



*Enjoy, Learn, Aspire*

# Meopham Community Academy

## 'The Windmill' Newsletter

www.meophamca.com

Term 2, Issue 2  
17th December 2018

### Message From The Headteacher



I can't quite believe that the Autumn Term has gone so quickly and that this week we break up for the Christmas holidays. It has been a very busy term in school since we returned in September and such a lot has happened.

Over the past week, parents, grandparents, friends and I have been treated to some magnificent Christmas performances by children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4. As always, I was amazed by the confidence of the children and their wonderful skills in terms of acting, singing and narrating; they were absolutely amazing and a credit to us all! It was also a delight to accompany our pupils from Years 5 and 6 to St John the Baptist Church, to enjoy their annual carol service and interpretations of the nativity story.

Tomorrow, the whole school will be treated to a pantomime performance of Robin Hood. The hall will no doubt be filled with smiles and laughter from both pupils and staff alike and will certainly be a great way to celebrate the Christmas season (oh yes it will!!!).

As this term draws to a close, I would like to say thank you to the staff and the pupils for their hard work throughout the term, and indeed the support we receive from parents and other family members in making a difference to so many young lives. On behalf of the staff and governors of the school I would like to wish all the children, parents and other family members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our new term begins on Thursday 3rd January 2019 and we look forward to seeing the children return, refreshed and eager to learn in the New Year.

*Becky Nicholson*

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### Inside this issue

- ◆ Message From Headteacher
- ◆ Staffing Update
- ◆ Ofsted Inspection Report
- ◆ Second Hand Book Sale
- ◆ Koalas Class Assembly
- ◆ Year 5/6 Monster Mash Disco
- ◆ Year 2 Teach Addition & Subtraction
- ◆ Year 4 Open Afternoon
- ◆ Remembrance Day
- ◆ **Girls' Football Match**
- ◆ Parent Council Meeting
- ◆ Year 1 Boccia & New-Age Curling
- ◆ Anti Bullying Week
- ◆ Year 5 Design & Technology
- ◆ Fizz Pop Science Assembly
- ◆ **Miss Dean's Shanghai Trip**
- ◆ Times Table Rockstars
- ◆ Year 3 PE Tournament
- ◆ Save the Children
- ◆ Salvation Army Gift Service
- ◆ Diary Dates



## Staffing Update

This week, staff and pupils will be saying a fond farewell to a number of staff; Mrs Jarvis, Miss Amor, Mrs Lucy and Mrs Piromalli will all be moving on from Meopham Community Academy. We thank them all for the fantastic learning opportunities they have provided for a great many pupils within the school and wish them all well for the future. We have been busy recruiting this term and will ensure that we update you all with new staff appointments, upon our return at the start of Term 3 in January.

## Ofsted Short Inspection Report – October 2018

On the 16th October 2018, our school was subject to a short inspection by Ofsted. The visit was the first short inspection carried out since the school was judged to be good in November 2014. See the school website to view the findings of the short inspection.



## Second Hand Book Sale

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Second Hand Book sale on Wednesday 31st October. We raised a very helpful £65 which went towards new books for our library. I would also like to say a big thank you to Vicky and Erianu, our wonderful Year 6 librarians, who helped out on the day.

I, and all at Meopham Community Academy, would also like to say a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Reeves (Year 6 parents) who have kindly donated hundreds of brand new/nearly new books to our school library. We are currently in the process of refreshing our library books and hope that the children enjoy the new and improved reading material!

Mrs Piromalli,  
Accelerated Reader Co-ordinator



## Koalas Class Assembly

On Friday 2nd November, Koalas Class treated us to a showcase of their learning from Term 1.

The children shared their knowledge of rock types, volcanoes, earthquakes and how to write a non-chronological report.

We were then party to a poem recital - 'The Sound Collector' and quickly moved onto everyday French conversation skills - tres bien Koalas!

The children then shared their knowledge of Sikhism and what it means to belong.

Remember everybody: *it is not ok to not try!*

And, as is tradition for class assemblies here at Meopham, the children finished with a musical number on the ukulele.

Great team work Koalas and phew! what a jam-packed assembly! I would like to thank the family and friends for coming along and supporting us.

