



# Meadowbrook Parent Comms

W/C 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## Director of Education Inspection Update...

Well what a busy week! As you're aware, the last few days at Meadowbrook have been dominated by the ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) Compliance visit. I have to say (even having served as an ISI and OfSTED inspector myself) in over 26 years of this profession, I have **never** experienced anything like it! The lesson, I have learnt is that no matter how confident you are in the policies, procedures and practices of your school... when ISI come knocking... put life on hold, say goodbye to sleep, re-deploy your children to neighbours (or indeed anyone who will have them) and don't forget to ask the inspectors how high they would like you to jump! I am not permitted to share with you the outcome of this inspection until the publication of the report in approximately 3 weeks but I can tell you that at this moment in time - I am exhausted but happy!

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank everyone who completed the Parent questionnaire and encouraged your children to complete their questionnaire too. The support for the school was overwhelmingly positive, with inspectors commenting on how rare it is to find a setting where **100%** of the parents agree that the school is well-led and managed. THANK YOU!

As I have previously mentioned, under ISI, there are 2 types of inspection. This was a **Full Compliance Inspection** (compliance with the Independent School

Standard Regulations (ISSR's for short.) There are 8 Parts to these Regulations:

1. The Quality of Education
2. Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development
3. Welfare, Health & Safety
4. Suitability of Staff & Proprietors (Directors)
5. Premises & Accommodation
6. Provision of Information
7. The Manner in which Complaints are handled
8. The Quality of Leadership & Management

Within each of these areas, there are pages and pages of regulations that must be met and for **ISI**, they must also be put into practice consistently throughout the school, at an extremely high level. Unlike OfSTED, ISI also verify that this **attention to detail and quality** is applied in **all areas of the school**, undertaking detailed work scrutiny's of children's books, planning documents, data, evidence files etc., interviewing staff, observing lessons, talking to children and ploughing through up to 5 years of historic paperwork to ensure that these practices are genuinely embedded and not (as is so often the case elsewhere) just introduced for the sake of inspection. The result of this demanding process is a simple judgement. The School either **MEETS** or **DOES NOT MEET**, the ISSR's. The report generated is factual and no matter how **'superb'** (to use the inspector's language when describing M'bk) they find the school to be, it is not reflected in a **Compliance Report**. The other type of inspection is a combined (light touch) Compliance and Educational

Quality Inspection. This is the one where judgements of Excellent, Good etc. are given and reports paint a more reflective picture of the school. We will of course circulate the **Compliance Report** as soon as we have back from both ISI and the DfE.

Post inspection, I was looking forward to a relaxing week this week but as is the nature of this work, it's all change again! Sadly, Julie (Year 5&6 teacher) has been placed on compassionate leave to spend time with her mother during her final days. I am stepping in to take her place on the Senior Trip, which leaves tomorrow at 1.15. Five days of wet, cold, very high and occasionally nausea inducing activities that the children like to call 'fun' and that I am slightly less enthusiastic about. I have purchased my first pair of outdoor trainers this weekend (!) and have my fingers crossed that there's wifi on site for when all the children are tucked up in bed!

Sarah will remain at the Primary department as senior teacher and of course Barbara is still at Pre-Primary. I am still available (hopefully) on my mobile 0759 902 9085 if needed. Here's hoping for some pleasant weather over the next few days.

Best wishes for now

*Serena*

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**REMINDERS...Reception, Yr 1 & 2 off to The Living Rain Forest.**

**Come and wave off Yr 3 to 6 for their week long activity trip to Osmington Bay. Tmrw @ appx 1.15pm.**

## Meadowbrook Music Festival...Hits the Right Note

On the 25th May Meadowbrook musicians celebrated their musical talent at the Meadowbrook Music Festival . With 18 excellent performances, Primary children from Year 1 to Year 6 performed their favourite pieces to an anticipatory excited audience. We enjoyed a range of music including classical and modern, with composers from Bach to the Beatles. The finale was a lively rendition of YMCA with the audience singing along and Jared, Jacob and Matthew leading the actions ! The event also raised money from Programme Sales for BBC Children in Need, so thank you for your donations. Following my graduation, Albert, Jacob and James. T will be leading next year's festival, so please give them all of your support.

Thank you

James Abrahart Year 6



**NEW WEBSITE...Please visit us**

on [www.meadowbrook.uk](http://www.meadowbrook.uk)

and explore all that our new website has to offer. The site is optimized for mobile devices but please view both to appreciate it fully!

For those of you who are not on Facebook, daily and weekly posts are now available by scrolling down to the bottom of the website.

## IN & AROUND THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK...

This week in Biology Year 6's have been studying:

Animals

Including Humans. Their lesson took them outside the classroom where they conducted a smoking experiment to look at the parts of a cigarette and even discovering that pesticides and explosives can be found in tiny quantities in tobacco! The children established the impact of drugs and alcohol on the human



body and were very disapproving of their first hand smoking experience. They will use this information to help them research and compile Healthy Living leaflets as part of this topic for the Summer term.

The children at Forest School club had great fun building boats from natural materials and then testing their creations on water last Friday. The children were challenged to create a floating mechanism that they could race with their peers. They only had string to use as attachments which allowed them to practice their reef and clove hitch knots.



## Reception Children to Join Primary

Reception children are looking forward to joining Year 1 & 2 this week as part of their weekly induction to the Primary Department. The children (along with Barbara) will join Lower Primary each Tuesday, for lunch, play and the afternoon session. Reception parents are reminded to collect at the usual time of 3.15 from the Primary. Department.