

Message from the Director of Education



Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Meadowbrook team, a very warm welcome back to the start of a new academic year.

We hope that you have all enjoyed your holidays and that you and your children are as keen as we are to get the term started!

For the many new children and families that are joining our school this year, we hope that you will settle quickly into our community and that our association will be a long and happy one.

To all of our parents, in order to keep yourselves up-to-date, please do ensure that you read the weekly Parent Comms. This will be sent out as usual each Monday, along with our Friends of M'bk (FoMM) Comms. If possible, both parents should register with Parentmail to receive these weekly emails as it causes frustrations on both sides when one parent is not kept in the loop. Keep an eye too on your children's communication pockets every now and then remember to ask them if there are any 'messages from school today'. With older children we sometimes use this method to develop their sense of responsibility and independence.

Dates for your diary... Please make a note of important dates below.

Tuesday 5th September

1st Day Back!

Welcome Back Evening 7pm – 9pm

ESSENTIAL TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD & THE SCHOOL THIS YEAR – PLENTY OF

INFO & TIPS FROM CLASS TEACHERS & KEY WORKERS.

Wednesday 6th Sept

Parent & Toddler Sessions begins

Tuesday 12th Sept

FoMM Coffee Morning 9-10am @ Primary ALL WELCOME

Thursday 14th Sept

Pre-Primary Parent Workshop 7-9pm SEE POCKETS FOR MORE INFO or HEAR FROM BARBARA & THE TEAM AT THE WELCOME BACK EVENING

Wednesday 27th Sept

Primary Parent Workshop 7-9pm Supporting School Practice to Maximise Progress

Wednesday 2nd Nov

Preparing for Secondary School A MUST FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN YEARS 3-5

I look forward to seeing you at some of these events and would ask that you refer to the Newsletter calendar for other dates that will take place throughout this term.

This holiday has been filled with the usual maintenance and preparation work needed to begin a new school year. We were of course hoping that the new playground (see pic) would have been installed by now but through no fault of our own, this has been delayed twice by the installation company and is scheduled for the 26th Sept.



At the same time, they will install two brand new trails (see pics), paid for by funds raised by FoMM. The children can't wait to enjoy these

items, both of which (due to the impending relocation) have been placed at the primary site.

The pre-primary children will still benefit from them with regular trips in the minibus to play with the older children.



On the subject of planning, the consultation period has now finished as has the required hoop jumping regarding bats and flooding regulations! The parish council and the council themselves seem very supportive of our plans and we wait now with baited breath to hear when we can start building. There is no way of us predicting when that will be at this stage but we will of course keep you informed as soon as we hear anything. For now, the images below at least enable us to appreciate the size of the new extension...and we can't wait!



As usual, please let us know if there is

anything we can do to ease you all back into the routine of school life. Our doors are always open and I will **always** respond to your emails the same working day. Best wishes for a super term and thank you once again for choosing Meadowbrook.

Serena

serenagunn@meadowbrook.uk

*Meadowbrook website...
Please keep up to date with our website www.meadowbrook.uk
Check out the new more responsive calendar and let us know what you think!*

UNIFORM...

As many of you will be well aware, since changing suppliers very recently, our uniform ordering system is currently not as smooth as we wish it to be in the future!

Several issues (all out of *our* control) have meant that the Polo Tops and Sweatshirts have only just arrived in the nick of time and we are still waiting for rucksacks, Meadowbrook caps and swimming caps.

I have been assured by David Luke, our new supplier, these *have* been ordered and will be on their way, we just do not have a time as of yet. I completely understand the frustration that this is causing.

The new system has also created an untenable amount of additional admin and for this reason the following will become practice from this term onwards: The online uniform shop will open **three weeks before the end of each term** and will then be closed again for orders until the following term.

This allows us to only have to make one big order at the end of each term with the items ready to collect on the Inset Day or 1st day back. Payment must be made via the online system or in cash before any orders will be processed and the school cannot be responsible for chasing payment prior to ordering.

