



# MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### A Message from Mrs Hewitt

- Today was our Harvest Festival, and the children performed either a song or a poem to the rest of the school (Virtually). It was lovely to see everyone's performance. Thank you for the donations; they will go to Catshill food Bank to help struggling families.
- Two ducklings have hatched in Nursery; the children have loved watching them develop.
- It is individual school photos on Tuesday. Can children wear their school uniform on that day, and bring PE kits with them if it is their PE day.
- We have signed up to a company called **Rising Stars** to support pupils' reading. Their website is an e-library of phonic reading books that are very well matched to the phonics progression that we use in school. The children all have log ins to this and children in Reception, years one and two can access books that match their reading bands at school. See below for more details. Years 3 and 4 have **Accelerated Reader** logins for access to their e-library.
- **COVID:** We now have several children who have tested positive for COVID, and PHE have advised us to go back to tightening our restrictions in school. We have continued to use rigorous hygiene measures, and we have now reverted to smaller bubbles in key stage 2. Staff have returned to wearing masks in communal areas in school. It has been recommended that parents also wear face coverings on the school site. I will keep you informed if changes need to be made elsewhere in the school. Fortunately, children who have contracted the virus so far have had mild symptoms, but several staff have been ill. I am also very aware that children could be taking the virus home to their families, so we need to remain vigilant and careful to keep our community safe. Please can you be mindful of this if your child displays any symptoms. Several schools have been hit by cases of sickness (associated with COVID). Please keep your child at home if they are suffering from any of the 3 main COVID symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) or feeling sick, have been sick or have had an upset stomach. We would prefer it if parents did not send their child in whilst waiting for PCR test results. With the support of our families we will continue to do all that we can to keep our children, their families and our staff safe, healthy and in school.



### Meadows Mouse Awards

Cygnets	Edward & Mylo – working so hard with their letter formation.
Goslings	Munana – being a great example to others and always doing the right thing. Mollie – having a super attitude to learning.
Caterpillars	Isobella V – enthusiastic writing about the four seasons. Jessica C- great focus in maths and problem solving skills.
Dragonflies	Ollie C – super work in Maths and English. Ella B – excellent focus in all lessons.
Owls	Oily – always being enthusiastic about his learning. Jessica – always being enthusiastic and determined to do her best.
Hedgehogs	Jack G – astonishing focus in all lessons. Summer – her enthusiasm in singing rehearsals.
Sharks	Megan J – beautifully presented Iron Age page. Harvey R – showing great determination with his handwriting.
Dolphins	Dominic R – trying really hard in lessons. Tia T – working hard & presenting her work beautifully.
Jaguars	Skye D – working with lots of enthusiasm in lessons. Harry P – showing super focus in Creating his illuminated letter.
Tigers	Willow H – working hard in all lessons and always trying her best. Maisie Sims – trying hard with her handwriting and being focused in lessons.

## A reminder to book your Virtual Autumn Parents' Meetings.

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
3.30- 7pm	3.30-5.30	3.30-7.30

To book an appointment on the appropriate day we have a simple online booking system. Please go to <https://meadowsfirst.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

You will then need to enter just a few simple personal details. These details should be of the person whom we hold as the main contact in school. Please ensure that the information you input is exactly the same as the information that we hold in school (e.g. Ms/Miss/Mr etc).

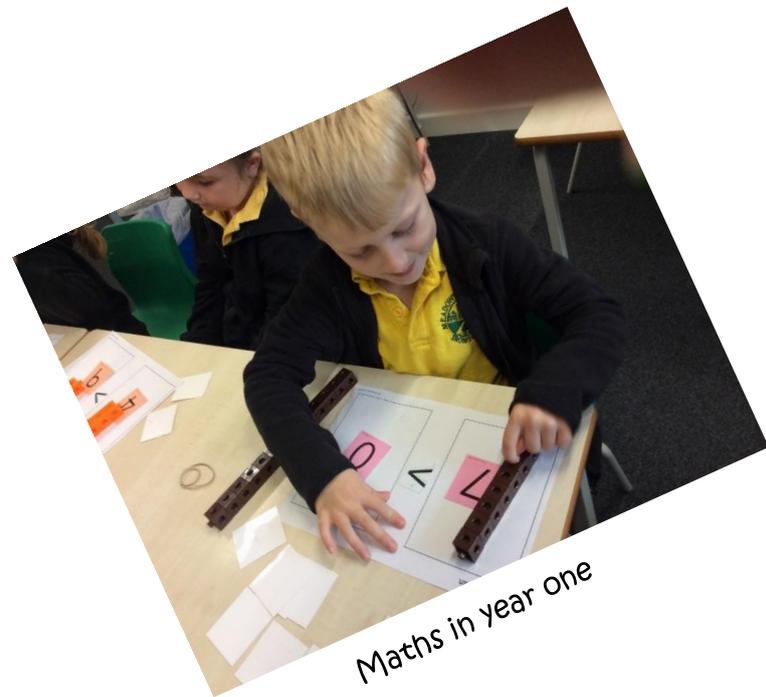
Please use the link if you require any further instructions - <https://vimeo.com/473882995>

