



A Message from Mrs Hewitt

We had a school improvement advisor come into Meadows to scrutinise the teaching of phonics and reading across the school. He observed lessons, spoke to children, looked at planning and books and had discussions with Mrs Andrews, our reading lead, and various staff members. We have received his report this week. Here are some of the key findings:

- *At Meadows there is a highly impressive, embedded culture of reading that permeates the school. This is because the headteacher, supported by leaders and teaching staff, ensure that enabling all pupils to read fluently and develop a passion for reading sits front and centre in the school's educational provision.*
- *There is a highly effective reading strategy that is underpinned by leaders' commitment to excellence..*
- *The headteacher prioritised funding to purchase and implement the Little Wandle (LW) systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP). There has been huge investment in reading books to support the new programme.*
- *The phonics leader is a passionate and knowledgeable leader of early reading. She has a very clear and accurate understanding of the needs of the different cohorts and pupils.*
- *The match of books to individual readers is accurate demonstrating the effective use of assessment to inform book choice.*
- *Phonics assessments are undertaken routinely and supplemented by in-lesson assessments undertaken by the teaching team. This allows teachers to swiftly identify pupils that are not keeping up with the pace of the programme, and specifically identify their gaps and teach these through 1-1 or small group programmes.*
- *The school places a high value on professional development and has ensured that all teaching staff have received and continue to receive high quality professional training to support them in implementing the new SSP and developing reading across the pupils' curricular experience. The impact of professional development is clear, and it was evident when visiting phonics lessons and 'keep up' sessions across the school that teaching staff are experts in the teaching of early reading.*
- *Pupils engage strongly in their reading lessons and their confidence in their reading grows during the sessions.*
- *Leaders and teaching staff are all equally passionate about pupils developing a love of reading as are the pupils themselves.*
- *The children spoken to report that they love reading sessions and story time. They were unconditionally positive about reading and talked enthusiastically about how their teachers inspire them to read.*

As one pupil put it: "The more you read, the more you learn. Reading takes me out of real life and opens windows for me." Meadows First is a school that loves to get every child reading with fluency and enjoyment, and no stone is left unturned in the effort to do so.

We are extremely happy with his findings, and a special thank you goes to Mrs Andrews for leading our reading and phonics strategy across the school.

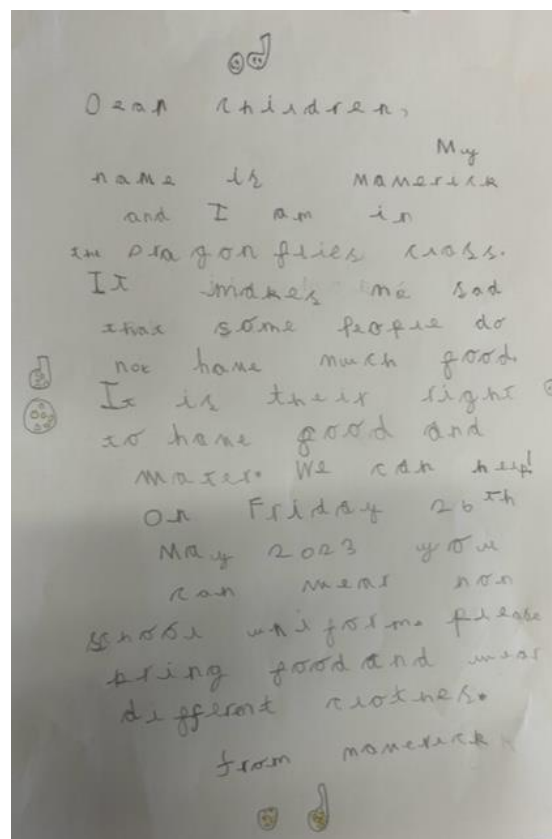
Year 4 went on a Bell- Boating journey this week; they had a great time. This is in preparation for competing in the Bromsgrove Bell Boating regatta in July.

Cygnets started their 'learn to ride a bike training.' They did so well on their balance bikes.





As part of their social action project, Year one has had a visit from Newstarts to discuss poverty and how we can support people in need. The year one children have decided that they want to collect food items to give to Newstarts food bank. On the last day of this half term, all children can come dressed in their own clothes, if they bring in one item of food (eg tin of beans, packaged foods or toiletries, no fresh food thank you) for the charity. The children wrote letters about their concerns.



Meadows Mouse Awards

Cygnets	Oscar & Layla – amazing cycling.
Goslings	Rory – amazing creativity. Ella – being so determined in her writing.
Caterpillars	Aurora A – learning about fractions with great enthusiasm. Skye B – making good progress in reading.
Dragonflies	Mylo – trying hard with handwriting. Joshua F – nice ideas in English.
Owls	Emily – always being enthusiastic & having a great attitude in all of her learning. Laurie – always being enthusiastic and sharing so many great ideas in class discussions.
Hedgehogs	Abbi E – determination in Maths. Jasmin R – amazing focus in all lessons.
Sharks	Leo E – excellent sketchbook work on Roman pottery. Rowan B – excellent non-fiction writing on plant life cycles.
Dolphins	Olly B – trying so hard in every lesson. Harriet L – showing great enthusiasm and a love of learning.
Jaguars	Eliza & Ellie S – amazing focus and attention to detail when making a clay sculpture.
Tigers	Freya-Rose – making a brilliant clay face in Art. Alfred – being a wonderful Rights Respecting Advocate.



Looking After Your **WELLBEING ONLINE**

We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the internet.

TAKE CARE WHAT YOU SHARE!

CHECK YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS

AVOID COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS

TRACK YOUR SCREEN TIME

TAKE BREAKS

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

BLOCK BULLIES

SPEAK UP AGAINST HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

PAUSE BEFORE YOU POST

GO TECH FREE BEFORE BED

STAY ACTIVE OFFLINE

BE KIND & BE CAREFUL

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

LOOK FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITIES

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