ITEMS WILL THEREFORE NOT BE ORDERED UNLESS PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE. For some items, samples of uniform will be available at school so that you may check sizes and some stock will be kept for sale throughout the term.

Whilst the new system may take a bit of getting used to, since Stevensons cancelled our contract (due to the size of the school - and we have tried many other suppliers in the past) we have had no choice but to try and establish a workable alternative. Thank you for being so understanding and patient.

Claudia

Facebook...

If you are not on FB, main posts can now be seen by scrolling to the bottom of our website. Please can you 'share' or 'like' as many posts as possible.

Meadowbrook's Keep Safe Code & Child Protection...

In addition to our child protection policy, which can be found in our website policy section, please find attached with this comms a separate memo regarding our Keep Safe Code and Child Protection. Please read this carefully so that you are familiar with the code and how we present it to your children.



ASSESSMENT & REPORTING CHANGES ...Meadowbrook's data continues to reflect high aspirations

Those of you who attended last term's Understanding Assessment Evening at Primary, will know how robust our system of tracking children's progress and data analysis is. Last term, primary parents were issued with our new Classroom Monitor generated End of Year reports and whilst we were pleased overall, we are still not happy with how some of the scores are being generated, particularly with those subjects which are taught on a 2-year cycle. This meant that some children received scores lower than their actual scores and is a technical glitch that we are waiting for Classroom Monitor to fix as soon as possible. Next time we issue these reports all issues will have been rectified. The mid-year reports issued next term will also follow the same format so that our reporting language is consistent and easier to understand.

Last term was also the first time we ran the new End of Year Optional Assessments alongside our Rising Stars Progress Tests. Following a full evaluation of current and new systems, we have decided that we will not run the Optional End of Year assessments again. They do not provide us with standardised scoring (as we were promised by the publishers) and therefore do not add anything to our already comprehensive systems. They also meant that the last few weeks of term were too assessment heavy and again, we felt there was no benefit for either staff, children or school. The progress tests alone will continue to be used termly as they provide us with invaluable question level gap analysis to aid individualised planning and class data.



Meadowbrook Parent Comms

Autumn Term

W/C 4th September

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING CHANGES ...Cont;

We will also try the SATs this year – if the many well-publicised issues have been ironed out as we still believe that these could be beneficial. You will recall that given the issues other schools were reporting, we decided not to run them last year after all.

Please remember to hand back your report feedback forms to either Claudia in the office or your child's class teacher.

A message to your children...

When you enter this
CLASSROOM...

You are **AMAZING**.
You are *important*.
You are *authors*.
You are **SCIENTISTS**.
You are **explorers**.
You are **LOVED**.
You are *readers*.
You are **risk takers**.
You are *a friend*.
You are *special*.
You are **LEADERS**.
You are **RESPECTED**.
You are *THE REASON*
we are here!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

admin@meadowbrook.uk
tel: 01344 890869

barbara.osullivan@meadowbrook.uk

Pre-primary emergency no:
07972 286361

serenagunn@meadowbrook.uk

NOTE THERE IS NO DOT!

mob: 0759 902 9085

(please use this number only if you cannot get hold of anyone on the admin or emergency line)

**Primary emergency no: 07747
163947**

sbm@meadowbrook.uk
**School Business Manager /
Finance**

Your Class Reps for 2017-2018

**Pre-Primary/Reception Louise
Trayhorn**

**Year 1 Amina Majid and Antonia
Loizoides**

Year 2 Sas Huntwood

Year 3/4 Marion Davies

Year 5 Rosie Sands

Year 6 Oxana Tilezhinkaya

**PRIMARY PARENTS PLEASE NOTE
SCHOOL UNIFORM IS NOW
REQUIRED ON WEDNESDAY AS
THE WACKY WEDNESDAY
TIMETABLE NO LONGER EXISTS!**

SWIMMING...Please note,
Reception will be starting
swimming on **Monday 11th**
September. Please drop your
children off at Primary on
Monday mornings.