund ends childhood cancer forever. Please visit them at www.littleprincesses.org.uk to find out how you can help them give young people back what cancer takes away. The Trust relies solely on the efforts of enthusiastic community fundraisers like Ava. They receive no formal funding. Ava has raised £185 so far. Well done Ava- we are very proud of you. If you would like to sponsor Ava, please click on the link

<http://www.justgiving.com/Ava-T>

This week has been the National Mental health and well-being week. I hope you are all keeping safe, well and happy. Remember:

Where there's a shadow, there's also some light. We may just need some help to find it.