Miss Simiou, Koalas Class Teacher

## Year 5/6 Monster Mash Disco



On Friday 2nd November, we held a disco for the Year 5 and Year 6 children. The fancy dress theme was 'Monster Mash' and the effort and costumes that the children wore were fantastic. They had clearly put a lot of effort into their Halloween themed clothing. The children and staff enjoyed the evening and the behaviour of the children was exemplary. Well done everybody!

Mr Hale

Deputy Headteacher

## Year 2 Teach Addition and Subtraction

On Friday 9th November, the children of Parrots Class made videos demonstrating how they are learning double-digit addition in their maths sessions. Visit the Year 2 webpage **to view the children's videos.**



## Year 4 Open Afternoon

On 8th November, Year 4 opened their doors to parents for their 'Open Afternoon'. The aim of our Open Afternoons is for parents to see their child's classroom and learning environments as well as have the opportunity for the children to share their learning with their parents.

This is a very popular event and this year, Year 4 parents and family helped the children make models of the Iron Man - the main character in the Ted Hughes book which they are studying this term. The children used waste materials (newspaper, foil, old card etc.) to create their models.

Well done everybody - it was a great afternoon!

## Parent Council Meeting Minutes

The most recent meeting of the Academy Parent Council took place on Thursday 8th November 2018. The issues discussed at the meeting were:

- Half Term Holiday Dates
- School Dinners
- Water Consumption
- Plastic Pollution Awareness
- Litter
- Premier Sport Holiday Club
- Homework

Full meeting minutes have been posted on the Parent Council section of the school website.

## Remembrance Day



Also on Friday 9th November, in our whole school Remembrance Assembly, we respected a one minute silence in memory of all those who died in the Great War (1914-1918). In the afternoon, two of our Year 6 house captains laid a poppy wreath at the War Memorial on Meopham Green. Through our sales of poppies, and other merchandise, we raised an amazing £308.22 on behalf of The Royal British Legion.



## Girls' Football Match

On Friday 16th November 2018, the girls football team played a friendly match against St Botolph's here at Meopham Community Academy. The girls have written their own report as follows:

*"We started the game well and in the first 10 seconds Lois scored a goal. 20 seconds later Lois scored another goal which left us winning 2-0. The crowd was going crazy. We started to pass the ball around until Lois ran across the field and managed to score a goal. Then Ava scored a cracking goal which left us 4-0 at half time. With St Botolph's heads down, before we knew it we were 12-0 up with just a couple of minutes to go. Lois scored 6, Hannah and Brooke B. scored 2 each, and Ruby and Ava scored 1 each. Thank you to St Botolph's and everyone who supported us and a big thank you to Mr Stevenson, our PE Leader."*

It was a magnificent display by the girls and we are hoping that they can continue this form for the remainder of their season.

Well done girls!

## Year 1 Boccia and New Age Curling

On Thursday 22nd November, Take Pride, an external provider of physical education in schools, visited Year 1 to introduce the children to two new indoor sports, Boccia and New-Age Curling. The children really enjoyed their venture into two new sports and we hope they found it a rewarding experience.



On Thursday 29th November, six Year 1 children attended a Take Pride Boccia, Curling and Roller Balling Festival at Cobham Hall. Scarlett, Lola, Elizabeth, Jamie, James and Jesse thoroughly enjoyed each activity. They were a credit to Meopham Community Academy in terms of their behaviour, enthusiasm and determination. Our team came 11th out of 18 which was a superb result especially as most **other teams were made up of Year 2's!**

Visit the Year 1 gallery (on the school website) to see photographs.



## Anti Bullying Week

Week commencing 12th November, was National Anti-Bullying Week. To recognise this important week in the school calendar we held an anti-bullying assembly; we completed lots of activities in our classrooms to teach children about bullying and respect and on Wednesday 14th November, we recognised 'Odd Socks Day 2018'!

'Odd Socks Day 2018' was the opportunity for children (and staff) to express themselves (by wearing odd socks for the day) and to celebrate their individuality and all of the things that make them unique! Take a look at the photos from 'Odd Socks Day 2018' on the school website.