**The booking system is available now.** Due to time restrictions it is only possible to **allow 1 appointment, for each child.** The system links to the first contact's email address for each child. Hence, if you are not the first contact, and cannot attend at the same time, please contact the School Office to arrange a telephone appointment.

Once you have selected an appointment time, you will be sent a link that should be used to access your meeting at the correct time. If you do not have internet access, please contact the school office, who will be happy to make appropriate arrangements for a telephone call instead



Well done to Noah! He ran the Race For Life last weekend with his mum and his sister. Noah's grandad has cancer and he was determined to raise money to help people like him and to help save lives. They raised £1075 for the Cancer Charity. He fell over during the race and cut his leg, but carried on and finished the race. An amazing achievement Noah; we are very proud of you.



Maths in year one



Acting out the story of the Three Little Pigs

## Rising Stars (for Reception, years 1 and 2)

Exciting news! We have subscribed to an online reading scheme library. The books are colour coded to fit in with the SAME colour band of books that the children read at school and are based on the phonics that they are taught in class. The order of difficulty is: pink, red, yellow, blue, green, orange, turquoise purple gold, white/ silver (so far, there are no other colour bands available yet. But as soon as they are released, we will let you know.)

The eBooks in Reading Planet Online are organised in four main strands: -

Lift Off - wordless fiction/non-fiction books designed to get children started using skills such as sequencing, retelling a narrative.

Rocket Phonics - an collection of fiction/ non-fiction books designed for children to practise their phonics skills

Comet Street Kids - an on-going series of adventure stories based on the lives of a group of good friends (Rav, Asha, Tess and Finn) who live on Comet Street and who go to the same primary school

Galaxy - an exciting range of fiction/ non-fiction, including modern and traditional stories, poetry, plays and biographies to introduce children to wider reading for pleasure.

For now, we are giving children access to all of the books that are in the library which means they can see books from all of the colour bands. We politely ask that you stick with the colour band of books assigned by your class teacher or colour bands that are below and do not go into the later colour bands without speaking to the teacher first of all. The teacher has a record of assessment that they use to show progress in comprehension as well as in decoding in order for the children to move onto the next colour band. As with our school reading books, we ask that you read the books several times before moving onto the next book, to give you chance to talk about the story. There are also quizzes for the children to complete during the books too.

Please use your child's reading diary to record that this method of reading has been used in order for them to gain their stickers in class, along with their usual reading book from school. This system will NOT replace our real reading scheme books, but the idea is to give you more ways of introducing your child to reading to help them along their journey to become avid readers. We hope that this will be another way that you can enjoy reading books together.

### **Getting Started with reading planet Online:**

My Rising Stars Reading Planet Online can be accessed from any computer, tablet or phone connected to the internet.

1. Children can log in via: [my.risingstars-uk.com](http://my.risingstars-uk.com) and enter the school's unique centre ID, 145833 and their own login details, provided by school.
  2. Go to the 'my books' section of your dashboard
  3. You have to scroll down quite a long way in order to reach the books as the first books you see are actually the end of book quizzes – ignore these and scroll all the way down until you reach a book of the colour band you need.
  4. Click open to launch a book. Maximise the screen.
  5. Click on the rocket
  6. icon to go back to the dashboard.
  7. There are quizzes to
  8. do whilst reading the books – click on the green question mark and follow the questions.
  9. When they have answered all the questions in the quiz, they click on the clipboard icon at the end of the quiz to submit all their answers and to receive their mark. At the end of every book there is a longer quiz that checks overall understanding of the text. Click on the same question mark icon to launch the quiz. This quiz is also instantly marked and your child is awarded a bronze, silver or gold star according to their score
  10. You can view your results and rewards in the 'My achievements' section of the child's dashboard.
  11. Teachers will be able to see how pupils are doing as a class or individually through the teacher reporting dashboard. They can use this to see which books the child has read and how they have done on the quizzes too.
10. For more information go to the pupil user guide on the home page. Don't forget; there is also a free online library from Oxford Owls (<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>) which you can also use to read books at home.

# How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



## How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

## How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

## How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