As we are currently raising money to improve our outside areas and for new 'Friendship Benches' in the playground, we asked for a small donation for wearing odd socks. Through your generosity we raised a grand total of £225.95

We will be using our website to post reports and photos of many of the activities that the children got up to so please check the website to see what your children have been up to and perhaps carry on the conversation around bullying and what respect means at home.

Remember: Respect is one of our school values.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Bloor, PSHCE Subject Leader

## Year 5 Design & Technology

**This term, Year 5 children have been 'building'** their models of Morrison and Anderson shelters as part of their WWII Design and Technology (DT) topic. After carefully planning and drawing their designs in their topic books, the children used maths and woodworking skills to measure and cut (with junior hack and tenon saws) the wooden frames which formed the basis of their models. They then used card and other materials to decorate and finish off their shelters.

We would like to thank the parents/grandparents who gave up their own time to come in and help the children complete their models. Without your kind help, this activity would not have been possible.

## Fizz Pop Science Assembly

Also on the 22nd November, Neil, from Fizz Pop Science, visited the school for a second time to present a scintillating and sensational science assembly.

In advance of the Fizz Pop Science Club returning to Meopham in Term 3, Neil demonstrated some cool experiments using plain old water, including making a cloud in a bottle!

The children very much enjoyed the assembly and we hope that it has inspired them to delve deeper into the world of science.

## Miss Dean's Shanghai Trip

As a Maths Mastery specialist, I was extremely privileged to be selected by the Kent and Medway Maths Hub to take part in the England-Shanghai Teacher Exchange this year.

Between 24th November and 7th December, I spent 2 weeks in Shanghai, along with 70 other primary school and 16 secondary school teachers. During this time, I observed Maths lessons in two different schools, attended Teacher Research Groups to discuss how Maths is taught and taught a lesson myself. The experience was incredible and I learnt a lot about the teaching of Maths which I will be sharing with both staff and pupils in the new year. The Chinese teachers we worked with were extremely friendly and helpful, providing us with lots of resources to use. Most of the lessons were fairly easy to follow and we had an interpreter to help us too. It was also interesting to watch some other lessons in the school (such as art, music and cooking), as well as spending some time exploring the city at the weekend and in the evenings.



The Chinese teachers will be coming to England in January and, although they will mainly be working at West Borough Primary School in Maidstone, they are keen to visit Meopham Community Academy for an afternoon to find out more about our school.



## Times Table Rockstars

KS2 children have now taken home their personalised log-in details to a website called Times Table Rock Stars.

World famous rock musicians are the best at what **they do because they've spent hours practising** guitar chords, writing music or playing the drums. It is just the same with times tables – all Times Tables Rock Stars need to practise, practise and practise. It is essential that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night; short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week. When it comes to times tables, speed and accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do hard calculations.

Times Tables Rock Stars consists of a number of on-line short games (generally a minute each) designed to help the children develop a rapid recall of times table facts. By playing games, children can **win coins which they can 'spend' on updating their avatar.**

**Every child is also part of a 'band' – their 'class band' and their 'house band'.** Over the year, we will have a series of Battle of the Bands.

The results from the Battle of the Band between houses in October were:

Hever 16,876 vs Chartwell 18,259  
Knole 32,815 vs Penshurst 24,178

Congratulations to the following children who were the MVP for each house:

Aleysha F  
Ava J  
Lois S  
Grace D

There will be a new battle beginning on Saturday 5th January until Sunday 13th January:

Chartwell Vs Knole  
Hever Vs Penshurst

The children are able to access Times Table Rock Star and earn coins for themselves even when they **are not taking part in a 'battle'.**

To access Times Table Rock Stars, you can use the link in our Mathematics area on the school website.

## Year 3 PE Tournament

This term, Year 3 have been learning badminton skills. We have focussed on serving and we are now beginning to use different defence and attacking shots to score points against our opponent.

On Wednesday 5th December, the Giraffes and Koalas competed in a Badminton playoff to win the Year 3 PE Tournament Cup. Rory was selected to play for Giraffes and Leo played on behalf of the Koalas. It was a close game, which saw a few drop shots, smash shots and some great sportsmanship. Leo won the match, being the first to score 10 points. Congratulations to Koalas, who now have the PE cup for this term!

## Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers last Friday in support of Save the Children. We are delighted to announce that we raised £190.59 for this amazing charity.

## Salvation Army Gift Service

Today, we once again supported the work carried out by the Salvation Army, who work closely with families in difficult circumstances. The brass band from the Salvation Army joined us for a Christmas Carol Service in school and the children donated gifts, for children of Primary school age, at this service. We would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who donated a gift, your generosity will bring joy to many children at this special time of year.





## Dates for your Diary

### Term 3

Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	First Day of Term 3	
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> January	Prospective Parents Presentation and Tour	9:30am
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3 Open Afternoon	2:30pm
Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 Florence Nightingale Day	
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> February	Pandas Class Assembly	9:15am
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices at the O2	
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> February	Chinese New Year	
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup> February	Toucans Class Assembly	9:15am
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day	
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Open Afternoon	2:15pm
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Day of Term 3	
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 and 4 Disco	6:30pm – 8:00pm

### Term 4

Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	First Day of Term 4	
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Year 2 SAT's Information Evening</b>	6:30pm
Mon – Fri	4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Week	
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Open Afternoon	2:30pm
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Phonics Screening Workshop	6:30pm
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day Celebration	
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup> March	Hedgehogs Class Assembly	9:15am
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 SATs Information Meeting	6:30pm
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Puppet Making Afternoon	
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Day	
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Giraffes Class Assembly	9:15am
Dates	To Be Confirmed	Parent Consultations	
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Year 4 Swattenden Parents' Meeting</b>	6:30pm
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Open Afternoon	2:15pm
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	Owls Class Assembly	9:15am
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>PTA Mother's Day Gift Shop</b>	
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term 4 - School Finishes at 1:30pm	

### Term 5

Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	First Day of Term 5	
Date	To Be Confirmed	Year 5 Horton Kirby visit	
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Parrots Class Assembly	9:15am
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Fayre (Bank Holiday)	
Weds - Fri	8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential Visit to Swattenden	
Mon - Thurs	13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs	
Mon - Thurs	13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Book Fair	
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 6 Kingswood Parents' Meeting</b>	6:30pm
Mon –Fri	20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Walk to School and Road Safety Week	
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 2 Walking to the Windmill	9:00am
Date	To Be Confirmed	Year 1 Visit to St John The Baptist Church	
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 5 PESE Meeting	6:30pm
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year R Assembly	9:15am
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Funky Shoe Day	
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last Day of Term 5	



## Diary Dates Continued

### Term 6

Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> June	First Day of Term 6	
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>PTA Father's Day Gift Shop</b>	
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photographs	
Mon – Fri	17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Maths Enterprise Week	
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup> June	New Parents Meeting	9:30am-11:00am
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup> June	New Entrants Storytime	2:40pm-3:00pm
Mon-Fri	24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Residential Visit to Kingswood	
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Trip to Kent Life	
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup> June	New Entrants Storytime	2:40pm-3:00pm
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup> June	Elephants Class Assembly	9:15am
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Children & Parents Informed of New Class Teacher	
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day	
Date	To Be Confirmed	Year 2 Trip to Joss Bay	
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole Class Swap – Meet New Teacher	Afternoon
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> July	New Entrants Play Afternoon	1:30pm-3:00pm
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day (Reserve Date)	
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> July	New Entrants Play Afternoon	1:30pm-3:00pm
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup> July	Languages Afternoon	
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup> July	School Reports to Parents	
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year R Open Afternoon	2:15pm
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Meopham's Got Talent</b>	
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Production to Year R and KS1	1:30pm
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Opportunity to Discuss School Reports with Teachers	
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Production to KS2	1:30pm
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Production	6:30pm
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> July	Thank You Assembly for Helpers and Volunteers	9:30am
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Year 6 Leaver's BBQ</b>	5:30pm-6:30pm
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 and 6 Disco	6:30pm-8:00pm
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Year 6 Leaver's Service</b>	9:15am
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of School Year - School Finishes at 1:30pm	